



THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS, PLENARY PRESENTATIONS AND KOHUT MEMORIAL LECTURE

For details on each session, please click on the links below:

[Opening Keynote Address:](#) [In Praise of Edges, With a Nod to the Edgy](#)

[Plenary I and II:](#) [The Creative Edges of Self-Psychological Theory: Permeable Boundaries, Complex Selfobjects and Empathy on a Continuum](#)

[Plenary III:](#) [Working at the Intersection of Developmental and Sociocultural Trauma: A Clinical Conversation](#)

[Plenary IV:](#) [Expanding the Edges of Self Psychology: Harm Reduction, Creative Arts, and Guided Imagery.](#)

[Post-Plenary Discussion Groups:](#) [Will occur after Plenaries I&II and after Plenary III.](#)

[Kohut Memorial Lecture:](#) [Kohut and Me](#)



OPENING NIGHT KEYNOTE PRESENTATION:

In Praise of Edges, With a Nod to the Edgy

Thursday, October 19, 2023 6:30 – 8:00pm

Presenter: Elizabeth Corpt, LICSW
Moderator: Donna Orange, PhD, PsyD

Abstract:

Self-psychology's Marion Tolpin first proposed the concepts of the forward edge and the trailing edge. These concepts capture the optimism within Self psychology – its developmental thrust across the lifespan -and the tensions inherent in negotiating the edges between past, present, and future: between maintaining attachments to the familiar, however dear or inhibiting, and welcoming the edges of growth, open futures, and freedom. What are the forward edges of our field today and are they, as Tolpin reminded us, deeply buried under our trailing edges, and therefore, very hard to find? My talk today will concern my thoughts on what I see as some of our trailing edges, and our forward edges. Relying on the informal definition of *edgy* as “at the forefront, experimental or avant garde”, I challenge us to take some risks in forging new territory.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Articulate some of the trailing edges and forward edges of the field of Self psychology.
2. Discuss some potential edgy new territories for Self psychology.

Presenter Bio:

Elizabeth Corpt, LICSW is Past-President, Supervising Analyst, Faculty Member, and Board Member at the Massachusetts Institute for Psychoanalysis, Teaching Associate, at the Harvard Medical School, Department of Psychiatry at the Cambridge Health Alliance Program for Psychotherapy. She has written, published, and presented nationally and internationally on topics such as clinical generosity, the impact of social class on the forming of an analytic identity, and relational ethics. She is on the council of the International Association of Psychoanalytic Self Psychology, and a member of IARPP. At the American Psychoanalytic Association January Meetings in NYC she co-leads a discussion group with Peter Shabad on “Embracing or Foreclosing Change, Deepening Our Understanding”. Her two most recent publications are “The Complications of Caring and the Ethical Turn in Psychoanalysis” published in the *The Ethical Turn: Otherness and subjectivity in contemporary psychoanalysis*, a volume of the Relational Book Series, (2016), and “Maternal Ethics and the Therapeutic Work of Protecting Open Futures” published in *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*, (2017). She maintains a private practice in Arlington, MA.

References:

Corpt, E. (2017). Maternal Ethics and the Therapeutic Work of Protecting Open Futures. *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*, 37(6),412-418.

Datta-Barua, I. (2023). A Plea for Linking or How are Yoga, K-pop and Psychoanalysis are Connected? *Psychoanalysis, Self and Context*, 18(1), 1-13.

Sadek, N, (2023). Racial Justice in Psychoanalytic Communities: Translating Antiracist Dialogue into Racial Equity. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 33(1), 97-113.



PLENARY I & II PRESENTATIONS:

The Creative Edges of Self-Psychological Theory: Permeable Boundaries, Complex Selfobjects and Empathy on a Continuum

Friday, October 20, 2023 9:15am – 11:30am (part 1) and 1:30pm – 3:45pm (part 2)

PLENARY I:

Daniel Goldin, MFT, PsyD	Presenter
Steven Stern, PsyD	Presenter
Amanda Kottler, MA	Discussant
Jill Gardner, PhD	Moderator

PLENARY II:

Richard Geist, EdD	Presenter
Sarah Mendolsohn, LCSW	Discussant
Jill Gardner, PhD	Moderator

Abstract:

Somewhat unusually, the first two plenaries this year are combined into one double plenary exploring the creative edges of contemporary self-psychological theory. Daniel Goldin and Steve Stern will present papers in the morning session, with a discussion by Amanda Kottler. Dick Geist will present in the afternoon session, with a discussion of all three papers by Sarah Mendelsohn, followed by a 40 minute “roundtable” discussion among all the presenters, discussants, the audience, and the moderator for both sessions, Jill Gardner.

Goldin will open by presenting his view of empathy as a dynamic relational process that takes place on a continuum between what he terms the “what” form of empathy—the quasi-automatic mirror-neuron version that picks up emotions and intentions in an immediate way—to the “why” form that looks to the reasons a person expresses a certain attitude and takes certain actions. The former relies on what is the same about the two parties; the latter is set in motion by the gap between them—one that prompts the need for an evolving, co-created story that seeks to fill the gap, though never fully succeeds.

Stern extends his metatheory of needed relationships to posit a more complex form of selfobject connection than has been previously theorized. He argues that there are degrees of selfobject connectedness and that for the fullest, most transformative connection to be actualized certain conditions in the patient’s experience of the analyst need to be met. The co-creation of such conditions amounts to a new needed relationship—a transformational intersubjective medium—uniquely co-created and unpredictably emergent within each analytic dyad, which somehow comes to address a traumatic relational breach in the original parent-child field and restores an ethic of care, lawfulness, competence and love that was the patient’s original birthright.

Finally, Geist further develops his concept of permeable boundaries—the fact that in some treatments patient and therapist experience each other as a felt presence in each other’s life. Permeable boundaries means openness to the experience of we-ness. The more permeable the boundaries, the more the patient and therapist are influenced and regulated by each other, leading to a more intimate, deeper experience of the work. Specifically, an open permeable portal affects the interpretive process, internalization, the forward edge, the disruption-repair process, empathic resonance and the depth of connectedness that is possible between patient and therapist.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Distinguish between and empathic embodied perception of the other’s minded experience and a more reflective “reasons why” form of empathy that takes place in narrative imagination.
2. Recognize how a process of “toggling” between perception and extended empathy in the clinical situation changes how both members of the dyad feel in their bodies.
3. Apply the concept of a complex selfobject connection and the processes through which it becomes actualized over time.
4. Co-create needed relationships in their work through the twin processes of specificity of recognition and specificity of connection with adult, developmentally traumatized patients.
5. Understand and apply the idea of permeable boundaries between patient and analyst.
6. Understand and be able to co-create experiences of connectedness with their patients.

Presenter Bios:

Daniel Goldin, MFT, PsyD currently serves as editor of *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*. He has published numerous articles and co-hosts the podcast *The Conversation* with Daniel Posner. Daniel’s book *The Storying Mind in Psychotherapy and Everyday Life* will be published by Routledge early next year. Daniel is a training and supervising analyst affiliated with the Institute of Contemporary Psychoanalysis in California.

Steven Stern, PsyD is a faculty member, teacher and supervisor at the Massachusetts Institute for Psychoanalysis and the Institute for the Psychoanalytic Study of Subjectivity (NYC), and is Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Maine Medical Center and Tufts University School of Medicine. He is a former member of the International Council of the International Association of Psychoanalytic Self Psychology and serves on the editorial board of *Psychoanalysis, Self, and Context*. He has been a frequent contributor to the contemporary psychoanalytic literature, with a particular interest in theoretical integration. His book, *Needed Relationships and Psychoanalytic Healing: A Holistic Relational Perspective on the Therapeutic Process* was published by Routledge in 2017 in the “Psychoanalysis in a New Key Book Series.” Dr. Stern practices in Portland, ME with specializations in psychoanalysis, psychodynamic psychotherapy, couples therapy, clinical supervision and consultation.

Amanda Kottler, M.A. (Clin. Psych.) is a clinical psychologist practicing as a psychoanalytic psychotherapist in Cape Town, South Africa. She is a founding and faculty member of the Cape Town Psychoanalytic Self Psychology Group and an Emeritus Council Member of the International Association of Self Psychology. She has previously held the position of a senior lecturer at the University of Cape Town but now works full time in private practice. Her academic interests are in the areas of “difference” and the twinship / alter-ego selfobject experience. She has published and presented on these issues in South Africa, the UK and USA. She has co-edited two previous books and is a co-author of "Kohut's Twinship across Cultures: The Psychology of Being Human, published by Routledge in 2015.

Richard Geist, EdD received his undergraduate degree and his doctorate in Psychology from Harvard University and for 35 years was Clinical Instructor, Department of Psychiatry (Psychology), Harvard Medical School. He is a Founding Member, Faculty, Supervising analyst, and member of the Board of Directors of The Massachusetts Institute for Psychoanalysis. In addition, Dick has been on the Executive Board of the International Association for Psychoanalytic Self Psychology and is currently a council member. Dr. Geist was one of the first psychologists in Boston to embrace Self Psychology theory and practice, and he has been teaching and supervising it for over 30 years. He has written numerous papers on clinical self psychology, including papers on how empathy heals, re-conceptualizing the oedipal complex, boundaries in treatment, eating disorders, the forward edge, and several papers on connectedness between analyst and patient. He has been a senior supervising psychologist at Children's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Dick maintains a private practice in psychoanalysis and psychotherapy in Newton, Massachusetts where he sees Children, adolescents, adults, and couples. He also supervises privately, teaches private self psychology seminars, and directs a self psychology study group.

Sarah Mendelsohn, LCSW, is a training analyst and supervisor on faculty at the Institute for the Psychoanalytic Study of Subjectivity and The Manhattan Institute for Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy in New York. She has written and presented on enactive clinical action and the analyst's subjectivity, and she is an Associate Editor of the International Journal of Psychoanalytic Self Psychology: *Psychoanalysis, Self and Context*. She is a psychoanalyst and clinical supervisor in private practice in New York City.

References:

Zahavi, D. (2014). *Self and other: Exploring subjectivity, empathy, and shame* (First edition). Oxford University Press.

Geist, R.A. (2015) Conversations with Paul. *Int. Journal of Psychoanalytic Self Psychology*, 10(2), 91-106.

Stern, S. (2017). Holistic thinking and therapeutic action: Building on Louis Sander's Contribution. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 27(1), 89-103.

Perlitz, D. (2019). The Implicit Analyst: Qualities of Salience. *Psychoanalysis, Self, and Context*, 14(4), 428-444.

Stern, S. (2019). Airless worlds: The traumatic sequelae of identification with parental negation. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 29(4), 435-450.

St. Bernard, J., Gallagher, S. (in press). Race and the implicit aspects of embodied social interaction. In Robert Thompson (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy & Implicit Cognition*. London: Routledge.



PLENARY III PRESENTATION:

Working at the Intersection of Developmental and Sociocultural Trauma: A Clinical Conversation

Saturday, October 21, 2023 8:30am – 10:45am

Panel:

Margy Sperry, PsyD, MFT	Moderator and Presenter
Lynne Jacobs, PhD	Presenter
Paula Christian Kliger, PhD	Presenter
Kris Yi, PhD	Presenter

Abstract:

This panel will develop a largely neglected area within Self Psychology: namely the interweaving of developmental and sociocultural trauma. Self Psychology, like other psychoanalytic theories, emphasizes early developmental experiences and misattunements within the parent-child dyad. But personal subjectivity is an expression of an individual's developmental experiences and embeddedness within a particular sociocultural context. Daily, lifelong, and intergenerational experiences of racism and systemic injustice can be imbricated in developmental-familial trauma. Exploring these overlapping and interwoven forms of trauma necessarily exposes the dyad to vulnerable feelings including guilt and shame and requires white therapists to embrace the limits of their empathic understanding. Each panelist will present a short clinical vignette which will be discussed by the presenters in a round table format.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Recognize and describe how developmental sources of trauma and sociocultural forms of trauma may overlap and resonate, informing personal subjectivity.
2. Describe how their own sociocultural background informs their assumptions, attitudes, and interactions with patients.
3. Identify specific ways that sociocultural trauma may be expressed and enacted within the therapeutic setting.

Presenter Bios:

Margy Sperry, PsyD, MFT is a Training and Supervising Analyst at the Institute of Contemporary Psychoanalysis in Los Angeles and a Council Member of the International Association for Psychoanalytic Self Psychology. She co-chairs the Social Justice and Ethics group for IAPSP. Margy has a private practice in West Los Angeles, California.

Lynne Jacobs, Ph.D., inhabits two psychotherapy worlds. She teaches gestalt therapists world-wide. She is co-founder of the Pacific Gestalt Institute and also a training and supervising analyst at the Institute of Contemporary Psychoanalysis. She is co-editor of *The Healing Relationship in Gestalt Therapy: A Dialogic / Self Psychology Approach*, and co-editor of *Relational Approaches in Gestalt Therapy* (both with Rich Hycner). She has also published numerous articles in gestalt therapy and psychoanalytic journals. Her abiding interest is attempting to understand the psychotherapeutic relationship. She has a private practice in Los Angeles.

Paula Christian Kliger, is a board-certified clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst, and for 35 years, has been President/Founder of PsychAssets and Kliger Consulting Group. She specializes in working with children, adolescents, and adults; with families, leaders, and organizations, and communities from diverse racial and sociocultural identities, cross-generational and socioeconomic backgrounds. Working with people suffering from the complexities of current and historical trauma has allowed her to expand her consultation and intervention practice, nationally and internationally, leading to significant rethinking, evolving, and reworking how psychoanalysts can affect healing, development, and transformative change.

Dr. Paula Kliger has recently received the *Public Leadership Credential* [PLC] from Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School and was appointed *North America Region Representative* to the International Psychoanalytical Association's [IPA] "The Community and the World" Committee: Prejudice, Discrimination and Racism.

As a multicultural family and child development center, Dr. Kliger is President and Chair of the Board of the new non-profit organization, Harlem Family Services, INC, [HFS], which is dedicated to developing and providing the full range of psychoanalytically informed life-skills coaching and clinical services to marginalized and underserved diverse communities of Harlem and beyond. Additionally, she has served as the Principal Organizational, Relational and Cultural Consultant at Harlem Family Institute [HFI], related directly to HFS, which has led enhancement of psychoanalytic candidate training to be socio-culturally wise and, with supportive HFI, APSA and IPA colleagues, has launched three *HFI Community Bridging Outreach Initiatives*: Harlem Family's Psychoanalytic Renaissance Talk Series, Bridging to the Community Discussion Group and The Margaret Morgan Lawrence Acute Trauma Seminar and Service.

Along with IPA and other professional organizations, she is member of the American Psychoanalytic Association, is Chair of the Department of Psychoanalytic Education (DPE) Section: *The Psychoanalyst in the Community* and is a founding member of *Black Psychoanalysts Speak* (BPS).

Along with professional work as a psychologist/psychoanalyst, a teacher and writer, she is an award-winning writer/artist as the *2020 Next Generation Indie Book Finalist* for *Poetry and Illustrations* for: "*Power Your Heart, You Power Your Mind, Self-Study then Build a Bridge to Someone*," which can be found on Amazon. Her co-produced podcast with Lori Blumenstein-Bott: "*We Are Human First*" received the *2020 Hermes International Creative Gold Award* and is on Spotify, Apple, and www.psychassets.com.

Kris Yi, PhD is a clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst in private practice in Pasadena, California. A graduate of the Institute of Contemporary Psychoanalysis of Los Angeles, she is currently a member of the teaching and supervising faculty there as well as the Newport Psychoanalytic Institute in Tustin, California. She has served in a number of leadership roles within the Society for Psychoanalysis and Psychoanalytic Psychology (SPSS) of the American Psychological Association. Currently she serves as a co-chairperson for its International Relations Committee.

She has presented widely on culture, race in psychoanalysis and published work in journals such as the *Psychoanalytic Psychology* and *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*.

References:

Fors, M. (2021) Power Dynamics in the Clinical Situation: A Confluence of Perspectives. *Contemporary Psychoanalysis* 57(2), 242-269.

Tummala-Narra, P. (2021) Racial Trauma and Dissociated Worlds within Psychotherapy: A Discussion of "Racial Difference, Rupture, and Repair: A View from the Couch and Back". *Psychoanalytic Dialogues* 30(6), 732-741.

Dennis, E. (2022) The Paranoid-Schizoid Position and Envious Attacks on the Black Other. *Psychoanalysis, Self, and Context*, 17(2), 141-153.

Yi, K. (2023) Asian American Experience: The Illusion of Inclusion and the Model Minority Stereotype. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 33(1), 45-59.



PLENARY IV PRESENTATION:

Expanding the Edges of Self Psychology: Harm Reduction, Creative Arts, and Guided Imagery

Sunday, October 22, 2023 10:00am – 12:15pm

Panel:

Heather Ferguson, LCSW	Presenter
D. Bradley Jones, PsyD, LCSW	Presenter
Kristin Long, DPsa, LCAT, LP	Presenter
Valeria Pulcini, MD	Moderator

Abstract:

In response to the needs of diverse patients, Self-Psychological treatment has become increasingly influenced by varied and diverse treatment modalities. An appreciation of the intractability of addiction and trauma has motivated psychoanalytically informed clinicians to utilize concepts and principles found in harm reduction, hypnosis, and body-based and expressive arts. With a creative and collaborative sensibility, the therapist and patient connect to the visceral and embodied meanings of their symptoms within the holding context of a new relational experience. Three presenters will share clinical material in this plenary, where ideas from varied treatment philosophies expand psychoanalytically informed treatment.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Describe the importance of attending to the felt sense in the body while using imagery to deepen the connection to the patient's embodied state.
2. Identify the basic principles of Harm Reduction Psychotherapy and understand its efficacy in the psychoanalytic treatment of substance users.
3. Describe how creative arts interventions can enhance and expand a self-psychological sensibility, including identifying appropriate situations for its use.

Presenter Bios:

Heather Ferguson, LCSW, is faculty and supervisor at the Institute for the Psychoanalytic Study of Subjectivity, the National Institute for the Psychotherapies, and faculty at the Manhattan Institute for Psychanalysis Trauma Program, all in NYC. She has written about eating disorder treatment, the role of intergenerational transmission of trauma, and the use of embodied techniques to deepen psychotherapeutic engagement. She is a member of the Music Industry Therapist Collective (MITC). She is Co-Book Review Editor for *Psychoanalysis, Self, and Context*.

D. Bradley Jones, Psy.D., LCSW is a graduate of two psychoanalytic institutes: *The Institute for the Psychoanalytic Study of Subjectivity* (IPSS) in NYC, and *The Institute for Contemporary Psychoanalysis* (ICP/LA) in Los Angeles, CA. He is a Supervising Training Analyst and faculty at both institutes, and enjoys promoting the *IPSS Explorations Series*. In private practice for over 25 years now, Bradley has a special interest in working with substance use and mis-use, and people in the performing arts. He has published articles found in the journal *Self, Context, and Psychoanalysis* and *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*, and his cabaret act *Dr. Bradley's Fabulous Functional Narcissism* was nominated for a Manhattan Association of Cabaret (MAC) Award in NYC, and a Broadway World Award in Los Angeles.

Kristin Long, DPsa, LCAT, LP, is a faculty member and supervisor at The Institute for Expressive Analysis in New York City where she teaches classes on the therapeutic use of the body and Expressive Analysis with children and adolescents, and at New York University where she teaches a class on Projective Techniques in the Drama Therapy program. She has presented nationally and internationally on the importance of attunement within relational dyads, specifically around parent/child treatments. Kristin is co-editor of the book *Creative Arts Therapies and the LGBTQ Community*.

References:

Van der Kolk, B. (2002). Posttraumatic Therapy in the Age of Neuroscience. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 12(3), 381-392.

MacIntosh, H.B. (2017). A Bridge Across Silent Trauma: Enactment, Art, and Emergence in the Treatment of a Traumatized Adolescence. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 27(4), 433-453.

Lewis, M. (2018). Brain Change in Addiction as Learning, Not Disease. *The New England Journal of Medicine*. 379(16), 1551-1560.

Guzzardi, S. (2022) Nicki, Nicholas, Nicole: Play as Relational Therapeutic Action on the Transgender Edge. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues* 32(2), 175-190.

Brothers, D. & Sletvold, J. (2023). *A New Vision of Psychoanalytic Theory, Practice, and Supervision Talking Bodies*. NY: Routledge.



POST PLENARY I & II DISCUSSION GROUPS

Friday, October 20, 2023 4:15pm – 5:15pm

Abstract:

The small group setting of the post-plenary discussion groups offer participants the opportunity to discuss reactions to the panels in a smaller, more intimate setting. Led by a senior clinician, conference participants will be able to ask questions to further their understanding of the content presented in the plenary programs.

Learning objectives:

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

1. Describe what they see as the advantages and disadvantages (if any) of the proposed expansions or revisions of the core self-psychological concepts of empathy, selfobject experience and permeable boundaries and explain the reason for this opinion.

References:

- Zahavi, D. (2014). *Self and other: Exploring subjectivity, empathy, and shame* (First edition). Oxford University Press.
- Perlitz, D. (2019). The Implicit Analyst: Qualities of Salience. *Psychoanalysis, Self, and Context*, 14(4), 428-444.
- Stern, S. (2019). Airless worlds: The traumatic sequelae of identification with parental negation. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 29(4), 435-450.



POST PLENARY III DISCUSSION GROUPS

Saturday, October 21, 2023 11:00am – 12:00pm

Abstract:

The small group setting of the post-plenary discussion groups offer participants the opportunity to discuss reactions to the panels in a smaller, more intimate setting. Led by a senior clinician, conference participants will be able to ask questions to further their understanding of the content presented in the plenary programs.

Learning objectives:

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

1. Describe the impact of racial discrimination and social injustice and how these can intersect with developmental trauma and selfobject failure.
2. Explain ways that the ideas presented in Plenary 3 apply to their own clinical cases and/or lives.

References:

Tummala-Narra, P. (2021) Racial Trauma and Dissociated Worlds within Psychotherapy: A Discussion of "Racial Difference, Rupture, and Repair: A View from the Couch and Back". *Psychoanalytic Dialogues* 30(6), 732-741.

Dennis, E. (2022) The Paranoid-Schizoid Position and Envious Attacks on the Black Other. *Psychoanalysis, Self, and Context*, 17(2), 141-153.

Yi, K. (2023) Asian American Experience: The Illusion of Inclusion and the Model Minority Stereotype. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 33(1), 45-59.



KOHUT MEMORIAL LUNCHEON:

Kohut and Me

Saturday, October 21, 2023 12:15pm – 1:45pm

Presenter: Doris Brothers, PhD

Abstract:

I open my talk by comparing my very different relationships with Freud and Kohut. While Freud seems to have wanted to be known, Kohut kept many secrets about his life. I then describe my heart-stopping encounters with Paul Orenstein having to do with my thoughts about Kohut's connection to "Mr. Z." The remainder of my talk is devoted to imaginary conversations with Kohut about the work I have been doing with my husband, Jon Sletvold, that both expand on Kohut's ideas and pose challenges to them.

Presenter Bio:

Doris Brothers, Ph.D. serves on the advisory board and council of the International Association for Psychoanalytic Self Psychology (IAPSP). She was a co-editor of *Psychoanalysis, Self and Context* with Roger Frie from 2015 to 2019. She is an associate editor of *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*. She has written three books and many journal articles. Her last book is *Toward a Psychology of Uncertainty: Trauma-Centered Psychoanalysis* (Analytic Press, 2008). A forthcoming book with Jon Sletvold is entitled, *A New Vision of Psychoanalytic Theory, Practice and Supervision: Talking Bodies* (Routledge). She practices on the upper west side of Manhattan, New York, USA, and in Oslo, Norway.

Note: CE credits are not applicable for this session.