History Flows through Us: Psychoanalysis, Historical Trauma, and the Shaping of Experience

Speaker: Thomas Aichhorn, PhD, Dagmar Herzog, PhD, Roger Frie, PhD, PsyD and Tomas Kohut, PhD
Chair, Presenter and Moderator: Tomas Kohut, PhD

Abstract:
The plenary will focus on the relation of historical events and experiences to self psychology and psychoanalysis more generally. On the one hand, the plenary will explore the impact of the historical trauma of the Holocaust on the development of psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic self psychology. On the other hand, it will emphasize the related need of therapists to appreciate the critical role played by historical memory in shaping the self, to appreciate the powerful psychological presence of history in the lives of patients, their families, and in therapists themselves.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Describe how historical events and experiences impact and shape the self
2. Assess the presence of history in the lives of patients, their families, and in the therapists themselves.
3. Discuss how historical events, particularly the trauma of the Holocaust, have shaped the development of psychoanalysis generally and self-psychology specifically
Thursday, October 18th
8:15 am – 10:30 am

Panel II

Crisis, Courage, and Creativity

Speakers: Eldad Iddan, MA, Chris Jaenicke, PhD, Amanda Kottler, PhD, and Donna Orange, PhD PsyD
Chair & Moderator: Donna Orange, PhD, PsyD

Abstract:
Heinz Kohut, reflecting on dark times, wrote of what leadership becomes as the expression of the untreated narcissistic wounds of the leaders, who offer cynical solutions to weakened groups instead of genuine leadership. He also wrote movingly of the courage—think of Hans and Sophie Scholl—that we all need in times of crisis. Each of our panelists will offer examples from the crisis zones we inhabit now—Israel, South Africa, the EU, the US—noting their psychoanalytic implications and creative responses emerging to them. We hope to create conversation among ourselves and among the conferees.

Learning Objectives:
At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:
1. Describe the connection between narcissistic injury and authoritarianism.
2. Describe one crisis situation in psychoanalytic terms.
3. Name one artistic response of therapeutic value to a crisis situation.
Thursday, October 18th
12:00 noon – 1:30 pm

Child & Adolescent Initiative (Denise Davis, Chairperson) presents:
Doors Open & Shut: Emergence of a Psychic Space in the Treatment of a Young Child

Presenter: Ruth Gat-Dubrov, MA
Discussant: Ruth Burtman, PhD
Moderator: Amy Joelson, LCSW

Abstract:
In this presentation, the author describes a self psychological treatment with a 4 year-old girl diagnosed as high functioning on the autistic spectrum. The author explores the gradual unfolding and development of psychic space through the therapeutic process. Within the strengthening selfobject milieu, her psychic space expands. Creative play emerges and she begins to internalize needed selfobject functions and develops the capacity to communicate her affective experience. The author uses an understanding of mother’s traumatic past, and her musings about its impact on the intrauterine environment to explain these cognitive and psychic achievements. The therapist’s immersed empathic attunement, willingness to allow herself to be molded according to the patient’s needs, and overall selfobject responsiveness allow the patient to reintegrate disavowed affect and experience which vitalizes and strengthens her self.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:
1. Recognize the impact of family trauma on the development of attachment relationships in young children
2. Describe how a self psychological approach to the treatment of children on the autism spectrum can lead to both cognitive and intrapsychic growth
3. Utilize the rupture repair process in play therapy with children on the autism spectrum.
The IAPSP Couples Therapy Interest Group presents: "Listserv Live: Live Group Consultation on the Treatment of a Very Stuck, Multiply Traumatized Couple

Speakers: David Shaddock, MFT, PhD and Florence Faizi, MA
Discussion Facilitators: Carla Leone, PhD and Steven Stern, PsyD

Abstract:
Couples therapy is always challenging, but never more so than when both partners are survivors of multiple traumas and stuck in long-standing dysfunctional and mutually hurtful patterns of interacting, as are the couple to be presented. The presenters will show videotaped material from a session they conducted as co-therapists and solicit the audience's input on several aspects of this difficult case. The facilitators will briefly react to the case and facilitate an open discussion of it.

Learning Objectives:

1. Explain the difficulties posed by the treatment of couples in which one or both are survivors of trauma.
2. Identify at least three things the therapists in the videotape are doing that appear to be helpful to the partners and explain why they are useful using a psychoanalytic lens.
3. Identify at least one place on the tape in which the therapists might usefully have done something different and explain what might have been more useful and why.
Developmental Issues In Treatment

Case Presenter: Andrea Harms, PhD
Discussants: Heather Ferguson, LCSW and Franz Resch, MD
Chair & Moderator: Shelley Doctors, PhD

Abstract:
Not only have we moved beyond earlier "stage theories" of development to more non-linear conceptualizations, we no longer think about psychological development as the exclusive province of childhood. Psychological changes and advances are life-span issues and may be facilitated by a whole host of events. Our focus will be on psychological treatment as a developmental opportunity, and will feature a case that exemplifies development flourishing in the context of a therapeutic dyad.

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

1. Describe a non-linear concept of development.
2. Discuss a range of ways in which development may be facilitated.
3. Observe in a videotaped case example how psychological development was advanced via a psychotherapeutic treatment.
Friday, October 19th
12:45 pm – 3:15 pm

Kohut Memorial Lecture and Luncheon

The Selfobject Concept—The Heart of the Matter

Speaker: Shelley Doctors, PhD
Introduction: Ruth Gruenthal, MSS

Abstract:
With myriad exhibitions, Vienna is presently commemorating the centennial of four modernists’ passing: the artists Gustav Klimt, Kolomon Moser and Egon Schiele, and the architect Otto Wagner, who dared to color outside the rigid lines of the status quo and dream of a different future. IAPSP’s annual meeting here honors another great modernist, Heinz Kohut, in the city of his birth. He, too, dared to color outside the rigid lines of proscribed wisdom to describe a form of relatedness that had always been present but which had neither been named nor recognized for its crucial place in human life—the selfobject concept. Kohut’s creation of the selfobject concept marks a point of departure for psychoanalysis—the moment when analysts began to shift their attention away from intrapsychic relationships and toward relational experiences, conscious, and unconscious, that are key to understanding psychological development and psychopathology. Though the word “self” defines the focus of Self Psychology, the term selfobject precisely expresses its view of psychological life, for it links self experience to the relational contexts in which self experience comes into being or is transformed.

In this lecture, I will focus on Self Psychology’s selfobject concept, as it remains a still under-recognized psychological and psychoanalytic concept. I will also be describing my own professional odyssey—becoming acquainted with and coming to value the selfobject concept, a journey made richer and more fulfilling because of a host of wonderful relationships formed along the way.

Learning Objectives:
At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:
1. Summarize how selfobject experience links self experience to conscious and unconscious relational experiences.
2. Recognize the modes, in development and in therapy, by which self experience comes into being and is transformed.
3. Develop the functional capacity each of us has to bring dimensions of another person into being.
The Impact of Crises - External and Personal - On Creators and Their Creations

Speakers: Frank Lachmann, PhD, Joseph Lichtenberg, MD, Paulus Hochgattterer, MD
Chair: Ronald Bodansky, PhD

Abstract:
The theme of the panel continues the conference theme of responses to crises. The presenters focus on the impact of crises on individuals who have made significant contributions to a variety of artistic fields: painting, music, and photography. In some instances the crises had a principally personal source, in other instances the source of the crisis was socio-political. In each example the creative individual found a way in his or her creative endeavor to express aesthetically his or her response to the stress of the crisis.

Learning Objectives:

From narratives about creative masters from different artistic paths, participants will be able to:
1. Gain knowledge of the direction an individual’s art may take as a result of the crises they experience.
2. Describe how each creator used their medium to express a crisis affecting them.
3. Observe the interplay between the artist's intrapsychic tension, its effect on his or her painting, music, or photography, and the impact on the viewer or audience.