



The Bulletin

President's Message

This has been an exceptional and challenging year and the TICP Board and community has demonstrated a dedicated energy and initiative that has contributed to extraordinary growth and commitment. The real and surreal presence and impact of COVID-19, navigating a unique and unpredictable pathway in all our lives, encompasses both tragic loss and potential growth. I am eternally grateful to all those who have contributed to our on-going endeavours and challenges.

On May 18, 2020, we lost a beloved and revered giant in our field, Philip Bromberg, who will be profoundly missed and profoundly remembered. We had the privilege and good fortune to host Philip on several occasions, who impacted and enlarged our clinical lens and work immeasurably.

In June, the TICP undertook two stimulating videoconferences on Zoom: *COVID in the Time of Climate Crisis* with Elizabeth Allured and Wendy Greenspan of New York in collaboration with the Climate Psychology Alliance North America; and the documentary film *Sisters of the Wilderness* was viewed with discussion from Sharon Dembo, and the producer Ronit Shapiro of London, UK, co-sponsored by the Canadian Association of Psychoanalytic Child Therapists. TICP had unique opportunities to collaborate far and wide.

This October, Todd Essig and Gillian Isaacs Russell were invited to present *The Long Haul of Teletherapy in a Pandemic: Making it Work* regarding the conversion to pandemic-based screen-mediated treatment and the ongoing challenge of enduring this change in the face of uncertainty and loss.

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Save The Dates

- March 6, 2021 Conference:
Steven Cooper, Ph.D.
- May 15, 2021 Conference:
Jeanne Wolff-Bernstein, Ph.D.
- Scientific Meetings:
February 24, 2021: **Brent Willock**
- **Extension Program—Ferenczi**
7 online seminars in Spring 2021



President's Message (continued from Page 1)

In November 2020, TICP launched our first workshop on Zoom and we were privileged to welcome Donnel Stern. His seminal and innovative contributions to interpersonal and relational psychoanalysis propelled us forward into the complex landscape of experience and meaning in the interpersonal field ... in thinking and rethinking; finding words where there were none before; ravelling and unravelling feelings; thawing what had been frozen and unreachable; courting surprise and expanding the infinite possibilities and freedom to explore.

December brought us a musical interlude with Marilyn Lerner's lyrical paper *Spontaneous Music – Learning to improvise with our Patients*, "approaching the analytic encounter with the ear and sensibility of a creative musical improviser" ... a talented psychoanalyst and musician.

Suzanne has steered our Zoom encounters, with the recent assistance from Brent Hetherington, which enabled the continuing of our programs, meetings, and connecting with one another. TICP welcomed for the fall, 9 new candidates to the 4-Year Psychoanalysis Program, 30 students to the new 3-Year Psychotherapy Program and 25 participants to the Essentials Program an incredible proliferation of our presence and contributions to the psychoanalytic community. This year, Kadri-Ann Laar officially retired and is appreciated for her longstanding and important involvement on the Board and Candidate Progress Committee.

On December 5, 2020 we lost an esteemed and cherished colleague, Elliott Markson, who was an integral and honoured life member for many years from the beginnings of the TICP. His inspiration as an analyst, teacher, supervisor, colleague and friend will not be lost but remembered and held deeply.

I want to express my continuing gratitude and appreciation to the TICP community who have been openly engaged and responsive to being there for others in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and through the challenges and struggles that have been deeply personal and collective and unprecedented. We continue to navigate a challenging landscape and sensibility.

Looking forward to the possibility of a future that embraces health, well-being and engagement.

Judi B. Kobrick
President, TICP

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

2021

Wednesday scientific meetings are free for all TSCP Members and Guests. They are held from **8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.** RSVPs are appreciated in advance.

NOTE: All Scientific Meetings in Winter/Spring 2021 will be held via Zoom videoconference due to COVID-19 physical distancing guidelines.

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Brent Willock, Ph.D., C.Psych.

On Dreaming and Murder: Psychoanalytic Insights into a Chilling Case involving a 20-year-old Student

ABOUT THIS PRESENTATION

PEP Web's vast psychoanalytic literature archive contains no articles on *parasomnia*, and no mention of the *violent parasomnias*. There is a potentially rich confluence between the study of these states of simultaneous sleep/wakefulness, and the psychoanalytic investigation of dreams. This contribution illustrates how these fields of inquiry can be brought together to significantly augment our comprehension of very important phenomena. These matters are insufficiently understood in mental health and legal disciplines, and in public discourse. Psychoanalytic perspectives on dreaming and sleep disorders have much to contribute to psychology, psychiatry, neuroscience, sleep medicine, and the law.

Advance reading may be provided to registrants but is not to be distributed.

Email info@ticp.on.ca or call 416.288.8060 to **RSVP**.

FERENCZI

A 7-PART EXTENSION PROGRAM IN SPRING 2021

Dates: 7 Thursday evenings, March 25, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6, 2021

Time: 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Location: Seminars held online via Zoom videoconference

Fee: \$275 regular, \$175 students

Register online at www.ticp.on.ca



ABOUT THIS PROGRAM

Ferenczi is widely regarded as the founder of all relationship-based psychoanalysis. As his intense relationship with Freud (begun in 1908) matured, Ferenczi began to question and deviate from Freud, both theoretically and clinically.

This seven-lecture course locates Ferenczi within the history of psychoanalysis and demonstrates the range of his original contributions to psychoanalysis and particularly to clinical practice. A special area of focus is the relationship between Ferenczi and Freud and how that relationship shaped Ferenczi's unique theory of clinical practice.

It has been said, quite astutely, that if Freud was the father of psychoanalysis, Ferenczi was its mother.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, participants should be able to:

- ♦ Appreciate the many significant contributions Ferenczi offered to the theory and practice of psychoanalysis;
- ♦ Understand Ferenczi's enormous contribution to the importance of countertransference as an indispensable tool for psychoanalysis/psychotherapy;
- ♦ Grasp the seminal importance of the early mother-child relationship in a person's development;
- ♦ Learn Ferenczi's theory of trauma and its implications for treatment;
- ♦ Understand that Ferenczi saw the typical analyst's stance at the time as aloof and cold, leading him to advocate an atmosphere of safety, trust, openness, and lack of hypocrisy;
- ♦ Integrate the idea that hierarchical and authoritarian notions have no place in the relationship structure of psychotherapy, that the therapeutic relationship must be based on the sense of respect and equality.

Interaction among the course participants and discussion of the material are most welcome.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Peter Dales RP, BA has been in private practice, working with adult individuals, couples and groups in the psychoanalytic psychotherapeutic modality for 47 years and is faculty emeritus of the Centre for Training in Psychotherapy (CTP) (Toronto) for 2 years. He is a guest member of the Toronto Psychoanalytic Society.

PLAYING AND BECOMING IN PSYCHOANALYSIS

DR. STEVEN COOPER

MARCH 6, 2021

This is a virtual event held via Zoom videoconference

10:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

ABOUT THE DAY

Morning Session:

The Limit of Intimacy and the Intimacy of Limit:

The Emergence of Play in Relation to the Analyst and to Internal Objects.

The refractoriness of the bad object (Fairbairn, 1943; 1958) has remained a durable clinical problem and to some extent under-theorized among psychoanalysts. Through an extended clinical example, this paper examines how the experience of limit is part of an undercurrent within the object relation between patient and analyst, that, in turn, sometimes gives rise to a shift in the patient's relationship to an unsatisfying internal object relation.

Afternoon Session:

The Play of Mourning

In the density of psychic regression and progression, psychoanalytic play is able to help patients move toward grieving internal objects. Play occurs at a moment of dawning awareness of transference-countertransference enactment within both patient and analyst. Often these moments especially involve the analyst's new awareness of his or her own resistance to understanding transference-countertransference enactments.

Through a series of brief clinical vignettes and analysis of a poem by Elizabeth Bishop, the author examines how patient and analyst become better able to acquire an "internal environment" (Winnicott, 1954), one in which they try to face the profound disappointment of grieving these objects.

About the Speaker

Steven H. Cooper, Ph.D., is a Training and Supervising Analyst, Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute; Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, and Joint Chief Editor Emeritus, Psychoanalytic Dialogues. He is the author of four books. His newest book, *Playing and Becoming in Psychoanalysis*, will be published by Routledge in 2021.

Learning Objectives

Participants will learn to:

- ◆ To broaden the participant's thinking about how the concept of limit related to elements of play in the analytic situation;
- ◆ To help develop the participant's ability to consider play in the context of transference-countertransference engagement;
- ◆ To facilitate the participant's ability to conceptualize how play facilitates the mourning process in psychoanalytic process.

Registration Details

Earlybird Registration rates end February 19, 2021

Registration is available online at www.ticp.on.ca

Rates:	Early	After February 19
TSCP Members	\$100	\$115
Regular Fee	\$125	\$140
Student Fee	\$75	\$100

Registration is [available online](http://www.ticp.on.ca) at www.ticp.on.ca

SCHEDULE OF THE DAY:

10 a.m. Introduction (Dr. Judi Kobrick)

10 - 11 ***The Limit of Intimacy and the Intimacy of Limit*** (Dr. Steven Cooper)

11 - 12 Discussion with Audience

12 - 1 Lunch

1 - 2 ***The Play of Mourning*** (Dr. Steven Cooper)

2 - 3 Discussion with Audience

3:00 p.m. Closing Remarks (Dr. Judi Kobrick)

THE ALTERNATE UNIVERSE OF THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

By Graeme J. Taylor, M.D.

During the past four years many psychoanalysts and other mental health professionals have wanted to share with their colleagues and the general public their thoughts about the personality of Donald Trump and the negative influence they believe his presidency may have on the future of democracy in America. Several books and journal articles have been published including *Trump on the Couch* by psychoanalyst Justin Frank, who previously authored psychoanalytic studies of President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama; an article by Era Loewenstein titled “The agitator and his propaganda machine: Donald Trump and the road to American Fascism;” and more recently *Psychoanalytic and Historical Perspectives on the Leadership of Donald Trump*, edited by Michael Maccoby and Ken Fuchsman. In the Fall of 2018 *Psychodynamic Psychiatry* (the official journal of the American Academy of Psychoanalysis and Psychodynamic Psychiatry) published an editorial on psychiatric ethics and the Goldwater rule as well as an interview with Bandy Lee, who edited *The Dangerous Case of Donald Trump*. The editors of this journal invited reader responses to the issues raised in those two articles. I decided to respond by writing an essay about the alternative universe of the Trump administration. It was published in the Summer 2019 issue of the journal. Given the wide interest in American politics, I have been encouraged to share my essay, as well as a discussion by an American analyst and my response, with members of the TICP. Because of the journal copyright, I can here provide only a brief synopsis of the content of the three articles.

In my essay I applied some concepts that were formulated in the early 1980s by the French psychoanalyst Janine Chasseguet-Smirgel, whose work is not well known among psychoanalysts in North America. Of particular relevance are her concept of an ‘anal universe,’ which she introduced in her formulation of the psychodynamics underlying sexual perversions, and her ideas about perverse thinking and lying, which she considered a feature of all extremist ideologies. Although the term ‘alternative universe’ has been used by several commentators to capture the confusion and distortion of truth generated by the Trump administration, a literature search revealed that prior to writing my essay none of the previously published books and psychoanalytic journal articles about Trump had applied Chasseguet-Smirgel’s concepts.

The psychoanalytic concept of an ‘anal universe’ is a type of alternative universe in which reality is denied and falsehood prevails. It is a regressive universe in which all differences are abolished, and everything is equivalent. The prevailing mode of thinking in this universe creates confusion by distorting language and blurring the meaning of words. I proposed that Trump’s lying is an expression of perverse thinking, which does not deny or change reality, but creates another reality (an alternative universe) alongside objective reality. In extremist ideologies perverse thinking can generate so much uncertainty that it becomes difficult for people to distinguish between fact and fiction, between true and false, and between objective reality and an alternative universe. As the public has seen, this mode of thinking is used in the service of propaganda and to promote violence.

In compliance with the Goldwater rule, I made no attempt to label President Trump with a psychiatric diagnosis; however, I commented on aspects of his behaviour that are readily observed in televised interviews and in his frequent tweets, and are therefore in the public domain. In addition to my comments about Trump's perverse thinking and lying, I discussed his mocking of disabled people, demeaning of women, labeling journalists as enemies of the people, promotion of policies that cruelly affect immigrants and refugees, and his encouragement of regressive forces in groups. I also discussed why the male phallus has retained its symbolic weight in both American politics and psychoanalysis, and thereby obscured the metaphoric value of the female genital as a signifier of a 'feminine' space in the mind for symbolization and reflection and for generating creative ideas and solutions. In my view, this 'feminine' mental space is missing in a leader who allegedly fails to read briefing reports, prides himself on knowing more about almost any topic than the experts, denies global warming, behaves impulsively, and makes decisions based on instinct rather than careful reasoning.

Several months after my essay was published, Dr. Peter Olsson, an American psychoanalyst and Trump supporter, wrote a critical discussion, which appeared in the Winter 2019 issue of *Psychodynamic Psychiatry*. Olsson argued that I and other mental health professionals who write about Trump are motivated by negative countertransference feelings, which lead us to project negative

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emotions onto Trump. In regard to my application of Chasseguet-Smirgel's concepts, Olsson accused me of weaponizing psychoanalytic theory. And in response to my discussion of perverse thinking and lying, he noted that American voters have had exposure to myriad forms of political lying over many presidential administrations. He argued also that I had taken media reports of Trump's "campaign-style comments or taken-out-of-context statements" and misused them as pseudo-analytic data to support my group psychological formulations of the president's behaviours toward persons with physical disabilities, women, journalists, and immigrants. Although Olsson did not directly disagree with my discussion of the primacy of the male phallus in American politics, he stated that he had observed how positively Trump has been aided and helped by the influence of his wife and daughter and female staff, and he cited Trump's 90 minutes with the Queen of England and discussions with female world leaders as examples of non-toxic masculinity. In general, Olsson implied that I slipped over the line in my essay and engaged in a form of "applied wild psychoanalysis."

The editors of *Psychodynamic Psychiatry* agreed to publishing a response to Olsson's discussion of my essay. In my Response, which appeared in the Summer 2020 issue of the journal, I commented on some of Olsson's criticisms and omissions in his Discussion and also corrected some misrepresentations. In reply to his argument about the projection of negative countertransference feelings, I noted that it is common among Trump supporters to argue that critics of the president's behaviour are motivated by dislike or hatred rather than by consideration of facts and by thoughtful reflection. I reminded Olsson of Winnicott's classic paper on hate in the countertransference in which a distinction is made between countertransference feelings that belong to the analyst's personal experiences and development, and the positive and negative feelings that may arise in reaction to the actual personality and behaviour of the patient, based on objective observation. I also reminded Olsson of essays written by Hanna Arendt during the second half of the twentieth century in which she recognised many of the dangers to the vitality of a democracy when the lines between opinions, lies, and factual truths become blurred. To support my comments about Trump's demeaning behaviour toward women, I gave the examples of his mocking of Dr. Christine Blasey Ford's testimony during the Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing of Justice Brett Kavanaugh, and his attacks on Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch during the impeachment hearings. And in response to Olsson's view that Trump's alternative reality, lying, and dangerous patterns of behaviour are not a threat to American democracy, I quoted a recent statement by former U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry that "a democracy relies on free speech, but it relies even more on speech being truthful."

If you are interested in reading these articles, please send an email request to graeme.taylor@utoronto.ca and I will gladly forward pdf copies.

TRAINING PROGRAMS AT TICP

UPDATES IN 2020/2021

4-YEAR PSYCHOANALYSIS PROGRAM

In September we welcomed a new class of 9 candidates to the 4-year program. The opening orientation and seminars migrated to online delivery because of the pandemic—a strange introduction to the TICP community and the intensities of the training! What we had to forego in the way of in-person contact, however, also opened new possibilities for admissions to the program: virtual delivery of seminars and workshops allowed us for the first time to accept candidates from other regions and provinces. Even with the limitations of the Zoom format, the seminars so far this year have been animated by lively discussion, strong engagement, and different geographical perspectives. We all look forward to a time when it will be possible for most of us to meet in person.

New initiatives:

Last spring, we introduced a highly successful new 6-week module on intersectionality in year 4 of the program. Intersectionality, a concept used by various critical theories to describe how categories of privilege (e.g. race, gender, ableism, nationalism, economic status) intertwine to create often invisible systems of exclusion and disadvantage, has preoccupied the global psychoanalytic community in recent years. The events of 2020—the COVID-19 pandemic and the Black Lives Matter protests, among others—have given these conversations new urgency.

The new module on intersectionality module was led by three guest instructors: Francisco Gonzalez (Psychoanalytic Institute of Northern California), Stephen Hartman (Psychoanalytic Institute of Northern California), and Eyal Rozmarin (William Alanson White Institute). They each taught two seminars via Zoom. As established figures in the field, they included their own recently published work in the readings for their seminars, exploring such topics as immigration, race, inclusivity, gender and sexuality, and psychoanalysis and the social.

TRAINING PROGRAMS AT TICP

UPDATES 2020/2021 (CONTINUED)

(UPDATE ON 4-YEAR PSYCHOANALYSIS TRAINING PROGRAM—CONTINUED)

Although the module was an elective, created partly because of candidate interest, it seems clear that these topics are now central to conversations in many psychoanalytic institutes and might ideally become a permanent feature of the curriculum. Intersectionality supplements the approaches TICP already features in its comparative/integrative curriculum. Psychoanalysis seems especially well equipped to understand the intricate interface between the social and the psychic and to comprehend how social inequities can become internalized as pathology. Political upheavals in many communities and countries over the past year have revealed how pervasively and often unconsciously sociopolitical factors shape our subjectivities and psychic lives.

Study groups, workshops, and dedicated seminars in our programs will continue the important conversations around these topics as TICP becomes increasingly inclusive in its students, candidates, and faculty and in the populations it serves.

Ongoing work on the curriculum

The curriculum committee has been involved over the past year in a number of endeavors: we've streamlined seminars in each of the four years and re-ordered and consolidated modules. We've expanded the modules on Neuro-psychoanalysis, Psychoanalysis and the Body, and Formulation. We have adjusted the arrangement for continuous case seminars so that candidates will be able to present control case material in more reliably consistent ways. The module on Dreams integrates continuous case material on dreams as a clinical counterpart to the theoretical papers on dreamwork. We've introduced more support around the production of the scholarly/scientific paper. We sent out a questionnaire to current and prospective instructors and have been actively cultivating faculty renewal. We have welcomed some new instructors this year, and we look forward to expanding the faculty further in the coming years.

Curriculum committee:

Elizabeth Harvey (Chair), Chris Trevelyan, Hilary Offman; Advisory members: Gordon Yanchyshyn, Brent Willock.

TRAINING PROGRAMS AT TICP

UPDATES 2020/2021 (CONTINUED)

3-YEAR PSYCHOANALYTIC PSYCHOTHERAPY PROGRAM

We would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the launch of the new 3-Year Psychotherapy Program in September 2020. While we were looking forward to beginning classes in our new space, faculty and students have banded together to create a successful online learning experience in the interim until a safe return to the classroom is possible.

This program is an exciting venture for the TICP that allows us to expand the outreach of teaching psychoanalytic psychotherapy in a climate where cognitive approaches have dominated the field. This is a clinical training program that obtained approval as a Private Career College by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) in February 2020 as well as by the College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario creating a pathway for graduates to become licensed psychotherapists in Ontario.

There was an overwhelming interest in the program and admission applications exceeded the maximum number of students we were able to accommodate in the first class. There is already a waiting list for the class commencing in fall 2022.

The next exciting evolution of the program is to launch the TICP Free Clinic in the fall of 2021. The clinic will serve as a training site for our 3 year psychotherapy candidates while also offering a much needed mental health service to the community where affordable therapy is difficult to access. Over time we hope to expand the training site as well as inspire research in areas related to applications of psychoanalytic psychotherapy and community mental health. This is a huge initiative for the TICP and we continue to welcome donations and fundraising efforts to support the commencement and growth of the Free Clinic.

On a personal note, I would like to thank our administrator Suzanne Pearen, Dr. Judi Kobrick and the TICP Board of Directors, our membership and our donors for supporting and promoting this program and the TICP Free Clinic.

Stephanie Bot
Chair, 3-Year Psychotherapy Program

TRAINING PROGRAMS AT TICP

UPDATES 2020/2021 (CONTINUED)

ESSENTIALS OF PSYCHOANALYSIS

As the Essentials Program begins its tenth year, we are excited to update TICP members on this year's course. COVID forced us to launch the program virtually, with the unexpected benefit of increasing our enrollment to 24 and opening up the program to distance learners from across the country. We have a very engaged group of class members from diverse backgrounds and perspectives, contributing to a very enriching teaching and learning environment. Of our distance learners, we have people attending from Kingston, Uxbridge, Ottawa, and the East Coast! At this time, the Essentials Committee would like to take the opportunity to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Ann Baranowski and Sam Izenberg, who both conceived of and ran the program since its inception – a program now well recognized and respected in the community.

They have been inspirational mentors and we have big shoes to fill! We also want to extend our gratitude to our knowledgeable and dedicated faculty who are embarking on the challenge of online learning with a much larger class than usual! And our thank you list would not be complete if we did not acknowledge the unflagging dedication and energy of Suzanne Pearen, who is an indispensable resource to us all! Together, we have been able to bring psychoanalytic thinking to a broader community!

The Essentials Committee for 2020 -2021:

Sheri Turrell (Chair)

Kirsten Ainsworth-Vincze (Co-chair)

Sarah Turnbull (Executive Liaison)

TICP Scientific Meetings

We welcome all Members and Guests of the Society (TSCP) and TICP candidates to participate in the ongoing Scientific Meetings. There is no charge for members to attend the Wednesday events; a small fee is charged for the Saturday morning Scientific Meetings. To check your current membership status please contact Suzanne Pearen at info@ticp.on.ca

We are constantly searching for new presenters. If you would like to present, or can suggest a potential presenter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The Bulletin

Contact:

info@ticp.on.ca

www.ticp.on.ca

416.288.8060

We welcome your input!

The Bulletin is always looking for new material and contributions for upcoming editions.

If you've read a paper or book and would like to submit a review, have a paper to share, or know of an upcoming event or any other item that would be of interest to others in our community, we would very much like to hear from you. All material will be considered.

Please contact us at info@ticp.on.ca or call 416.288.8060

Toronto Institute for Contemporary Psychoanalysis

Fall 2020



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