

**Thursday, October 17th
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm**

Opening Panel Session: Keynote Address

**Two Worlds Or One?
Politics Inside and Outside the Consulting Room**

Speaker: Philip Cushman, PhD

Moderator and Interlocutor: Maxwell Sucharov, MD, FRCPC

Abstract:

The overall goal of this presentation is to apply the disciplines of philosophy (especially the postmodern and hermeneutic traditions of the Interpretive Turn), history (cultural history), and psychoanalysis (relational and intersubjective psychoanalysis) to one of the primary concerns of the Turn: the definition and location of the political. In the psychoanalytic disciplines, political struggles can be expressed through

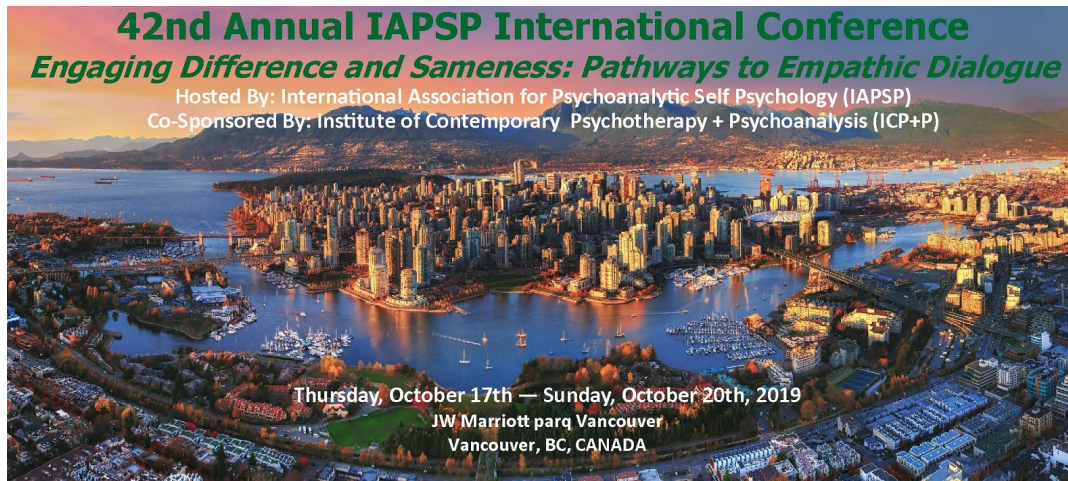
1. power relations within the clinical hour (e.g., transference-countertransference dynamics including race, gender, sexual orientation);
2. differences and conflicts between and within different therapeutic theories, such as psychoanalytic, cognitive-behavioral, humanistic, and evidence-based theories;
3. the relationship of psychotherapy theories/practices to the political status quo (as theories reflect and reproduce ideologies such as self-contained individualism, white supremacy, consumer capitalism);
4. specific political events and issues that emerge in the clinical hour.

Attention will be given to how a combination of hermeneutics and Kohut's concept of the group self can be deployed in professional activities such as psychotherapy; the research and writing of cultural history; psychological research and theory; and communications and interactions in the public commons. Excerpts from professional literature and pop culture will be drawn upon to demonstrate various themes.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. List one way political issues emerge in psychological practices.
2. Explain how the hermeneutic concept of "the clearing" can frame a way of understanding and addressing political issues as they arise in the clinical hour.
3. Describe how the hermeneutic concept of "the clearing" can be combined with Kohut's concept of "the group self" in order to study the history of an era or culture.



Friday, October 18th
8:15 am – 10:15 am

PLENARY I

Response to Cushman: Philosophical and Clinical Perspectives

Speakers: Simone Drichel, PhD, Roger Frie, PhD, PsyD, RPsych,
Eldad Iddan, MA, and Donna Orange, PhD, PsyD

Moderator and Interlocutor: Maxwell Sucharov, MD, FRCPC

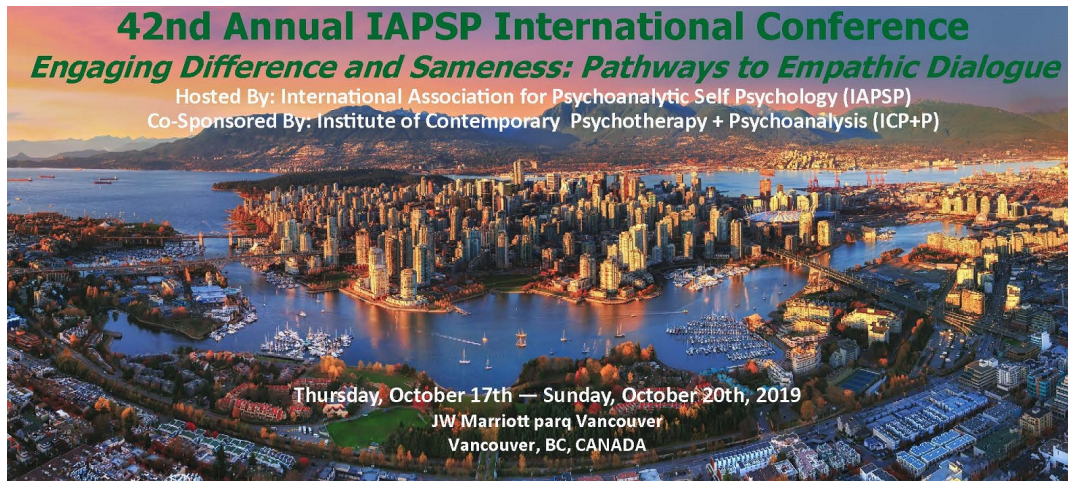
Abstract:

Four speakers will respond to and expand on Cushman's keynote address. Topics will include: a) The clinical implication of the analyst's location at the intersection of history, society and culture. b) The question of the therapeutic and political within the context of postcolonial studies. c) The place of Kohut's social narcissism within the political. d) A comparison of the Interpretive Turn and the Ethical Turn and where each finds inspiration in Kohutian Self Psychology. There will be a brief response by Cushman followed by dialogue with members of the audience.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Design creative ways to introduce the socio/historical/political within the therapeutic dialogue.
2. Explain the importance of post-colonial studies in the understanding of historical collective trauma.
3. Discuss how the Interpretive Turn and the Ethical turn have been both inspired by and have enriched Kohutian Self Psychology.



**Friday, October 18th
12:15 pm – 1:30 pm**

Couples Interest Group Panel

**Meeting Sudden Selfobject Failures in a Mid-life Courtship:
Live Group Consultation on the Treatment of a Couple Confronting Difficulties Related to
Fertility Treatment**

Presenter: Christina Connell, BA, Dipl.TCPP, RP

Facilitators: Carla Leone, PhD, David Shaddock, MFT, PsyD and Steven Stern, PsyD

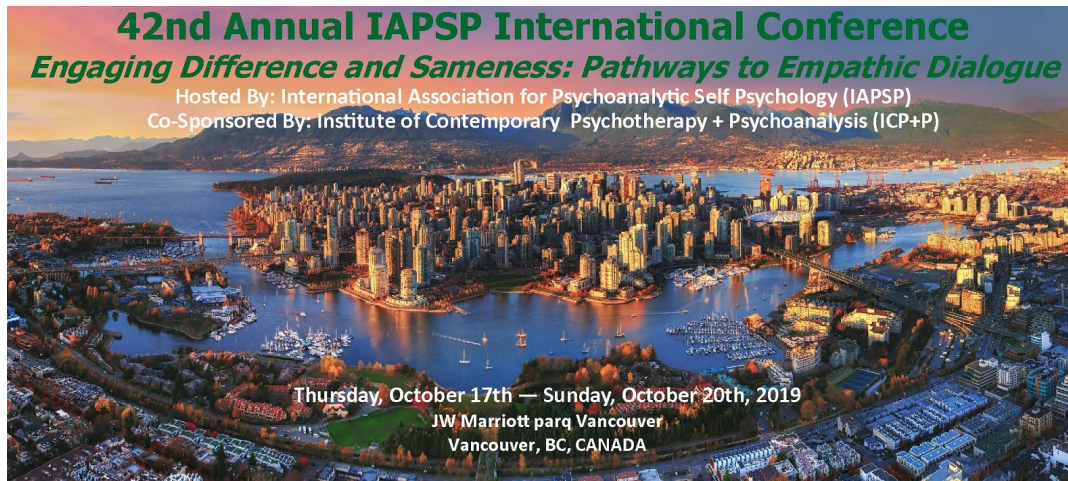
Abstract:

This lunch hour case consultation will follow the same format used in the online discussions of the Couples Therapy Interest Group's listserv, in which presenters raise clinical questions followed by an open discussion. Ms. Connell will present clinical material from the treatment of a couple confronting internal and intersubjective conflicts about starting a family. Fertility-related dilemmas propelled the partners beyond their romantic relationship into confrontations with unresolved traumas from their respective childhoods. There will be no formal discussants, just an open discussion with the audience of the case, the clinical issues it presents and how self psychology and related psychoanalytic theories might inform the understanding and treatment of this couple and others like them.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Explain how the partners' presenting difficulties can be conceptualized through the lens of self psychology and related theories.
2. Discuss how unresolved traumas from each partner's childhood experiences are influencing their current relationship difficulties.
3. List three aspects of a self psychological approach to treatment of this couple.



Friday, October 18th
12:15 pm – 1:30 pm

Child & Adolescent Initiative

**Child & Adolescent Initiative Presents: And Analyst Makes Three:
Becoming Herself: Increased Flexibility and Self Cohesion Through Art and Play Therapy
in a Suicidal Child**

Presenter: Keren Tamir, M.A.

Discussant: Denise Davis, LCSW, Chair Child and Adolescent Initiative

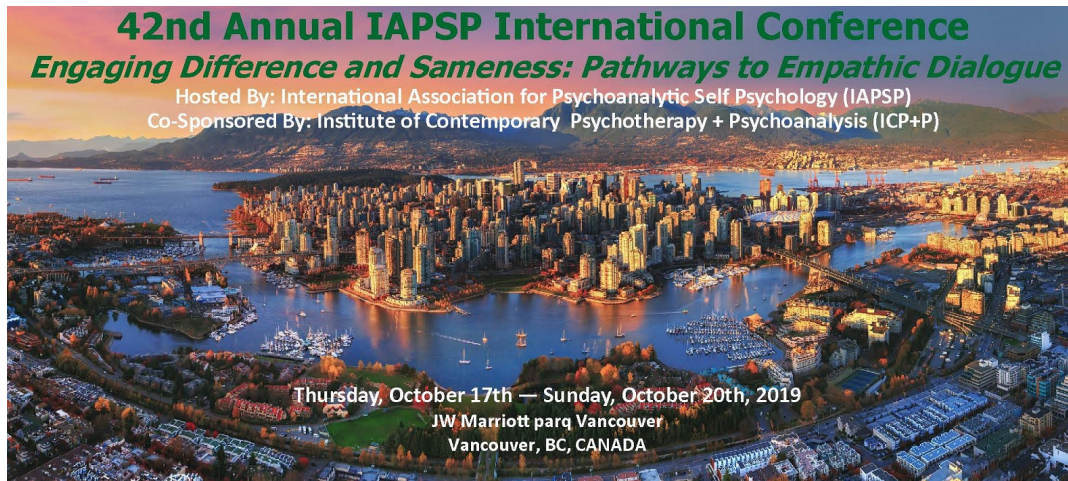
Abstract:

The presenter describes her multi-modal work with a suicidal eight-year-old girl on the autism spectrum who also has a cultural identity that is particularly complex within Israeli society. The therapist, a trained art therapist, demonstrates the selfobject functions of play and art therapy to enhance self-cohesion in this fragmentation-prone child, increase her interpersonal flexibility expand her affective range and integrate her cultural identity. The therapist's extensive work with the parents throughout and beyond the girls' treatment is instructive of a self-psychological approach to parent work as an adjunct to a child's treatment.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Explain when to utilize a mother-child treatment model within an individual child psychotherapy
2. Identify self psychological principles within an application of art therapy
3. Describe the self object functions in art therapy



Friday, October 18th
1:45 pm – 3:45 pm

PLENARY II

Acculturation, Accommodation, and Mutual Blindness in the Therapeutic Dyad

Speaker: Sunil Bhatia, MEd, PhD
Case Presentation: Margy Sperry, PsyD, MFT
Discussant: Roger Frie, PhD, PsyD, RPsych
Moderator and Interlocutor: Annette Richard, MPs

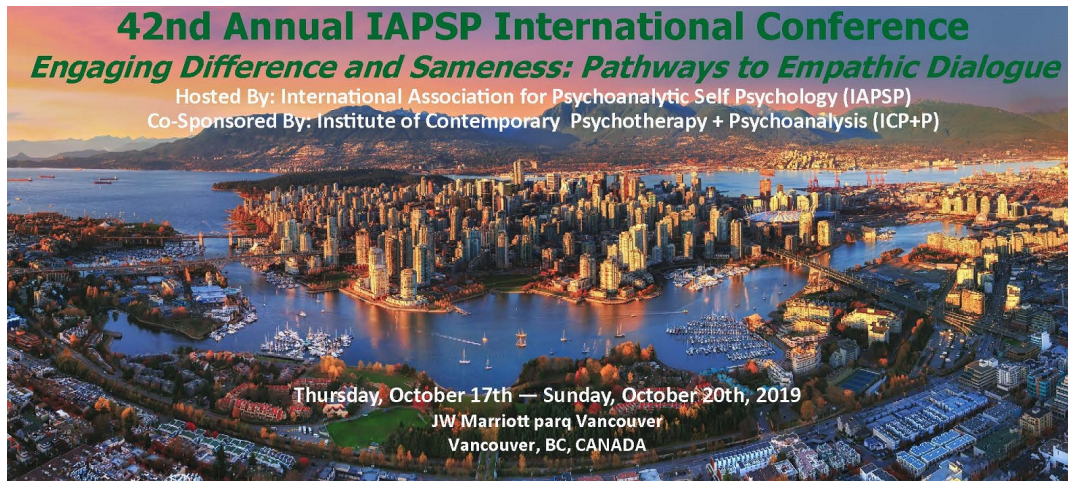
Abstract:

Despite our best intentions to own and reflect on the role that the therapist's subjectivity plays in the therapeutic process, recognizing the values and assumptions that are part and parcel of our embeddedness in particular socio-cultural-political contexts is inherently difficult. This panel examines the ways that both members of the therapeutic dyad may be blind to these assumptions and values including those that are also associated with the culture of psychoanalysis, and Self Psychology in particular. How do our chosen theories themselves privilege particular language, ideas, symbols, narratives and the like that reflect and perpetuate dominant Euro-American values? Can we assume that "good" therapy will expose these culturally-embedded attitudes, let alone the "double consciousness" that may be enacted in our consulting rooms?

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Describe ways that contemporary psychoanalytic theories privilege Euro-American value systems, including how those values are reflected in the language, symbols, narratives, etc. that accompany the theories.
2. Identify the psychological impact that unexamined socio-cultural assumptions and values have on both the therapist and the patient.
3. Discuss ways that a therapist and patient can uncover the role that socio-cultural values might be playing in the therapeutic process.



Saturday, October 19th
8:00 am – 9:45 am

PLENARY III

A Dynamic Systems View of Selfhood, Affect, and Political Context

Speaker: Gabriel Trop, PhD
Case Presentation: Gita Zarnegar, PhD, PsyD, LMFT
Discussant: Jeffrey Trop, MD
Moderator and Interlocutor: Peter Maduro, JD, PsyD, PsyD
Introduction: Maxwell Sucharov, MD, FRCPC

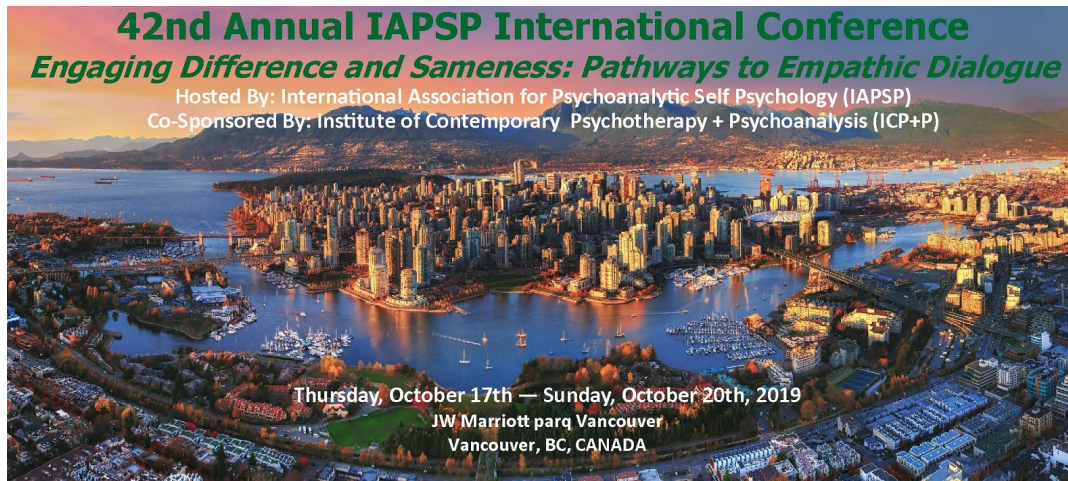
Abstract:

This Plenary consists in two primary presentations. The First Presentation (G. Trop) will offer a conceptualization of “politics” from a dynamic systems perspective. In turn, it will examine several theoretical and clinical implications of this conceptualization for a) conceptualizations of selfhood, b) self, other and world inter-relationships, c) ethics, and d) the challenges of seeing, feeling, and otherwise subjectively embracing these understandings. A Second Presentation (G. Zarnegar) will be the presenter’s family’s and her own childhood flight from Iran, where they experienced political and religious oppression and mortal danger, to the United States, where the family settled. Having become a psychotherapist as an adult, the presenter then integrates her own personal experiences of political and cultural exile with her clinical work with several patients’ whose suffering is also distinctively politically contextualized. The presenter offers metaphors --e.g., amputated selfhood-- to help audience members grasp aspects of the phenomenology of the politically and culturally exiled. Additionally, she illuminates the affectivity --including especially anxiety and grief-- that must be borne in order to integrate such political vulnerability and loss, as well as the relational contexts that facilitate, or alternatively obstruct, such emotional integration. Finally, a brief discussion (J. Trop) will assimilate and integrate the dynamic systems theory conceptualization of politics, and its theoretical and clinical implications, offered in the First Presentation, with the clinical material offered in the Second Presentation.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Discuss a conceptualization of politics from a dynamic systems perspective and how it compares and contrasts with other conceptualizations of politics within psychoanalysis, including those presented already at this Conference.
2. Identify and formulate the implications of a dynamic systems conceptualization of politics on a) conceptualizations of selfhood, b) self, other and world inter-relationships, c) ethics, and d) the challenges of experientially embracing these understandings.
3. Explain how dynamic systems perspective on the socio-political contextuality of human subjectivity, tolerance and intolerance of uncertainty and ambiguity may especially determine a person's ability to integrate awareness of his/her own and others' socio-political embeddedness.



Saturday, October 19th
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Kohut Memorial Lecture and Luncheon

Selfobject Psychology for a Troubled World

Speaker: Raanan Kulka, MA

Introduction: Eldad Iddan, MA

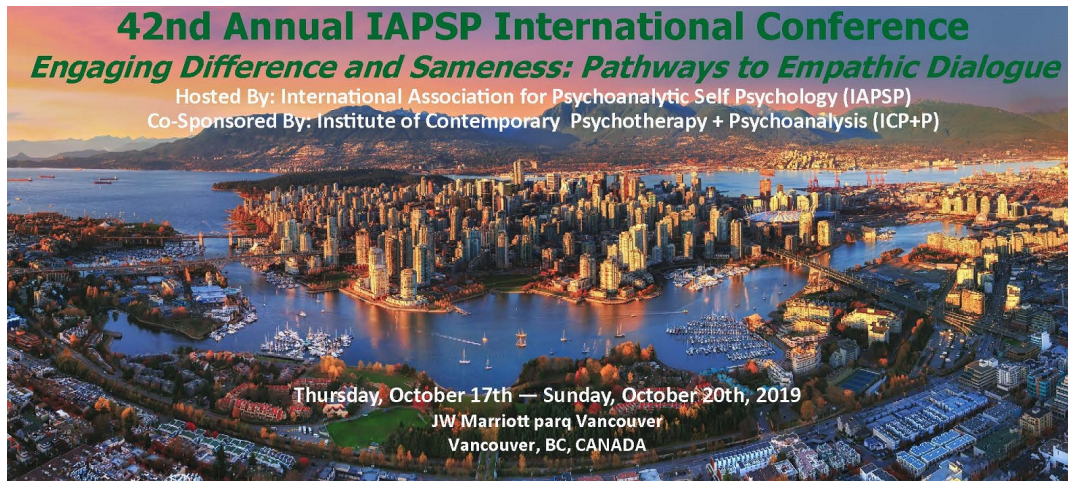
Abstract:

The role of self psychology in establishing a transformational humanity and even in saving the continued existence of our world - is a very modest one, yet, at the same time, a uniquely crucial opportunity. We, as a community committed to psychoanalytic self psychology, are being required to respond to the summons of a serving leadership. The task ahead of us all is not less than that of creating a supra-contextual web of empathy that will embrace the personal and the general, the similar and the different, the multiplicity and the oneness. Only such an ethical matrix of universalism will constitute a total solidarity. Such an immeasurable task calls upon us to uplift the Kohutian legacy to its final destination, to the shores of selfobject psychology.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Assess the crucial role of psychoanalysis for a troubled world in crisis.
2. Apply psychoanalytic self psychology as a powerful tool for healing collective selves, and for promoting transformative psychological growth.
3. Predict and analyze the philosophical and clinical tenets of selfobject psychology as the proposed future stage for Self Psychology.



Saturday, October 19th
2:15 pm – 4:15 pm

PLENARY IV

**Cultural Genocide and Multi-Generational Trauma:
The Tragedy of Government Sponsored Church Run “Indian Residential Schools”**

Speakers: Melanie Delva, MA and Joseph Kakwinokanasum, BA
Discussants: Lynne Jacobs, PhD and Tessa Philips, PhD
Moderator and Interlocutor: Dan Perlitz, MD

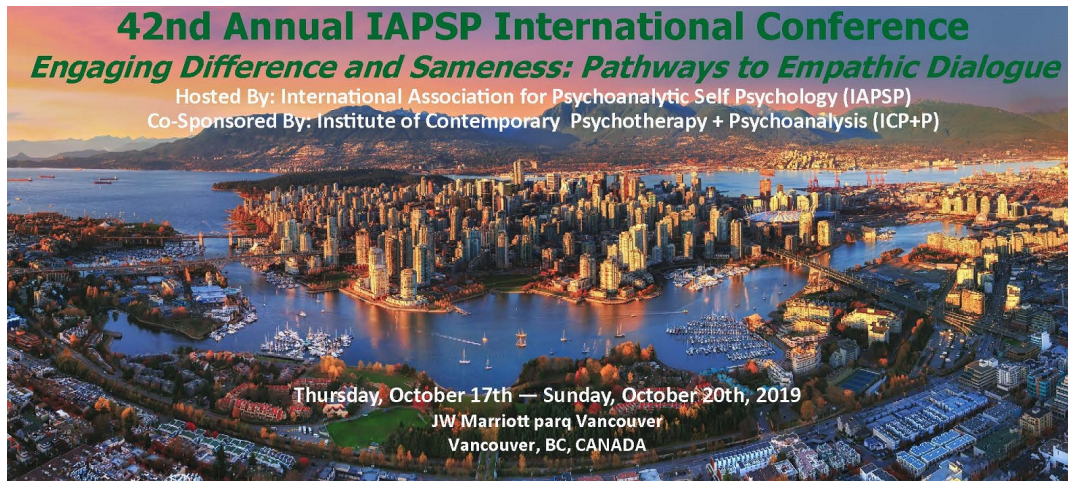
Abstract:

This panel will explore the traumatic impact of Government Sponsored Church Run “Indian” Residential Schools from the perspective of a First Nation descendant of a survivor and a white archivist who herself was traumatized through documenting the fate of children placed at schools run by the Anglican Church. Discussants will explore the complex clinical challenges addressing intergenerational and cross-cultural transmission of trauma. These challenges include the problem of bearing witness to a historical trauma in which we are implicated, the associated phenomenon of white guilt, and the importance of dignity and recognition to the reconciliation process.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Explain the process of trans-generational and cross-cultural transmission of historical trauma.
2. Describe and attend to the complex impact of historical trauma on the psychoanalytic process.
3. Discuss the importance of witnessing and recognition in the reconciliation process.



Saturday, October 19th
6:00 pm – 6:45 pm

Meet-the-Authors Session
via Skype

The Power of Phenomenology

Speakers: Robert Stolorow, PhD and George Atwood, PhD
Co-Moderators: William Coburn, PhD, PsyD and Peter Maduro, JD, PsyD, PsyD

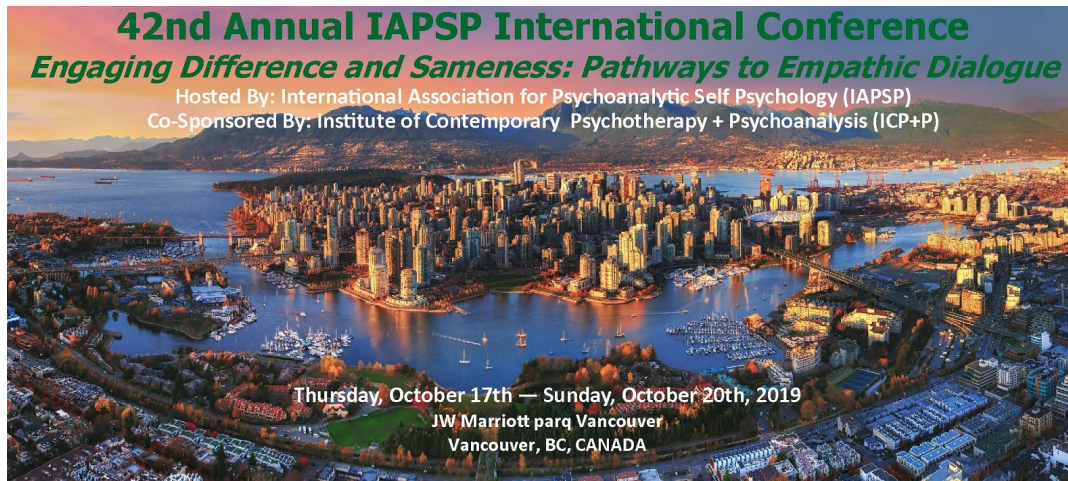
Abstract:

This program will trace the history and evolution of a theme that has run through Robert Stolorow and George Atwood's nearly half-century-long collaboration - namely, the power of phenomenological inquiry and understanding. Their current book, *The Power of Phenomenology*, demonstrates how they have experienced the power of phenomenology in their therapeutic work with patients, especially those struggling with horrific trauma; in their encounters with psychological and philosophical theories; and in their efforts to comprehend destructive ideologies and the collective traumas that give rise to them. In this program, Dr. Robert Stolorow will trace the trajectory of their work, describing the "wheel of psychoanalytic phenomenology," the early origins and basic principles of phenomenological contextualism, and the essential link between phenomenology and relationality. He will demonstrate the ways that phenomenology radicalizes our understanding psychopathology – namely, contexts of trauma replace psychiatric diagnoses. During the last part of this special event the authors will reflect on the phenomenology of their collaboration.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Recognize the importance of a phenomenological stance, particularly when encountering patients who have endured traumatic experiences.
2. Explain the psychological ramifications of destructive ideologies and the collective traumas that are their etiology.
3. Identify how clinicians might productively replace psychiatric diagnoses with an understanding of contexts of trauma.



Sunday, October 20th
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

PLENARY V

Gendered Power and Powerlessness in a Clinical Dyad -- Engaging the Limits of Empathy

Speaker: Elizabeth Carr, APRN, MSN, BC

Discussant: Malcolm Slavin, PhD

Moderator and Interlocutor: Doris Brothers, PhD

Abstract:

In this plenary panel, three broad categories of difference will be explored through the lens of a clinical relationship: gender (male patient-female analyst), cultural identity (growing up outside or inside the U.S.), and political identification (conservative-liberal). These differences were accompanied by dynamics of power and powerlessness. Elizabeth Carr, APRN, MSN, BC will describe her patient's need to repeatedly probe her subjectivity to determine if he can be safe and to see if she would remain open to his singular points of view and to his unique experience of being oppressed by females. The panel will also reflect on conference keynote speaker, Philip Cushman's views about the limits of empathy when categories of difference such as gender are in play. Themes of existential aloneness are described along with the dyad's growing ability to repair disruptions and build relational intimacy through processes of coming to know and be known. Ultimately, the therapeutic couple's ability to find their way to mutual caring and compassion helped both partners stand protectively in the face of the ultimate abyss. Malcolm Slavin, PhD, the discussant, will view the clinical story as a tale of how patient and therapist create and revise meaning together through the shared, existential challenges they both face around inevitable loss and difference. Doris Brothers, PhD, will bring her focus on elucidating a socially responsible psychoanalysis to her role on the panel as interlocutor and moderator.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Analyze and describe the way the themes of power and powerlessness became activated and then engaged through the evolving clinical interactions.
2. Analyze and describe the limits of empathy related to difference that emerged in the presented clinical encounter.