

Saturday, October 21st
2:15 pm – 3:45 pm

Paper Session A

1. The Moral Implications of the Self-Selfobject System for Patient and Analyst

Presenter: Jane Reid, PhD, MSW

Discussant: Maria Slowiaczek, PhD

Moderator: Jane Jordan, PsyD

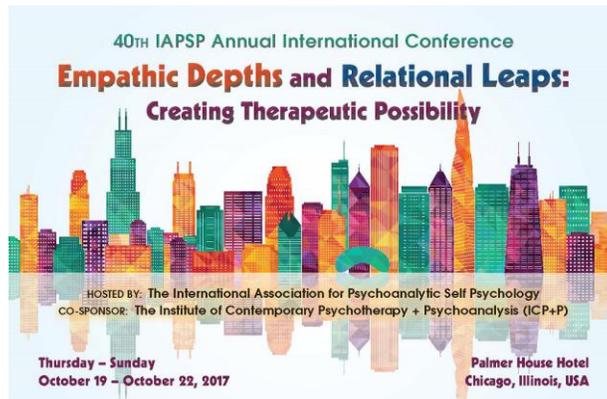
Abstract:

This paper considers the implications of the self-selfobject system for a variety of moral concerns. Using some of the work of Richard Geist to frame the clinical situation, the paper argues that a contemporary understanding of the intertwinement of the self with selfobjects puts pressure on the notion of moral agency: historical and intuitive conceptions of moral agency render it as the autonomous functioning of a sealed up mind. The notion of an intersubjective mind, however, suggests that moral functioning is often the self with its selfobject. I suggest some of the implications for normal moral development given these revised notions of the mind. In the context of a discussion on narcissistic rage, I consider some of the clinical implications of this model of moral functioning, thinking specifically about the defensive functioning of patient moral claims that typically accompany narcissistic rage. I then move to consider the clinical role of the analyst's self-respect in the aforementioned context.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Explain the implications of the self-selfobject system for the notion of moral agency and moral functioning.
2. Describe the moral dimensions and the related defensive functions of narcissistic rage.
3. Explain how the discussion of items 1 and 2 poses a tension for the clinician in maintaining self-respect.



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2. In the Nick of Time: Motherhood and the Analytic Womb

Presenter: Kathy Marks, PsyD, MFT

Discussant: Elizabeth Carr, MSN, BC

Moderator: Roger Segalla, PhD

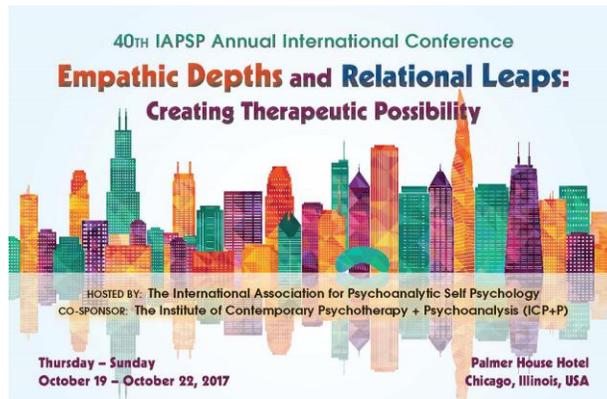
Abstract:

I had moved from successful businesswoman to therapist and was doing fine. Then suddenly, at age 50, I was tripped up from an unexpected source-- deep, unresolved feelings of confusion and pain surrounding my lost opportunity to become a biological mother. In this paper, I will examine both other women's and my own ambivalence over issues of motherhood and track how those issues affect female identity. I will show how contemporary psychoanalytic training provided me the holding environment and a safe relational home from which to deal with this sensitive part of my identity, allowing me to leap past my own empathic blocks in dealing with some patients. Finally, I will examine, from an experience-near perspective, how concepts of complexity, intersubjective systems, and relational theories and new attitudes changed my organizing principles, and discuss the implications of working with patients when the analyst integrates authenticity and self-disclosure into the therapeutic relationship.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Explain the effect of childlessness on female subjectivity
2. Discuss how contemporary psychoanalytic training served as a holding environment and a safe relational home for the analyst to formulate feelings affecting her analytic identity
3. Explain how an analyst's choice to disclose or not disclose her sensitive subjectivity impacted the therapeutic process.



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3. Between the Empathic Immersion and the World Outside: Deep Listening, Staying Put and Changing

Presenter: Patricia Honea-Fleming, PhD, Post-Doc.

Discussant: Anna Stothart, PsyD, LMHC

Moderator: Brenda Solomon, MD

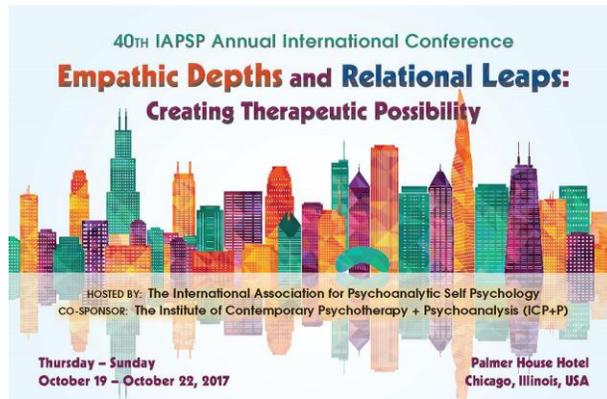
Abstract:

How do we engender an empathic immersion, a nest of safety which can tolerate the conflict, confrontation and challenge of bi-directional relationship while at the same time providing a deep sea of acceptance? Based on my own three decades of attending the consulting room as well as contemporary Self Psychology views - the hermeneutic revisioning argued by Donna Orange and the Relational Self Psychology integration proposed by Magid and Shane - I explore this tension in the case of a mature, successful man reaching to explore and affirm his deep “interest in the feminine”. A tender receiving and nurturing of his longing emerges from the analyst’s empathic immersion in his nascent self expansion. Yet tensions in the manifestation of that new, more cohesive self in the external world must be addressed by the analyst – the asymmetrical relationship demands accountability to the outside world. By sustaining the tension of acceptance and accountability real change is possible for all parties of this multimember therapeutic relationship.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Discuss the tension between maintaining an empathic immersion with a patient and preparing a patient to face the demands of external life outside the consulting room.
2. Identify the qualities of “deep listening” and the requirements of the analyst to establish an effective empathic immersion.
3. Acknowledge and discuss the interplay between an analyst’s life experience and the creation of an empathic immersion which serves the patient.



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4. The Lived Body and Extralinguistic Affectivity as a Prelude to Empathic Listening

Presenter: Lorraine Cates, PhD
Discussant: Jon Sletvold, PsyD
Moderator: David Garfield, MD

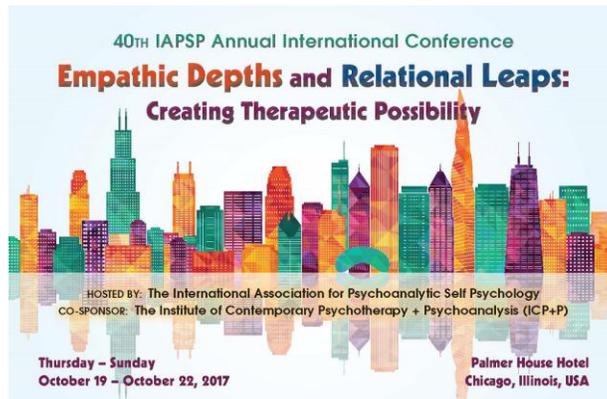
Abstract:

This work explores the challenge of integrating bodily emotion into the relational process with a view toward closing the gap between intellect and soma. Extralinguistic affectivity, as a prelude to empathic understanding, is explored through the intersection of two central themes: One concerns emotional phenomenology as a framework for investigating the lived body; the other concerns extralinguistic interaffectivity as a pathway for bringing unformulated emotional experience into linguistic expression. Integrated into the theoretical perspective is a case study that illustrates the importance of employing an emotional phenomenological approach in working with radical dissociation. Merleau-Ponty's theory of embodiment is central to the phenomenological investigation of the lived body.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Describe the lived body as the locus of affective experience.
2. Utilize extralinguistic interaffectivity as a "way of knowing."
3. Apply an emotional phenomenological framework to clinical practice



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5. Tethered Love: How Failures in Parental Developmental Tasks Establish Inescapable Archaic Bonds

Presenter: Bruce Herzog, MD, FRCP(C)

Discussant: Doriennne Sorter, PhD

Moderator: James Fisch, MD

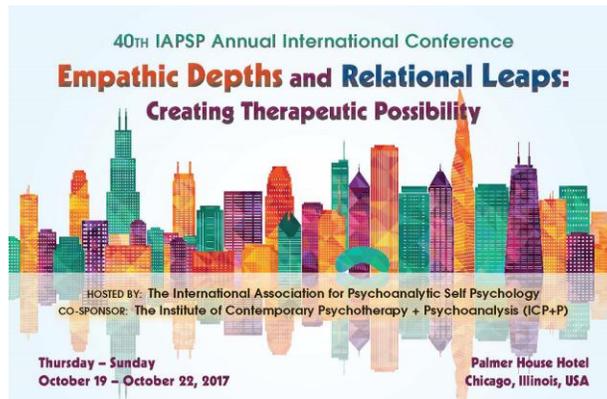
Abstract:

A child's early ties to the primary caregiver are normally abandoned in service of achieving independence. These archaic bonds can be unnaturally perpetuated if a parent is incapable of transiting through the various developmental tasks that adults must achieve in order for their children to differentiate. The adult developmental progression includes tolerating disappointment; successfully mourning the loss of parental fantasies for the child; respecting the child's need for assertion, defiance and independence; identifying with the child to aid in the management of parental competitiveness and envy; apprehension and enjoyment of the child's separate experience; and surviving the necessary abandonment of the parent by the child to allow newer intimacies to gain ascendancy in the child's life. A clinical case is presented to underscore the perverse, suffocating impact of a pathologically tethered love, and demonstrate how the therapist is required to put aside feelings of distaste in order to better understand the child's continuing connection to a entrapping and annihilating, but intensely loving, parent.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Discuss the developmental process to relinquish an archaic attachment and arrive at mature forms of loving
2. List the concurrent adult developmental tasks required for the parent to achieve separation from the child
3. Explain the genesis of dysfunctional compliance and defiance resulting from parental developmental failures



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6. The Unfreezing of Time in the Haunted Hours

Presenter: Deborah Dowd, LICSW

Discussant: Elizabeth Feldman, PhD

Moderator: Lawrence Ballon, MD

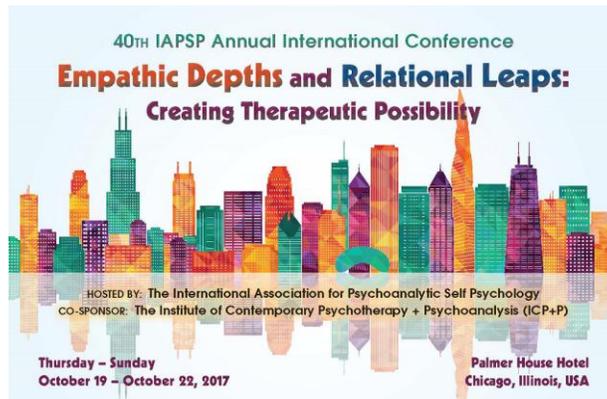
Abstract:

When trauma shattered the cohesion of the self and “destroyed time” for my patient Bob, he managed to hold himself more or less together with the help of the haunting presence of his dead brother and a second, more tyrannical ghost. This paper is the story of how my connection with Bob deepened as I learned to honor his ghosts and my own flashbacks broke through my dissociation of my own trauma that had left a ghostly presence in its wake. I would like to show you how a deeper empathic emersion into haunted worlds—Bob’s and my own—created the possibility for new relational depths and the flourishing of Bob’s creativity.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Consider the ways in which an openness to their own subjective internal experiences can lead to a deeper access to their patients' reciprocal - “frozen in time” experience of traumatic loss.
2. Identify both their own and their patients’ need for pathological accommodation as an essential unconscious mechanism for maintaining vital attachments in the wake of trauma loss.
3. Describe how a deeper empathic emersion into a patient’s traumatic internal world can create the possibility for new ways of relating and the flourishing of creativity.



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7. The Negative Selfobject

Presenter: David Terman, MD
Discussant: Joseph Lichtenberg, MD
Moderator: David Solomon, MD

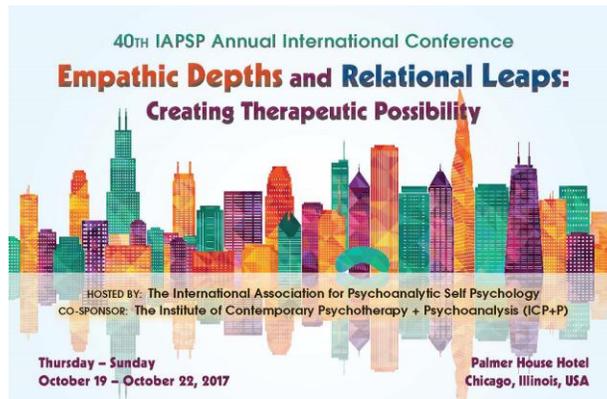
Abstract:

This paper defines and discusses the concept of the negative selfobject. As first outlined by Gehrie, the author discusses the phenomenon of negative affect, absence, non-responsiveness, depression and affective dysregulation in the selfobject in actively shaping the nature of the self. Such phenomena have a primary molding effect on the nature of the self that go beyond accommodation or attachment. The author discusses the types of affects and the types of sequelae that arise from these experiences. There are four illustrative clinical examples.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will:

1. Learn to identify negative selfobject experience in human development and in the transference.
2. Explain the genesis of distorted self structure in the negative selfobject experience.
3. Describe how to treat these distortions.



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8. Self Psychologically Informed Family Therapy: Increasing Selfobject Experience in the Family Through Empathic Depths and Relational Leaps

Presenter: Carla Leone, PhD
Discussant: Christa Paulinz, MA, MEd
Moderator: Ruth Burtman, PhD

Abstract:

This paper highlights concepts from contemporary self psychology that are most relevant to conjoint work with two or more family members, especially parents and children – a neglected topic in the psychoanalytic literature in general and in contemporary self psychology in particular. Many of the concepts are similar to those proposed in the literature on self psychologically-informed couples therapy, but are adapted here to apply to dyads in which the parties are of different ages and roles, as well as to systems larger than dyads. A detailed transcript of a session with two parents and two teenagers in which the teens and the mother attempt to confront the father on his alcoholism is presented and discussed to illustrate key points.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Describe the overall goal of self psychologically informed family therapy.
2. List several factors that can interfere with family members' abilities to function as a source of self object responsiveness for each other.
3. List the basic tenets of a self psychological approach to conjoint family sessions.
4. Explain what conjoint family sessions can offer that separate individual and parenting-oriented sessions cannot.