

## Message from the President

Spyros Orfanos  
USA



Dear Friends:

Something happened in Madrid. It was not the usual conference high. It was not even the usual IARPP conference high. This was different.

[full message](#)

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## 2012 Conference IARPP 10th Anniversary

### The Legacy of Stephen Mitchell: Sustaining Creativity in our Psychoanalytic Work

New York City, March 1-4, 2012

[Message from Co-Chairs: Hazel Ipp & Margaret Black](#)

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## Fall 2011 Online Colloquium

“Good Enough Endings: Contemporary Perspectives on Termination”

December 5-18, 2011

[details](#)

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## 2011 Stephen A. Mitchell Author’s Award Winner



We are pleased to announce that Lisa Cataldo, MDiv, PhD, from the United States, is the winner of the 2011 Stephen A. Mitchell Author's Award

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## Reflections on Madrid Conference



Maria Eugenia Boestch  
Alejandro Ávila Espada  
Jorge Gómez Blanco  
Catherine Hicks  
Mario Nervi

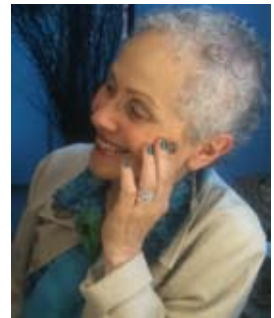
*See what countries  
were represented  
in Madrid!*

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## New Publications featuring IARPP Members

### “Culture in Mind: Psychoanalytic Stories”

Editor:  
Muriel Dimen, PhD  
[go to article](#)



### Interview with Contributing Author

Orna Guralnik, PsyD  
[go to interview](#)



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- [Letter from the Editors](#)
- [Relational Child Psychotherapy and the Adolescent Interest Group](#)
- [IARPP Chapters](#)



## Message from the President

Spyros Orfanos

USA

Dear Friends:

Something happened in Madrid. It was not the usual conference high. It was not even the usual IARPP conference high. This was different.

After the close of the Madrid events I spent two weeks roaming Spain. I reflected and I processed and I talked with people who were there. It was only after my return to Madrid and after a second visit to the breathtaking Prado Museum that I began to formulate what the conference experience meant for me. It may be this: IARPP truly became an international organization during the Madrid proceedings.

Of course, some fabulous previous conferences had paved the way – New York in 2002, Toronto in 2003, Santa Monica in 2004, Rome in 2005, Boston in 2006, Athens in 2007, Baltimore in 2008, Tel Aviv in 2009, and San Francisco in 2010. But, what happened in Madrid was the emergence of a relational group of true internationalists. IARPP's identity as a global organization solidified. It moved from a collection of individuals or national groups to an entity of like-minded clinicians and scholars who delighted in the sameness and differences of fellow colleagues. It was as if at the Madrid conference we moved from beyond the vestiges of our bounded selves to becoming a community. This was not, I should add, a group-think or cult phenomena. This was the coming of age of a community. No doubt, the inspired leadership of Alejandro Ávila Espada and Ramon Riera and their committee of 18 Spaniards was the main reason for this developmental achievement. However, the close to 476 registrants also contributed to this milestone.

While I could not attend all the presentations, I certainly felt educated and often moved emotionally by the sessions I did attend. Humans suffer in all parts of the world and we relationalists listen, connect, integrate and restore psychological dignity. In my experience and encounters with others it was clear that the scholarship and art at the conference was first-rate. There were moments when I felt that the great painters and poets of Spain were in the hotel grand ballroom where we held the plenary sessions. And, of course, the social parts of the conference (coffee and cookies in the lobby, receptions in

beautiful large rooms, the gala dinner ) were delicious opportunities for relating. I thank all the conference leaders and participants and marvel at the feelings of sisterhood and brotherhood that were generated.

If you did not have the good fortune to be with us in Madrid this summer, please do not feel sad. There are many other opportunities IARPP will offer this year to help you learn and go on learning and to feel connected to relational clinicians and thinkers. Be sure to check our website and this newsletter for listings, dates and times of our upcoming educational activities.

Consider participating in the online colloquium with Jill Salberg on "Termination" which starts December 5, 2011. This will be the first colloquium under the new leadership of the talented scholars, Steven Kuchuck and Galit Atlas-Koch. The colloquia of the past few years have been led by Katie Gentile and Eyal Rozmarin who have been amazing chairs. They created many memorable on-line learning moments for us. It is quite a feat that they were able to juggle and encourage so many voices to step forward. We thank them for their generous contributions of time and expertise and look forward to the contributions of Galit and Steve.

Another great learning tool we provide to IARPP members is our webinars now spearheaded by John Skrovan and Ilene Philipson. The new webinar starts on October 21 and features Irwin Hoffman on "Hermeneutics and Constructivism." We are delighted that John and Ilene are giving their time and talents by moderating the webinars and making space for more intimate forms of on-line education. Judy Pickles was one of the past moderators and she set quite a high bar for the webinars.

In 2012 we are planning more exciting colloquia and webinars. And then there is the New York City conference. The dynamic duo of Margaret Black and Hazel Ipp are bringing it to us on March 1-March 4. It will honor the legacy of relational pioneer Stephen A. Mitchell. It promises to be an amazing program. I hope to see you there.

Whether you made it to Madrid or not, your membership and active participation in IARPP will give you a great deal and keep on giving. Now and into the future, we will strive to bring the international experience of learning, intellectual exchange and collegiality directly to you.

Peace and health

Spyros D. Orfanos



## From the Editors



Dear IARPP members,

We are excited to present you with the September 2011 issue of the IARPP eNews.

This issue brings you the voices, impressions, and even aromas from IARPP's international conference, *Changing Psychoanalysis for a Changing Society: Relational Perspectives*, that was held in Madrid in June. More than 400 professionals from 25 countries took part in the conference. We hope that this issue will successfully convey to you the warm, cosmopolitan, creative, and challenging atmosphere that characterized the conference. Facilitated by the affectionate hospitality of co-chairs, Alejandro Ávila Espada and Ramon i Riera, and their organizing committee, the conference was professional and every detail attended to.

In this issue you will also find:

- President's column by Spyros Orfanos
- Reflections of Madrid 2011 from the perspectives of conference organizers, presenters, and attendees.
- News stories about The Stephen A. Mitchell Author's Award, our 2011 winner, Lisa Cataldo for her paper "Where God is Between Us: Religious Experience, Surrender, and the Third in Clinical Perspective" and comments on the paper by Chana Ullman
- Updates on the activities of our international chapters
- Announcement from Muriel Dimen about the new book she edited, "Culture In Mind: Psychoanalytic Studies," as well as an interview with a contributor, Orna Guralnik
- Information about the activities and mission of IARPP's emergent Relational Psychotherapy and Child and Adolescent Interest Group

In addition, co-chairs, Margaret Black and Hazel Ipp, give us a first look at IARPP's tenth anniversary conference *The Legacy of Stephen Mitchell: Sustaining Creativity in our Psychoanalytic Work*. The conference will be held in New York City at the Roosevelt Hotel, March 1-4, 2012. It will express the excitement and the pride of IARPP's enormous contribution to the ongoing evolution of the relational approach since IARPP was established in 2001 by Stephen Mitchell and the founding group. The conference will celebrate the emergence of relational thought's decisive influence on psychotherapy, psychoanalysis, and society in general. Please look for more information about registration in this edition of the eNews.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the eNews. And, as always, we welcome your feedback.

Sally Rudoy, Editor

Sharon Ziv-Beiman, Associate Editor

## IARPP eNews Submissions or Letters to the Editor

please contact Sally Rudoy by **December 1, 2011**

[sallyrudoy@gmail.com](mailto:sallyrudoy@gmail.com)



## Reflections on Madrid Conference



**Alejandro Ávila-Espada**  
co-chair, 2011 Madrid Conference  
[versión en español](#)

Throughout my professional life of 35 years, I have had the opportunity to participate in the organization of many meetings, but none have had the unique characteristics of

this IARPP conference. Rather than proposing one more space on the varied scene of psychoanalysis, we planned to create a meeting place for psychoanalysts and psychotherapists of different continents and languages where the intersubjective and relational sensitivity would join the question of the place psychoanalysis holds in contemporary society crossed in our daily practice as clinicians by the stresses of globalization and multiculturalism.

And in large part, we have succeeded in this: to have this crucial debate live and direct. Psychoanalysis today is not a private or office matter, but rather, a constant question of the new tensions and sanctuaries of identity. [476 professionals from 25 countries \(click here to see all the countries represented\)](#) contributed ideas and experiences and reflected on central clinical themes. Some of the themes that especially stood out were:

- The strategic reformulation of the psychotherapeutic process;
- The contributions of neuroscience, anthropology and social psychology;
- Questions that transcend gender;
- The multiple languages of Eros, sex and aggression;
- Work with people and their families in the community with disorganized social conditions and subjectivities;
- How different societies and cultures support psychoanalysis and deal with its practice and thereby transform it;
- How constant technological changes and the transformation of communication between people through social networks and other global media have taken subjectivity to a very different plane of intrasubjective intimacy unimagined from the origins of psychoanalysis. And, like the the exploration of the intersubjective level, the encounter between people provides a new dimension of experience and existence;
- and many more

Along with the stresses and changes that come with globalization, questions about the place of spirituality and religion arose as part of the discussions, just as they arose about the human, social and professional



**María Eugenia Boetsch S.**  
IARPP Chile's Executive Committee member.  
IARPP Candidates Committee member  
[versión en español](#)

On my way from Santiago, Chile to the IARPP's annual conference in Madrid, Spain, I took a small detour to first visit Sevilla and Granada, two amazing cities filled with history, flavors and scents. I learned that Emir Muhammad XII surrendered Granada (the last Arabic bastion) to Fernando II and Isabel I, (Los Reyes Católicos) in 1492. This was the same year and place where it is said that Cristobal Colón received from the Queen the support to make his first trip to what would be America. What a year, what a place, what a change ... "Changing psychoanalysis for a Changing Society", our conference topic.

Changing without destroying -- Granada's beauty relies on the Spanish preservation of the beautiful Moroccan architecture (for example the amazing Alhambra) giving them new functions. This was possible because the Muslims surrendered and gave the city keys.

To change, to surrender, to preserve, to give new functions: all necessary and difficult tasks in our complex profession that I was hoping to address and discuss in Madrid.

Once there, as a member of the IARPP's Candidates Committee, my first congress activity was a relaxed and friendly candidates reception. With good drinks and tasty appetizers the old met the new (and some of us meet again). The only bad thing: after all I heard about the pre-conference workshops, I felt a little remorseful at having missed them Oh well, can't have it all.

At the opening plenary Carlos Rodriguez Sutil, Azucena Keatley and Alejandro Ávila Espada talked about psychoanalysis in relation to icons of the Spanish cultural psyche such as Velázquez, Picasso, Goya and Pedro Almodóvar. Then we turned around, literally, to enjoy Lina Orfanos's beautiful voice singing, "Amor Oscuro: The Poetry of Federico García Lorca" accompanied by Dimitris Maramis's piano. The day ended up with an even more generous welcome cocktail for everybody. It was a wonderful start, and I was quite impressed, not only by the lectures and discussions, but also by the overall organization.

On the days that followed we had the chance to listen to profound and insightful lectures, papers and

## Reflections on Madrid Conference Continued



Catherine Hicks,  
President  
Australia Chapter IARPP

I'm just back from the Madrid Conference, with a host of rich and rewarding experiences. One of the significant souvenirs, seems, at first glance, somewhat paradoxical. How strange to come away from a Relational conference feeling energized and enriched by the concept of de-centering!

The papers by Jade McGleughlin and Steve Cooper challenged me with their ideas on how we engage, especially with "difficult to reach patients." Jade described how hard we try, sometimes in fact, how we over-function – often in the throes of trying to reach some part of ourselves lost and located in these hard to hold patients. Steve spoke about the analyst's need to feel effective. Because of this need we overestimate the hard-to-reach patient's ability to be a self, too much capacity for object-relatedness. Both speakers named the need to de-center, to wait, to realize that we might sometimes be too-much-self for this very-little-self patient.

In thinking how to accommodate this awareness, it occurred to me that, sometimes, to be mindfully and reflectively de-centered is the most engaged and responsive way of being in the moment, and not only the province of one-person thinking. This is liberating -- the illusion of power vs. the weight of responsibility that comes with the mantle of omnipotence, both fall away, as Mal Slavin put it, "Jesus died!"

This challenge to my grandiosity continued when I returned to Sydney and attended the latest event presented by the Sydney Chapter of IARPP: Irwin Hirsch in conversation with us, via video-conference link, about the analyst's narcissism and mania. Irwin's honesty and generosity with himself and his ideas provided an illuminating and entertaining morning for the 40 people who attended the seminar.

Living here in Australia, "away from the centre" of the action, we've had to become creative. We enjoy engagement with clinicians who are willing to share their thinking with us, and this constitutes a lively and inspiring way for us to learn. Video-conferencing provides the bridge to this. Irwin was the first in our program for this year. Joyce Slochower is presenting in February 2012 and we have a few others we'd like to approach. So, if you receive an email inviting you to be part of our world down here, we do hope you'll feel able to engage with us. And perhaps, you might feel moved to approach us with an idea for a video-conference or even a visit in person? Do let us know!



Jorge Gómez Blanco  
IARPP-Spain

[versión en español](#)

A month has passed since the ninth annual IARPP conference of the International Association for Relational Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy entitled, Changing Psychoanalysis for a Changing Society, was held in Madrid from June 29 to July 2. From this distance of time, I wonder how much has changed in psychoanalysis and how much has changed in society, and therefore, how much has changed in that part of myself that is as much in society as it is in psychoanalysis.

And, although it has made my head spin, I don't have to go very far to find the answers. They were in my own daily practice. Suddenly, after the conference, the small space of my office was filled and the loneliness that sometimes accompanies my everyday work was eased with the sounds of music that captivated us during Malcolm Owen Slavin's plenary session on Friday, and the pictures hanging on my office walls transformed into worthy heirs of the cave paintings of Altamira.

Also, upon listening to the accounts of the dreams of some of my patients, I heard the part of the collective unconscious discussed by the Wednesday working group led by Anthony Bass. While I contemplated my own clinical interventions, I believed I heard the echoes of Neil Altman's voice and his conversations with the children of India. It even seemed to me that I saw an elephant coming into my office (with or without an ant in accompaniment)!

There were also moments to think about the confusion of tongues (for a moment Madrid seemed to be Babel) and the changing face of erotic countertransference so well expounded by both Stevens and Galit.

And, many other memories will come that I hope to share with my fellow gathering: Marry, Lucía, Sandra and Mario. Everyday, for me, they make both psychoanalysis and society more human. And, to help us say goodbye to Madrid (while we await the arrival of the tenth conference in New York), what better choice do we have than the verses of Federico García Lorca in his poem, "Farewell"?

If I die,  
Leave the balcony open  
The boy eats oranges  
(From my balcony I see it)  
The reaper mows the wheat  
(From my balcony, I feel it)  
If I die,  
Leave the balcony open!

## Reflections on Madrid Conference Continued



From the depths of the soul.

Mario Nervi

Organizing Committee IARPP 2011

Notes from the memory of  
the Madrid 2011 International  
Congress IARPP [versión en español](#)

This year, during the IARPP conference held in Madrid, we witnessed an example of how wishes can become true: we were able to corroborate the rapid increase in relational thinking in Spain. An increase that crosses the borders of the country that gave birth to the man who named this form of working in clinical practice, Stephen Mitchell.

There are many moments and events during this conference that are worth mentioning, but perhaps for personal reasons I would like to focus on one of the panels that impressed me the most: Relational Thinking and Religiosity. It was a pleasant surprise for me to discover the strong presence in international conferences of the IARPP of the topic of spirituality and psychotherapy. It is not easy to incorporate spirituality and religion into clinical practice. In fact, it is very rare for universities to even cover this topic in psychology programs. However, the Madrid congress did not elude the commitment to reflect a reality that directly or indirectly is affecting all clinicians, because of our spiritual beliefs or those of our patients.

Michael Becker took us through the "neurotic illusion of Freud... to the sweat illusion" of religious experiences. Overall, Becker offered us a sincere account of his personal transformation and his attempt to integrate intimate and deep religious experiences into his training and clinical practice. This panel converged some themes that were central in this conference: sharing one's personal experiences with honesty, and being open to change through the construction of new spaces to find others. It is over these pillars that we base our thinking and life attitude.

To conclude, I would like to thank Alejandro Ávila Espada for his hard work as the main coordinator of this conference in Madrid, for being a source of endless energy for those around him, and for his capacity to build bridges that connect with the future even when the future is uncertain and challenging.

I also want to underscore the kindness of Spyros Orfanos who, since the first day's reception, opened his arms to take us in and made us feel welcomed during such a significant meeting for all of us.

I hope to see you all soon. New York is always a good place to meet again.

Mario Nervi  
IPR Madrid

[ÁVILA-ESPADA cont from page - 4](#)

place of the psychoanalyst / psychotherapist. Analysts cannot escape confronting their social commitment, situation and action in the societies to which they belong. Nor can they elude the challenges of change and transformation in the time in which they live or the persons with whom they intervene.

The IARPP conference in Madrid in 2011 has reinvigorated our approach to the interpersonal encounter, our attunement, our awareness of embodied and implicit communication, and our creative expression, symbolized in art or music. It has given us a greater capacity to improvise. We are all different after Madrid. Thanks to all of the IARPP community for building this wonderful experience.

Alejandro Ávila-Espada, Ph.D.

[BOETSCH cont from page - 4](#)

discussions in a respectful and friendly climate. I also had the opportunity to present my own paper.

My favorite event was a parallel session on Improvisation with Phillip Ringstrom, Anthony Bass, Darlene Ehrenberg, Hazel Ipp, Steven Knoblauch and Steven Stern; it really resembled a very good jazz session.

All these stimulating experiences of learning, sharing and enjoying, were reinforced by the debut of our recently formed IARPP's Chilean Local Chapter. At the Local Chapters Meeting we had an enthusiastic and receptive welcome by Spyros Orfanos and other local chapters representatives.

I left Spain with the aim/dream of an IARPP's annual meeting in Chile (hopefully bilingual) and the IARPP's future expansion to the rest of Latin America.

María Eugenia Boetsch S.

Clinical Psychologist. Psychoanalyst (a).  
Member of the Dynamic Psychotherapy  
Unit of the *Instituto Psiquiátrico Dr. José Horwitz Barak*

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## 2011 Stephen A. Mitchell Author's Award Winner

Margaret Black, LCSW

IARPP Vice-President & Board Liaison to the Candidates Committee

We are pleased to announce that Lisa Cataldo, MDiv, PhD. from the United States, is the winner of the 2011 Stephen A. Mitchell Author's Award for her evocative paper, *Where God is Between Us: Religious Experience, Surrender and The Third in Clinical Perspective*.

Lisa graduated from the National Institute for the Psychotherapies (NIP), in New York, in 2006. She is Assistant Professor of Pastoral Counseling at the Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education at Fordham University, a faculty member and supervisor at NIP, and is on the faculty of the Stephen A. Mitchell Center for Relational Studies.

Lisa received her award and the accompanying \$500 honorarium at the IARPP conference in Madrid where she then presented her paper in a special session. Chana Ullman, from Israel, provided a thought-provoking commentary on the paper, followed by a lively discussion with the audience.

Congratulations are also in order to the authors of the other two finalist papers in this year's competition: Dana Amir, PhD, from Israel, whose paper is entitled *Perversion: From Empty Event to Event without a Witness*, and Deborah Agrest, LCSW, from the United States, whose paper is entitled *Serving Time*.

This year we introduced a more complex, three round system of judging for the Mitchell Author's Award. Excellent papers from candidates (defined as anyone in training or within 5 years of graduation) in Chile, Israel, Australia, Canada, and the United States, were carefully reviewed and evaluated by a select group of international judges, representing each of the countries from which papers had been submitted as well as judges from Spain, the hosting country of this year's conference.

For each round of judging, a different judge from each of the participant countries participated, ensuring there was maximum anonymity as to the authors of the papers being evaluated. Using this format, initially all papers from a single country were vetted and ranked by a local judge.

Those papers ranked highest by the local judges were sent on to the second round of judging which involved an international evaluation of the papers. Each country that produced a submission for the Award had at least one paper sent on to this second round.

For the second round, an entirely new group of international judges were each sent papers in random groups of three. Judges rated and rank-ordered the papers. Based on scores and the rank-ordering from each judge, the three finalist papers were sent on to the last round where one judge from each participating country read, rated, and ranked these three papers. Interestingly, there was almost total consistency in the rank ordering of the three finalist papers that were judged against one another in the final round.

Many thanks to our excellent judges who also provided thoughtful commentary that was made available to those who submitted papers. Final round judges included: Alejandro Ávila Espada from Spain, Tessa Philips from Australia, Bill Coburn from the United States, Brent Willock from Canada and Irene Melnick from Israel.

Judges for the first two rounds included: Carlos Rodriguez Sutil, and Ariel Liberman from Spain; Mary Bayles, and Michael Osher from Australia; Peggy Crastnopol, Lisa Lyons and Susan Bodnar from the United States; Gila Ofer and Tamar Barnea and from Israel; Ann Baranowski, and Gary Rodin from Canada.

### Lisa M. Cataldo, M. Div., Ph.D.

Lisa M. Cataldo, M.Div., Ph.D. is Assistant Professor of Pastoral Counseling at Fordham University and a psychoanalyst in private practice. She is a faculty member and supervisor at the National Institute for the Psychotherapies Training Institute and is on the faculty of the Stephen A. Mitchell Center for Relational Studies.



CATALDO•MITCHELL AWARD cont. from page 7

## Where God is Between Us

ABSTRACT

When patients bring up material of a religious or spiritual nature, many analysts find themselves at a loss. There is a tendency in such moments either to reduce the patient's experience to the most comfortable theoretical denominator, or to accept such experiences uncritically. In this paper, the author places "religion" and religious experience in the relational context of formative early experience, and argues that relational history is an important contributor to the capacity to have authentic and expansive religious experience. Drawing upon clinical examples and relational psychoanalytic concepts of surrender and the Third, the author suggests ways in which the analyst might interact with the patient's religious and spiritual experiences by understanding them in terms of surrender and the opening to or foreclosure of thirdness.

### Cataldo: On Winning the S.A. Mitchell Award:

It was a tremendous honor to win the Stephen A. Mitchell award for this paper. In writing "Where God is Between Us," I hoped to contribute something to the dialogue between psychoanalysis and religion that recognizes the unique potential of Relational theory to engage religious or spiritual experience in a new and clinically relevant way. I also wanted to bring into conversation some of the lesser-known analytic literature on religion with contemporary Relational theory. It was immensely affirming to win the award, and exciting to present my paper in Madrid with Chana Ullman, to whom I am deeply grateful for her thoughtful reading and response. Religion and spirituality are cultural forces that play a significant role in the lives of our patients (and ourselves), and I hope this paper will contribute to the ongoing conversation in IARPP around these important issues.

### Chana Ullman reflects on Lisa Cataldo's Paper, "Where God is Between Us: Religious Experience, Surrender and The Third in Clinical Perspective"

Her work is an attempt to remove religious sentiment from the role of defensive illusion assigned to it by Freud. Following the footsteps of thinkers such as Fromm and Erikson, she reframes and embeds it in the world of an essential community of relationships that we existentially crave and depend upon. It is also an attempt to minimize the perils of the analyst's pre-conceived ideas or beliefs about religion in a way that allows full consideration of the patient's subjective world, respecting the power and meaningfulness of religious experience, without sacrificing analytic rigor. Lisa's argument rests on two important points: one places religion and religious experience in the relational context of attachment and formative early experience. The other is understanding analytic interactions with patients' religious or spiritual experiences in terms of the opening or foreclosure of thirdness.

## IARPP WEB SEMINARS

• • • 2011 • • •

**Oct. 24 - Nov. 20**

A Hermeneutic/Constructivist  
View in Psychoanalysis:  
Existential, Sociopolitical,  
and Clinical Contexts

**Irwin Hoffman**

and guest faculty panel:

**Neil Altman, Phil Cushman,  
Ann D'Ercole, Lynne Layton,  
Allan Scholom, Mal Slavin,  
Donnel Stern, Jennifer Tolleson,  
Gary Walls, Seth Warren**

• • • 2012 • • •

**Jan. 17 - Feb. 12**

The Poetry of What We Do  
and the Playground of Clinical  
Prose: A writing Workshop

Faculty: **Suzi Naiburg**

Mod: **Joye Weisel- Barthe**

**March 12 - April 6**

Coasting in The  
Countertransference: The  
Problem of The Analyst's  
Economic Needs

Faculty: **Irwin Hirsch**

Moderator: **Elizabeth Corpt**

**June 6 - June 30**

Working at the Intimate  
Edge: Clinical Process &  
Therapeutic Action

Faculty: **Darlene Ehrenberg**

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Click here to view

IARPP Webinar Committee members



## Relational Child Psychotherapy and the Child/Adolescent Interest Group of IARPP

Daniel Gensler, Laurel Silber, Esther Bamberger, Jackie Gotthold, Neil Altman

Relational child (ages 0-18) psychotherapy has as its primary aim to honor the internal integrity of children and their development while working within their systemic attachment context. Toward that end, relational child therapists are taking up more than two subjectivities to establish coherent forward progress and the therapeutic playing field can become quite complex.

First, in relational child therapy, there is a therapeutic focus on the child's representations of his own body, mind, self, and relations, and the attendant feelings, thoughts and behaviors. Whether these representations are found in play, dreams, art, writing, verbal interaction, or use of electronic media, a therapist must facilitate the creation of a playground, as Winnicott describes it, in which the child feels more and more comfortable expressing the themes that structure his relationships to himself and to others. The child therapist seeks to understand and communicate the understanding of the child's non verbalized and verbalized communications to the child and his/her parents, such that their increased awareness and understanding yields a transformation of affect thoughts and behavior.

Second, the child therapist focuses on the concentric fields and systems of interaction in which the child's development is contingent: family, neighborhood, school, and culture. Beyond working within the immediate relational context of the children and their attachment figures, is the role of advocate on behalf of the child and consultant to schools and other institutions.

Third, the therapist must focus on her or his own relations with the child and with these non-linear interacting systems. The therapist must use the child's and parents' transferences to him, inevitable enactments and counter transference to find new meanings. All the while, to act effectively, the therapist recognizes her embeddedness in the assumptions of normality and deviance that are based on the therapist's own socioeconomic class, culture, health status, generation, race, religion, politics, country of origin, and sexual orientation.

Relational child psychotherapy holds relationships as central to development, pathology and therapy. The therapeutic action arises out of the therapist's ability to negotiate different points of view as he moves between the child's representational world, the child's systems of interaction, and the therapeutic relationships in which therapist, child, and parents participate. This professional lexicon has much to share and be enriched in interaction with our adult colleagues. Keeping the worlds separate, on opposing sides of a binary, is staring in the face of the relational objective we all share.

The IARPP child/adolescent interest group was established in 2009 by Neil Altman (USA) and Esther Bamberger (Israel) in order to promote the development of relational child psychotherapy at the IARPP. Work with children, adolescents, and families needs not to be marginalized in relational psychoanalysis. The group aims to make sure that affirmative action is taken to bring necessary attention to the complexity of these clinical concerns on behalf of children and families and the clinicians who serve them.

Toward that end we promote dialogue regarding research, development, theory and clinical applications within our interest group and with the members of IARPP. We see continuity in relational patterns from childhood to adulthood and prevention of intergenerational transmission of trauma as benefiting from our joint participation and consideration.

Today the group has 110 IARPP members from around the globe, communicating via a listserv. The group meets every year in the annual conferences, and held a web seminar led by Neil Altman, Elsa First, Pasqual Pantone and Linda Jacobs, on the topic of parent therapy. We hope to continue the group's activities in the IARPP conferences and via the web in the future.

To join the group, please contact- Elisa Zazerra at the IARPP office, or Esther Bamberger-[estherbamberger@gmail.com](mailto:estherbamberger@gmail.com)



## Report on Local Chapters

Chana Ullman, Ph.D and Neil Altman, Ph.D  
Co-Chairs, Local Chapters Committee



IARPP is growing to become a truly international organization.

This was evident in the vitality and richness of the international encounter in the recent Madrid conference, and in the meeting of the local chapters representatives which took place there. We believe that the growing presence of the international community in IARPP events and through the establishment of local chapters, is an important, vital component of IARPP vision. This is a way to involve members in a face to face interaction in their own communities, countering the sense of anomie that online organizations can breed, allowing personal visibility and recognition. It is a way to contribute to the dialogue with different perspectives emanating from the various cultural contexts thus enriching the relational approach.

Until now we have had 5 active local chapters in Spain, Israel, UK, Australia and New Zealand. We are very excited and proud to announce and to celebrate the opening of the 6th IARPP chapter in Chile. Juan Francisco Jordan is the president and the chapter has 68 active members. ¡Bienvenidos a Chile! Interest and work towards local chapters is in progress in Greece, Portugal, Sweden, and Argentina.

In our meeting in Madrid the members of the local chapters committee described their communities and activities. For example, In Spain, the chapter includes about 50 people who pay dues. The chapter is very active in publishing various writings in Spanish within a series on relational thinking, and an electronic journal. They hold international seminars on the web as well as local meetings. The chapter was very active in organizing the IARPP conference in Madrid, chaired by Alejandro Ávila Espada and Ramon Reira. In Israel, the chapter includes 130 members who are IARPP members and pay per event. There are about 5 events each year, hosting local and international visitors. The chapter aims at encouraging relational thinking and facilitating dialogue with other training programs and schools of thought.

In Australia, there is one chapter based in Sydney. Their members too are IARPP members and pay per event. They have been organizing video conferences with guest speakers from all over the world. In New Zealand there are about 50 active members. The potential for the chapter is larger but, since there are many political, cultural and professional differences within the community they would like to solidify the group before growing. The NZ chapter organizes events presentations and discussions, mostly of local speakers. They also plan to encourage writing on relational issues with the unique perspective of New Zealand.

Common dilemmas to the local chapters were raised in the meeting in Madrid. The issue of financing local chapters activities looms large especially in countries afflicted by sever financial crisis (e.g. Greece). The IARPP board allocated money for start up events inaugurating local chapters. We are planning to raise the question of ongoing financial support to LC. We believe this is a well deserved investment. Other plans include: facilitating regional activities (e.g. Mediterranean countries, Spanish speaking countries), reaching out to new communities, and facilitating ongoing communication between the chapters, via the LCC and the Enews.

We thank the members of the local chapters for the enthusiasm, diversity and vitality they bring to the organization.



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## New Publications featuring IARPP Members!

### “With Culture in Mind: Psychoanalytic Stories”

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to call your attention to a just-published book: “With Culture in Mind: Psychoanalytic Stories”, from the Relational Perspectives Book Series at Routledge.

This is a different sort of anthology. More conversation than collection, it illuminates the analyst's struggle to grasp a patient's internal life as voiced through individual and cultural contexts. Each chapter consists of a short, gem-like case vignette in which personal aspects of race, gender, sexual orientation, heritage, ethnicity, and class are brought to the fore in transference-countertransference, demonstrating how elemental social forces mesh with mind, intersubjectivity, and the analytic encounter. Additionally, discussions by senior analysts further deconstruct patients' and analysts' mutual embeddedness in a process at once clinical and political.

The authors, all new voices, are Orna Guralnik, Stephen Hartman, Glenys Lobban, Olga Pugachevsky, Eyal Rozmarin, Avgi Saketopoulou, and Maura Sheehy. Their discussants are well-known for their ideas about the mind/culture nexus: Jessica Benjamin, Susie Orbach, and Andrew Samuels.

[Click here](#) to read the very fine endorsements from Stephen Seligman and Lynne Layton; the Table of Contents; and links to the websites where the volume is for sale.

I hope you take a look at this book, which inaugurates a new form of clinical writing.

Sincerely,

Muriel Dimen, PhD

Editor, “With Culture in Mind: Psychoanalytic Stories”



## IARPP Online Colloquium Fall 2011

### “Good Enough Endings: Contemporary Perspectives on Termination”

December 5 - 18, 2011

Author  
Jill Salberg

Moderators  
Galit Atlas-Koch & Steven Kuchuck

Panel  
To be announced

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## Interview with Orna Guralnik, contributor to “With Culture In Mind: Psychoanalytic Stories”

Muriel Dimen, Editor

conducted by  
Sharon Ziv-Beiman



After earning a Bachelor of Arts in Film, a Masters in Clinical Psychology at the Tel Aviv University, Dr. Guralnik received her PsyD from Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology (Einstein, Yeshiva University) in 1995 and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at St Luke's Roosevelt. While starting a private practice she helped found, with Daphne Simeon, MD, the Center for the Study of Depersonalization & Dissociation at the Mt Sinai Medical Center. From 1996 to 2002 she was a Research Assistant Professor at Mount Sinai. During this time she published many papers on the topic of the empirical study of depersonalization. In 2003, Dr Guralnik began her analytic training and started adjunct teaching at NYU's graduate psychology program. In 2009 Dr Guralnik joined the faculty of NIP's trauma program, where she teaches a course on dissociation. She has also taught for IARPP's international seminars. In recent years Dr Guralnik's focus has shifted to importing concepts from Critical Theory into psychoanalytic theory and practice and she has published several papers and book chapters on the topic.

### **What do you consider the book's main contribution to the field at this time?**

At the heart of our work is a fiery belief that cultural discourse shapes people's psyche and lives and is part of what we need to attend to in our psychoanalytic work. The clinical vignettes cumulatively demonstrate how saturated the analytic field is with socio-political discourse, and how it changes what we consider psychoanalytic work.

### **What connects your work to psychoanalytic theory?**

I think of psychoanalytic work as involving a continuous dialectic between hermeneutic-meaning-making and an attempt to 'see' Reality and liberate our mind from blind submission to forces of which we are not aware. In that sense I consider the effort to deconstruct how ideologies shape our psyche part and parcel of the psychoanalytic project. This is not a new idea of course. There were the early feminists, the Frankfurt school and others. Yet since the late 70's, after RD Laing, psychoanalysis mostly settled into the interrogation of the self within the family system while exporting its socio-political sensibilities to Lacanian academics and cultural theorists ( Zizek). We live in a time when the socio-political realm is extremely de-linked from people's ways of conceptualizing what motivates them, especially in the US (see Lynn Layton's work). Our work reconnects us with a more radical view of the psychoanalytic project.

I personally believe that working with this dimension does not replace other psychoanalytic sensibilities, but expands the field. In a recent talk in Israel someone asked if I thought addressing the socio-political dimension is more important than let's say Oedipal dynamics. I believe that when the work with a patient gets to the point that one can consider the longer-term history of the issues discussed (as in transgenerational transmission) and the broader cultural-political determinants (and moral implications) of one's immediate preoccupations, a big bang occurs, a quantum shift of the mind and in the analytic field. It creates ample space for a much deeper intra-psychic exploration of fantasy and a capacity for mourning.

### **How is your work contextualized in the Relational Approach?**

Relational theory situated the individual squarely in the intersubjective field. In more recent years some wonderful scholars in the relational movement infused psychoanalytic theory with new paradigms imported from other intellectual disciplines (see Adrienne Harris' upcoming review of the Relational

[Continued on next page -13](#)

GURALNIK cont. from page 12

Tradition in JAPA). Harris' study of gender, Jessica Benjamin's work on the politics of intersubjectivity, Ken Corbett's social construction of masculinity, Vrignina Goldner's importing of gender & queer sensibilities into the language of couples and transgender patients, Lew Aron's socio-historical contextualizing of the psychoanalytic project, as well as Irwin Hoffman and Cushman's insistence on the socio-moral underpinnings of our theories, and of course Muriel Dimen - our editor's - work on sexuality and its politics.

These sensibilities were not there in the early part of my training. I recall a chronic sense of unrest, where I would attempt to talk to supervisors about the weight of contemporary values that I could tell were shaping my way of understanding and interpreting my patients. The typical message I got was that I was dealing with the daily kind of 'countertransference' issues that one needs to work-through by self-analysis. This was never convincing to me; I could not shake the impression that we were ducking what I later came to shorthand IDEOLOGY. For me ideologies are 'analytic objects'. And I do not mean it in the Willy Barranger way of interrogating how ideologies manage our internal object world.

***You develop your work around the concept of interpellation. Can you share with us your thoughts about its contribution and its place in the therapeutic work?***

Interpellation is a concept that has been keeping me company for many years. You know, when I was 7 years old my family moved from the US to Israel. I started 2nd grade with a deeply felt daily pledge to the American flag at a conservative school in Atlanta, Georgia, and finished the year studying "Mikraot Israel" in Israel, where my mind was recruited to feel powerfully protective of the young and vulnerable Jewish state, and where I was branded with a different notion of individuality. The profound impact of this switch between ideological systems on my entire way of relating to the world was not intelligible to me until first reading feminist theory, and then most powerfully when studying film in college and reading the post-Marxist theories of Connoli & Narboni, and Althusser. Analyzing the interdependent relationships between filmmakers-audiences-and the economic systems in which they operate at the time seemed mind-blowing, but irrelevant to my growing interest in psychoanalysis. It took a long hibernation period to come to realize that the disciplines pertain to each other.

Interpellation per Althusser refers to the methods by which the State (in the Big sense of the world – hegemony) calls upon its individual members to become subjects, members of the collective. It's an invitation to take place in the community by accepting its ideological doctrines. Moving into psychoanalytic language, this process occurs entirely outside of awareness of all participants, and rests on our psychological need to be recognized in order to develop a psychic life (see Jessica Benjamin's work on how this need can be corrupted by patriarchy). Like other psychological mechanisms, ideology lodges itself in a deeply unconscious and meaningful psychic register; it does not occur to most of us that one can choose one's own nationality, gender, or numerous other collective markers of identity. They appear to us as "natural." After years of empirical research, I have come to think about the fragmentation of dissociation and especially depersonalization as the most direct expression of the power of interpellation to call into being, shape and fragment the psyche.

(Guralnik O & Simeon D 2010. Depersonalization: Standing in the spaces between recognition and interpellation, *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 20:400-416).

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# IARPP 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

## THE LEGACY OF STEPHEN MITCHELL: SUSTAINING CREATIVITY IN OUR PSYCHOANALYTIC WORK

*Roosevelt Hotel, New York City, March 1-4, 2012.*

This conference will be an opportunity for us to come together as an international community to celebrate the rich vitality of our organization and Stephen's contributions both to its creation and its continuing generativity.

As we look back at the past 10 years since IARPP's inception we are both humbled and proud. IARPP was Stephen Mitchell's brainchild - an idea that sprang from his perpetual curiosity and creativity and wish to expand the relational conversation beyond the few to include the many, in terms of culture, nationality, orientation and discipline.

How fitting it is that we mark this 10th anniversary both with a concentrated tribute to Stephen in terms of his ideas and his prolific writings. Many of these ideas altered the course of contemporary psychoanalysis in radical ways, spawning new ways of considering theory and clinical practice, highlighting how each mirror the other. Mitchell eschewed binaries, arguing instead for opening and maintaining dialectic tension and paradox. He placed the analyst at the centre of the analytic endeavor while staying ever mindful of the powerful influence of the psychosocial in our emergent personalities and clinical work.

While there were others who contributed and continue to contribute very significantly to the relational tradition, it was Stephen who created a sense of community and inspired a feeling of common purpose – a feeling that has become embodied in IARPP and one that we all continue to thrive on as our ranks swell and our conversation becomes increasingly international.

The 2012 IARPP conference aims to consider in depth Stephen's particular theoretical and clinical contributions alongside his legacy. How have his ideas been developed and continued? What parallel theories have found common voice even as they differ? In what ways do we strive to keep ourselves vital, creative and curious? How do we impact others and in turn be impacted by them?

Each plenary session will lead off from a specific aspect of Mitchell's thinking demonstrating how richly textured his ideas were and how they laid the groundwork for much that has followed. Our plenary and invited speakers are all major innovators and contributors to the relational tradition in their own right and will address the specific topics in terms of Mitchell's legacy and their own thinking. Where we were then and where we are now will be themes coursing throughout the conference as we honor and celebrate Stephen Mitchell and the legacy he has left in terms of the richness and complexity of his relational thinking going forward, as it has been picked up by or developed alongside other important contributors in our community.

Apart from the plenary sessions there will be a number of invited panels embracing the themes of the conference along with many submitted papers and panels organized in the same vein.

We look forward to a richly satisfying and thoroughly stimulating conference along with a fabulous party celebrating our 10 years growing together.

We look forward to seeing you in New York City.

Margaret Black and Hazel Ipp  
Conference Co-Chairs



## Upcoming IARPP Fall 2011 Colloquium

### “Good Enough Endings: Contemporary Perspectives on Termination”

Paper: “Leaning Into Termination: Finding a Good-Enough Ending” from the book *Relational Psychoanalysis: Evolution of Process Vol 5* edited by Lewis Aron and Adrienne Harris (Routledge, 2011). This chapter is a revised version of the original paper which appeared in *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 2009, 19:704-722 and also includes material from the book, *Good Enough Endings: Breaks, Interruptions and Terminations* from *Contemporary Relational Perspectives*, Chapters 1 & 7, (Routledge 2010).

Dates: Monday, Dec. 5th - Sunday, Dec. 18th, 2011

Author: Jill Salberg

Moderators: Galit Atlas-Koch and Steven Kuchuck

Panel: To be announced

Paper will be distributed in PDF format prior to the colloquium

More information to follow!

### Share your news!

- Have a new book publication?
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## Reflections on the 2011 Madrid Conference

por Alejandro Ávila-Espada  
co-chair, IARPP 2011 Madrid Conference

A lo largo de mi vida profesional, ya 35 años, he tenido ocasión de participar en la organización de numerosos encuentros, pero ninguno ha tenido las excepcionales características de este. Más que proponer un espacio más en el variado escenario del psicoanálisis, intentamos crear un espacio de encuentro entre psicoanalistas y psicoterapeutas de diferentes continentes y lenguas, donde se uniera la sensibilidad intersubjetiva y relacional con el cuestionamiento del lugar que el psicoanálisis tiene en la sociedad contemporánea, atravesado en nuestra práctica cotidiana como clínicos por las tensiones de la globalización y la multi-culturalidad. Y en gran medida lo hemos conseguido: tener en vivo y en directo este crucial debate. El psicoanálisis actual no es una cuestión privada y de despacho, sino una interrogante constante de las nuevas tensiones y refugios de la identidad. [476 profesionales de 25 países \(haga clic aquí para ver un mapa de los países representados\)](#) han aportado ideas y experiencias y han reflexionado sobre temas centrales de la clínica, donde han destacado especialmente algunas temáticas: la reformulación estratégica del proceso psicoterapéutico; la contribución de las neurociencias, la antropología y la psicología social; los interrogantes que trascienden el género; los múltiples lenguajes de Eros, sexo y agresión; el trabajo con las personas y sus familias en la comunidad con condiciones sociales y subjetivas desorganizadas; también cómo diferentes sociedades y culturas aportan al psicoanálisis y confrontan su práctica, transformándola; cómo los cambios tecnológicos constantes y la transformación de la comunicación entre personas a través de las redes sociales y demás soportes de la globalización han llevado la subjetividad a un plano muy diferente del intimismo intrasubjetivo de los orígenes del psicoanálisis, y como la exploración del nivel intersubjetivo, del encuentro entre las personas ofrece una nueva dimensión de experiencia y existencia. Junto a las tensiones y cambios que trae la globalización, los interrogantes sobre el lugar de lo espiritual y lo religioso han centrado una parte de los debates, así como el cuestionamiento del lugar humano, social y profesional del psicoanalista/psicoterapeuta, que no puede eludir confrontarse con su compromiso social y su situación y acción en la sociedad a la que pertenece y a los retos de cambio y transformación del momento que vive, él o ella y las personas con las que interviene. La conferencia de IARPP 2011 en Madrid ha mejorado nuestro encuentro, sintonía, la comunicación corporeizada e implícita, la expresión creativa simbolizada en el arte o la música, nos ha dado más capacidad de improvisación. Somos diferentes después de Madrid. Gracias a toda la comunidad IARPP por construir esta maravillosa experiencia.



## Impresiones sobre la Conferencia 2011 de la IARPP en Madrid

Por María Eugenia Boetsch S., Chile  
Miembro del Comité Ejecutivo de la IARPPChile  
Miembro del Comité de Candidatos de la IARPP

En mi viaje desde Santiago de Chile hacia la conferencia anual de la IARPP en Madrid, España, tomé un pequeño desvío para visitar Sevilla y Granada: dos ciudades impresionantes, llenas de historia, sabores y esencias. Supe ahí que el Emir Muhammad XII entregó Granada (el último bastión árabe) en 1492 a Fernando II e Isabel I, (Los Reyes Católicos). Se dice que fue en ese mismo lugar (y año), donde Cristóbal Colón recibió el apoyo de la reina para hacer su primer viaje a lo que sería América. ¡Qué año! ¡Qué lugar! ¡Qué cambio! ... "Cambiando el psicoanálisis para una sociedad cambiante", el tema de nuestra conferencia.

Cambiando sin destruir. La belleza de Granada descansa en la preservación, por parte de los españoles, de la hermosa arquitectura marroquí (por ejemplo, la impresionante Alhambra) dándole nuevas funciones. Esto fue posible gracias a la rendición de los musulmanes y la entrega de las llaves de la ciudad.

"Cambiar", "rendirse", "preservar", "dar nuevas funciones": difíciles y necesarias tareas de nuestra compleja profesión que yo esperaba abordar y discutir en Madrid.

Una vez en el congreso, como miembro del Comité de Candidatos de la IARPP, mi primera actividad fue una relajada y amigable recepción de candidatos. Compartiendo aperitivos, los antiguos conocieron

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a los nuevos (y varios nos reencontramos). Lo único malo: luego de los buenos comentarios que escuché sobre los talleres pre-congreso sentí algo de remordimiento de habérmelos perdido (en fin; no se puede tener todo).

En el plenario de apertura, Carlos Rodríguez Sutil, Azucena Keatley y Alejandro Ávila Espada hablaron sobre el psicoanálisis y algunos íconos de la cultura psíquica española tales como Velázquez, Picasso, Goya y Pedro Almodóvar. Luego nos dimos vuelta (literalmente) para disfrutar de la hermosa voz de Lina Orfanos cantando "Amor Oscuro: La Poesía de Federico García Lorca" acompañada al piano por Dimitris Maramis. El día terminó con un aún más generoso cocktail de bienvenida para todos. Fue un gran comienzo, y quedé impresionada tanto por las conferencias y discusiones como por la impecable organización general.

En los días que siguieron tuvimos la oportunidad de escuchar conferencias, trabajos y discusiones profundas y estimulantes, en un clima de respeto y cordialidad. Tuve también la posibilidad de presentar mi propio trabajo.

En mi opinión, el mejor momento del congreso fue un panel sobre Improvisación con Phillip Ringstrom, Anthony Bass, Darlene Ehrenberg, Hazel Ipp, Steven Knoblauch y Steven Stern; fue realmente como una buena sesión de jazz.

Todas estas experiencias estimulantes de aprendizaje, de compartir y disfrutar, fueron además coronadas por el debut en el Encuentro de Capítulos Locales de nuestro recientemente formado Capítulo Chileno de la IARPP, donde tuvimos una entusiasta y receptiva bienvenida por parte de Spyros D. Orfanos y otros representantes de capítulos locales.

Dejé España con el objetivo/sueño de una conferencia anual de la IARPP en Chile (ojalá bilingüe) y la futura expansión de la IARPP al resto de Latino-América.

María Eugenia Boetsch S.

*Psicóloga Clínica. Psicoanalista(a).*

*Miembro de la Unidad de Psicoterapia Dinámica del "Instituto Psiquiátrico Dr. José Horwitz Barak"*



## IARPP Madrid 2011 Impresiones Personales

Jorge Gómez Blanco

IARPP-Spain

Ha pasado un mes desde lo ocurrido entre el 29 de Junio y el 2 de Julio de 2011 en la IX Conferencia Anual de la International Association for Relational Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy bajo el título Cambiando el Psicoanálisis para una Sociedad en Cambio, en Madrid y desde esa distancia que aporta el tiempo, me pregunto cuanto ha cambiado del psicoanálisis y cuanto de la sociedad, y por consiguiente, cuanto ha cambiado de la parte de mi mismo que hay tanto en la sociedad como en el psicoanálisis. Y aunque he dado varias vueltas, no he tenido que ir muy lejos para encontrar la respuesta: estaba en mi propia práctica diaria. De repente, tras la conferencia, el pequeño espacio de mi consulta se llenó, y la soledad, que en ocasiones acompaña mi día a día profesional, se mitigó con los sonidos de la música con la que Malcolm Owen Slavin nos cautivó durante la sesión plenaria del viernes, y los cuadros que cuelgan de las paredes de mi consulta, se transformaron en dignos herederos de las pinturas rupestres de Altamira. También, al escuchar el relato de los sueños de algunos de mis pacientes parecía escuchar parte del inconsciente colectivo del grupo de trabajo dirigido por Anthony Bass en la jornada del miércoles, y mientras pensaba mis propias intervenciones, creía oír los ecos de la voz de Neil Altman y sus conversaciones con los niños de India. Incluso me ha parecido ver entrar por la puerta del despacho algún elefante, acompañado o no de una hormiga. Ha habido también momentos para pensar en la confusión de lenguas (por un instante Madrid pareció ser Babel) y en el cambio de cara de la contratransferencia erótica tan bien expuesto por ambos Stevens y Galit...

Y quedarán muchos otros recuerdos por venir que espero poder compartir con mis compañeros de tertulia Marry, Lucía, Sandra y Mario, quienes hacen que para mí, tanto el psicoanálisis como la sociedad sean cada día más humanos. Y para decir adiós a Madrid (mientras esperamos ya la llegada de la X edición en New York), que mejor opción que ayudarnos de los versos de Federico García Lorca en su poema Despedida:

Si muero,  
Dejad el balcón abierto  
El niño come naranjas  
(Desde mi balcón lo veo)  
El segador siega el trigo  
(Desde mi balcón lo siento)  
¡Si muero,  
Dejad el balcón abierto!

**2012 Conference**  
**IARPP 10th Anniversary**  
**March 1-4, 2012 NYC**

Registration to open in November  
Please check [website](#) for updated details





Mario Nervi  
Organizing Committee IARPP 2011

“El verdadero heroísmo es transformar los deseos en realidad y las ideas en hechos”

Alfonso Rodríguez Castelao

Esta última semana hemos sido testigos del milagro, del que solo somos capaces los hombres; transformar los deseos en realidad.

Se ha comprobado el vertiginoso crecimiento del pensamiento relacional en España. Crecimiento que trasciende las fronteras del país del hombre que puso nombre a esta forma de situarse frente a la práctica clínica, Stephen Mitchell.

Fueron innumerables los momentos para destacar, pero tal vez por razones personales, como no, me gustaría centrarme en uno de los paneles a los que pude asistir y que dejó una profunda impronta en mi memoria tras el Congreso; Lo Relacional y las creencias religiosas.

Fue para mí una grata sorpresa el descubrir la tradición ya en los congresos internacionales de IARPP de la presencia de trabajos donde se genera un encuentro entre la espiritualidad y la psicoterapia.

La espiritualidad y las creencias religiosas no es un tema fácil de integrar ni de trabajar en el ámbito clínico, de hecho no es habitual que en las universidades la temática religiosa esté presente en el currículo formativo en psicología, sin embargo el congreso de Madrid no eludió el compromiso de reflejar una realidad que de forma directa o indirectamente nos afecta a todos, ya sea por nuestras propias creencias o por las de nuestros pacientes.

Posiblemente hay pocas experiencias tan íntimas y singulares como el sentido de trascendencia que habita en cada uno de nosotros, su abordaje dentro del marco terapéutico transitará por momentos de desencuentro obligado antes de poder, a través de la relación, encontrar un lugar de reconocimiento mutuo.

Mitchel Becker nos llevó a través de parajes que iban desde la ilusión neurótica de Freud... hasta la dulce ilusión (según palabras del ponente) de la experiencia religiosa.

Pero por encima de todo Becker nos ofreció un relato sincero de transformación personal a través de su intento por integrar experiencias íntimas y profundamente religiosas con su formación y práctica clínica.

En definitiva, tal vez en este panel convergieron algunos temas que fueron ejes centrales en el encuentro que ha tenido lugar en Madrid: El compartir honestamente la experiencia más personal e íntima con los otros, la apertura al cambio a partir de la co-construcción de nuevos espacios para ser y para encontrarse....

Sobre estos pilares es sobre los que se apoya nuestro pensamiento y nuestra actitud frente a la vida.

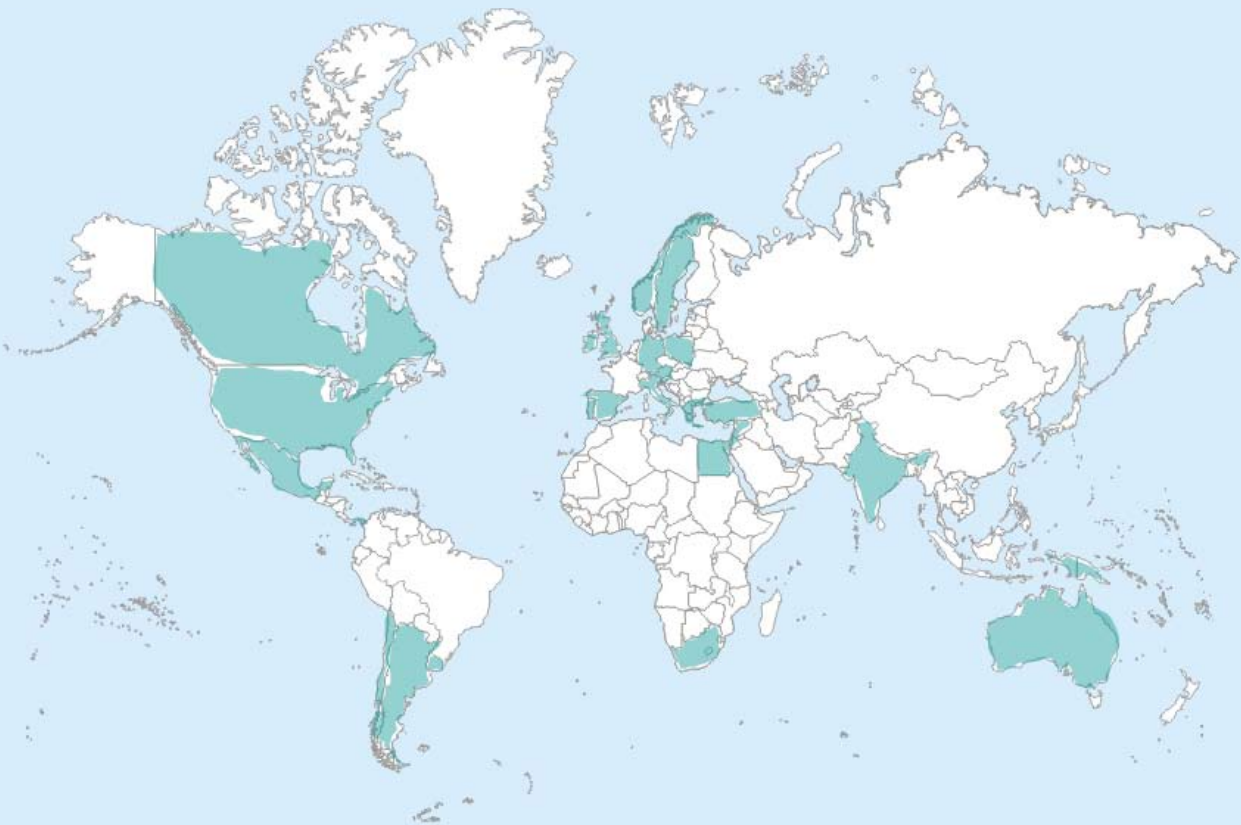
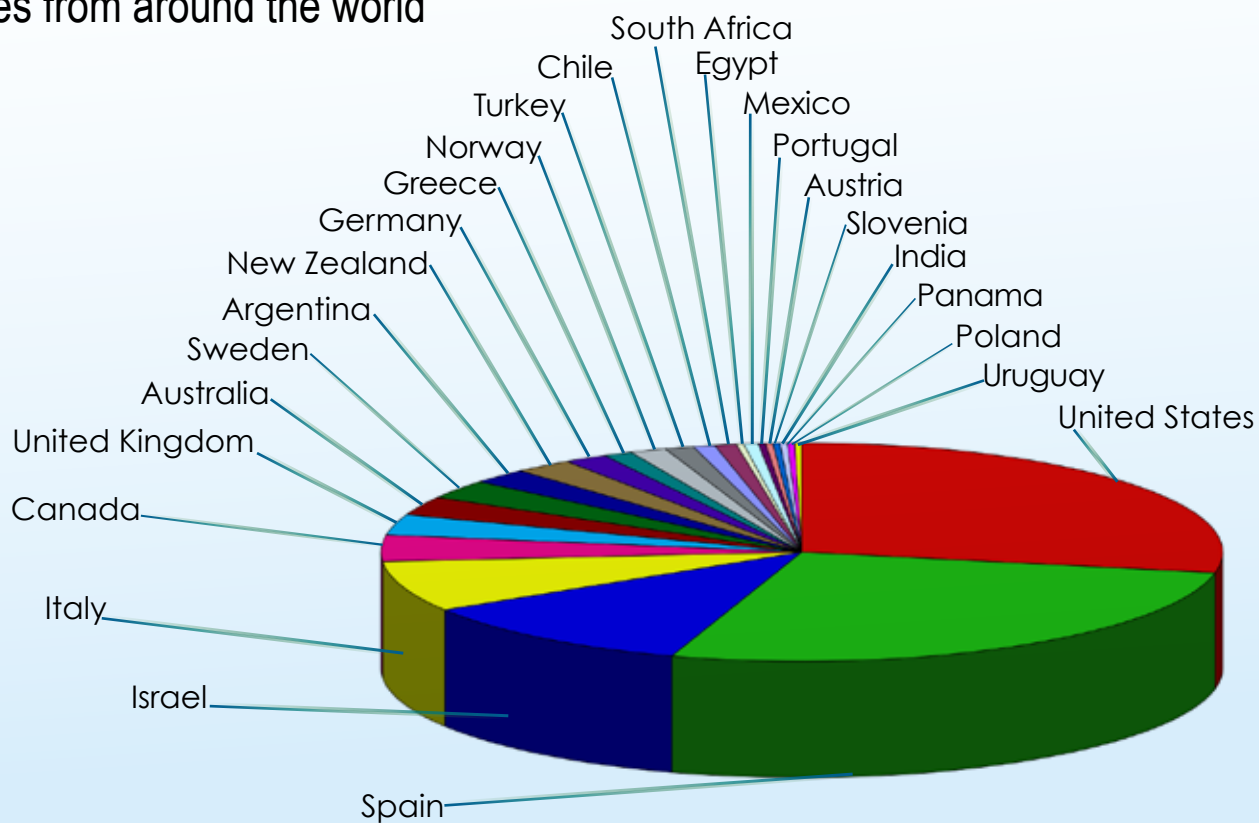
Para terminar, dar las gracias a Alejandro Ávila Espada, por su capacidad de trabajo como principal eje organizador de la Conferencia desde Madrid, por ser un maestro de energía para los que tenemos la suerte de estar a su lado, por su cualidad de construir puentes hacia el futuro, incluso cuando el futuro es incierto y desafiante..

También destacar el acogimiento sin igual de Spyros Orfanos, que desde el primer día, en la recepción del hotel, parecía abrir sus brazos ampliamente para recogerlos y hacernos sentir el calor de su afecto en este momento de encuentro tan importante para todos.

Espero que nos veamos pronto, Nueva York es un buen lugar para re-encontrarse.

Mario A. Nervi  
IPR Madrid  
Comité Organizador IARPP 2011  
Comité de Redacción CEIR

# International Association for Relational Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy 2011 Conference Madrid, Spain June 29-July 2 476 Attendees from around the world



## Praise for “With Culture in Mind: Psychoanalytic Stories”



“This volume breaks new ground. It introduces six brilliant young psychoanalytic writers, who have grown up with both psychoanalysis and critical social theory ‘in their bones.’ From this perspective, they are able to take up the longstanding problem of integrating a social perspective into psychoanalytic clinical work at the most fundamental level: They organize their treatments around the core concepts of the critical social theories of Foucault, Althusser, Butler, and others who map the ways that culture expropriates individuals, integrating them with contemporary intersubjectivist analysis. Further, they reveal themselves in the same complex psychosocial fields, with a full view of how they too, as analysts, are implicated in the very same processes. Thus, the social dimensions of their analyses are not tacked on, but essential, and the vivid possibilities of this radical reorientation are not only suggested, but often realized. This is a rare achievement.” - Stephen Seligman, DMH, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Infant-Parent Program, UCSF

“This is an extraordinary collection. In just a few pages of clinical case material, each author remarkably manages to shatter any illusions one might hold that the psychic and the social are separable. The writing is powerful and each vignette movingly explores the complex psychosocial interdependence of patient and therapist. Seamlessly blending high theory with experience-near clinical encounters, this book is a major contribution to a non-normative psychoanalysis.”

- Lynne Layton, Ph.D., Editor, Psychoanalysis, Culture & Society

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