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## Honoring Our Colleagues

by Steff Oates

***Whenever you are engaged in work that serves humanity and is for the building of humanity, it has dignity.***

*Martin Luther King, Jr. (2015)*

**W**hen we realized that the conference in Birmingham would not go ahead due to COVID-19, there were many meetings that we had to convert to online sessions. Usually, ITAA's awards are presented during some of those meetings, but given the number of awards for 2020, we soon realized it would not work to do that this year. So, Chitra Ravi, Deepak Dhananjaya, Elana Leigh, and I put our heads together to think of a way to make giving the awards truly celebratory online—taking into account the many time zones of ITAA members. As we talked (via Zoom, of course), we became like giddy teenagers planning a party.

Eventually, we came up with a “virtual” meeting on 24 July at a time that would accommodate as many of the awardees as possible. We invited Adrienne Lee to emcee the event and



*2020 EBMA recipients Graeme Summers and Keith Tudor with some of the previous EBMA winners*



invited previous Eric Berne Memorial Award winners to “gather” online a little early so we could do a screen shot of them with this year’s winners, thus fulfilling a long-standing ITAA tradition.

Adrienne as host did everything we hoped and knew she would to make the event fun and moving. We began with our very own grande dame Fanita English receiving the first Fanita English Lifetime Achieve-

ment Award, which was established in her honor. This award was the brain-child of Diane Salters, who wanted a way to commemorate the enormous contribution Fanita has made to the TA world-

many awards for her incredibly long and dedicated service.

Adrienne moved us on with complete grace and aplomb, clearly touched by Fanita’s speech. She introduced EBMA Committee chair Lis Heath to present the 2020 EBMA winners. Lis described the amazing number of nominators for Graeme Summers and Keith Tudor and just how important it is for their work to be recognized in this way. Then, they gave an engaging “cocreated” speech in which they alternated describing how they came up with many of their ideas, some during table tennis matches with a flipchart nearby so they could write down their ideas.

Adrienne, holding our process with the lightest of touches, moved the process along to Elana Leigh, who presented (with great clarity for someone who was talking at 4 am her time!) the Bob and Mary Goulding Social Justice Award to Leonard Campos. He described his long years of activism, from when he met Bob and Mary Goulding in 1968 to today when he joins marches for Black Lives Matter. Leonard implored us to make “good trouble” when we encounter injustice. Among the many appreciations expressed for

community over her 103 years (so far!). During the ceremony, Fanita continued to inspire. She gave a wonderful speech about some of her experiences, making many of us giggle with her tale of switching from being a psychoanalyst to becoming a transactional analyst. She also reminded us of the central role David Kupfer played not only as her mentor, trainer, and friend but as someone who did important work to foster the growth and development of TA in the early days in Carmel with Eric Berne. Fanita also spoke of her appreciation for Robin Fryer and said what many of us feel: that Robin should be the recipient of

## the SCRIPT

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Leonard in the Zoom chat room, one summarized our feelings by saying, “You rock, Leonard!”

Next, Susan George, chair of the ITAA Research Award Committee, presented the 2020 award to the Laboratory Research on Self and Identity (LaRSI). The award honored the landmark work of Pio Scilligo and the 18 members of the LaRSI group. Susanna Bianchini and Davide Ceridono explained the group’s work using an interesting set of slides, which ITAA Vice President of Development Deepak Dhananjaya helped us to view. Susanna explained how LaRSI bridges practice and research and is keen to develop a research culture in TA and to introduce trainees to research.

Adrienne once again introduced Elana Leigh to present an ITAA Service Award to Krispijn Plettenberg. Elana expressed gratitude to Krispijn for the role he played as EATA President in fostering enormous strides forward in ITAA and EATA working together. Krispijn spoke of

Steff Oates is ITAA Vice President Research & Innovation. She can be reached at [lcfan@me.com](mailto:lcfan@me.com).

how happy he is that Elana and current EATA President Peter Rudolph are continuing what he and Diane Salters began in terms of the two organizations collaborating in whatever ways they can.

I followed that by presenting Sally Holligan with the Hedges Capers Humanitarian Award. I talked about how Sally personifies humanitarian work with her steely determination and her conviction that “it is always too early to give up hope.” With grace and humility, Sally moved many of us to tears in describing her deep personal involvement with a prisoner on death row and her

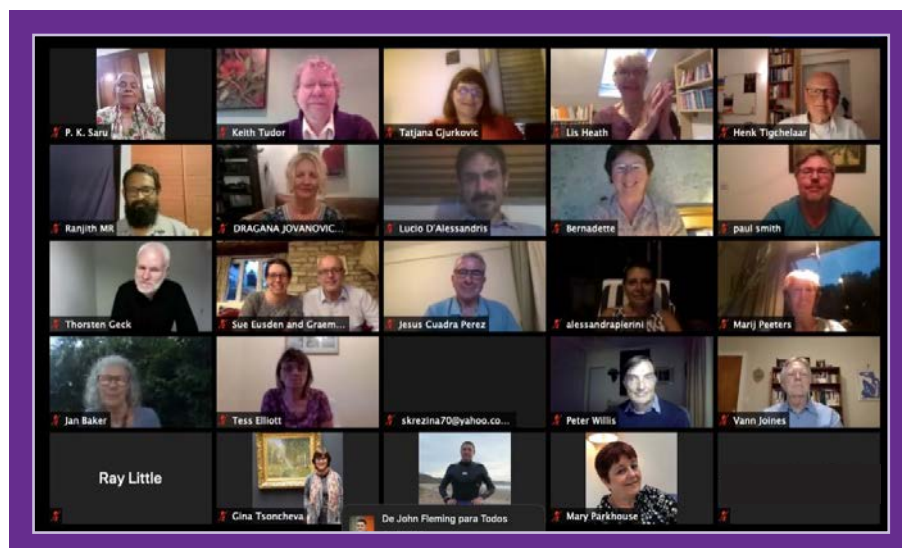
involvement with refugees in Paris and Athens. She spoke movingly about the incredible courage of the people she has met. Many in the chat room expressed awe and that they felt inspired by Sally’s work.

The evening concluded with Elana presenting an ITAA Service Award to Diane Salters. Just on time, Fanita English returned to the ceremony after a short break to see Diane receive her award. Elana spoke about the gratitude we feel toward Diane for steering a steady ship in often tumultuous waters and recounted the many ways Diane has served ITAA over the last 2 decades. Diane was visibly moved and spoke about her gratitude and appreciation to so many friends around the world with whom she has worked.

I think one comment in the chat room summarized the event for many of us. Sue Brady wrote, “Thank you to all those who are responsible for this event. Congratulations to all the recipients—so well deserved. I feel honored to be part of a community with so many awe-inspiring individuals.” <sup>5</sup>

### Reference

King, M. L., Jr. (2015). *The radical king* (C. West, Ed.). Boston, MA: Beacon Press.



# 2020 EATA Medals

As we relish our memories of the 2020 ITAA online award ceremony, we want to also acknowledge the 2020 EATA awards. The following is excerpted from the June 2020 issue of the EATAnews with the gracious permission of newsletter editor Kristina Brajovic Car.

## Marco Mazzetti, EATA Gold Medal

In his remarks about Marco Mazzetti, EATA President Peter Rudolph began by recounting some of Marco's background and education and then noted that Marco began his "TA voyage with an experience of [himself] in a therapeutic frame—in my understanding the most powerful way to start." Marco went on to become a CTA, a TSTA (psychotherapy), and then a TSTA (counseling). A member of ITAA and EATA, Marco has served in many capacities: Italian delegate to the EATA Council, a member of the PTSC, chair of the COC, chair of the PTSC, President of EATA, and in that role, a member of the ITAA Board of Trustees. Peter recounted how Marco was committed to increasing collaboration between EATA and ITAA and was one of the three people who spearheaded the establishment of the Eric Berne Archive. Peter also wrote, "EATA would not be this successful, vital body without your fruitful work. You did not only work with the association but you worked with many humans themselves," including with migrants and socially disadvantaged populations. Peter highlighted some of the many publications Marco has written, including



the 2007 TAJ article cited when he received the 2012 Eric Berne Memorial Award. Peter also said, "Coming from sociology . . . I appreciate very much if we do not lose a social focus in our work and thinking and feeling. You live and form TA not only as a psychotherapeutic tool but as a psychosocial health approach that is based on mutual respect and justice. Thank you for [all of your] work."

## Liesl and Norbert Berggold, EATA Silver Medal

In her remarks, Sylvia Schachner said, "We are happy to give the silver medal of EATA to Liesl and Norbert Berggold from Austria as a recognition for their work . . . within the TA community in Europe and Africa." Liesl is a primary school teacher, and before retiring, Norbert worked in international life insurance and social projects supporting people in need. He is a PTSTA-O and president of the Austrian TA association OGTA. In 2013 they began supporting Africa Amini Alama, a project in Tanzania begun by Dr. Christina Wallner Fisee. It now has a hospi-

tal, several schools, an orphanage, a tourist lounge, and various craft businesses, all designed so that local people can work in and manage these for themselves. Liesl and Norbert founded a primary school that is open for the poorest children. They help support the school with funding from various projects and visit the school yearly for several weeks. While there, they organize workshops and counseling for the teachers based on Montessori methods and TA. Sylvia writes, "For Liesl and Norbert [it] is important to acknowledge that their support for this project is not a one-way benefit—[they gain] friendship, joy and important values of the culture of the Massai. . . . Their work . . . shows how we can bring TA thinking in the world, how we can by clear communication, clear contracts and a real OK-OK position take serious our social responsibility, strengthen the relationship between people from different cultures and nationalities, and overcome prejudices by cocreative partnership and using the thinking, values, and models of TA." 📍



Norbert and Liesl Berggold with Massai

## Bonds That Hold Us Together

by Elana Leigh

**A**lthough we have all been through some challenging and stormy times recently, I'm happy to say they culminated in July in our fruitful and collaborative board of trustees meetings, the annual general membership (AGM) meeting, and then our celebratory award event during which we recognized and appreciated a number of special members for their outstanding and enduring contributions (see page 1 for details).

As I write this during the brief pause when many in the northern hemisphere take their annual summer break, I in Australia am enjoying a reduction in urgent emails and Zoom meetings. This gives me time to return to a more contemplative place where dreaming and visioning can occupy the space that had been taken up by managing the many crises of the last few months.

In my reflective moments, the image of the Zoom screen filled with familiar faces keeps reemerging. I smile and recall the long history so many of us share. This should not be underestimated because it is these bonds that have held us together through many years. Climbing a

mountain is hard work, filled with purpose, determination, support, belief, and encouragement. On the metaphorical downward climb, we need to take those who were with us on the upward climb, remembering that we do not reach our desired destinations alone. History and relationships are the glue of life, and that Zoom screen with so many of you there brought this truth poignantly to the forefront of my being.

In my time as president I have become acutely aware of how goals and visions are not reached solely through strategy. More often than not, it is the relationships, which have taken time to safely build, that get us over the finish line. This does not happen overnight. It can take years during which we need to keep showing up and having the courage to be ourselves, until we are observing each other from all three ego states. History matters because it is there to draw on and learn from. I certainly appreciate my 37 years of ITAA membership and the many relationships that I have developed and that today carry me through my time as president.

I have also been musing about the idea of using and abusing power and



the fact that ITAA presidents come and go, but what we do or not do with our position of power lives on far longer than our term. Bearing this in mind, in order to emerge well from the World TA Conference cancellation crisis, I am aware of the importance of you, the membership, feeling informed in ways that settle and satisfy you. When that is not forthcoming, it can become another shadow in our history that may render us vulnerable to further enactments. I felt proud and moved at the most recent meeting with the presidents of all the responsible associations because everyone there reflected on what we could have done differently and how we could make conscious and unconscious meanings from the crisis. There was not a trace of defensiveness and scapegoating but rather a collective feeling of goodwill and determination to honor our responsibilities to the membership at large. This, together with other tasks, is now our priority.

I thank you, the membership, for your ongoing trust and, even in moments when you lose that trust, for continuing to be open in your demands and suggestions. These times demand togetherness not divisiveness, and I believe we can do this when we pause and reflect on our thoughts and the actions we chose to take.

I wish you all a good beginning of your academic year and look forward to more opportunities for contact. 📞

Elana Leigh is ITAA President. She can be reached at [elanaleigh23@gmail.com](mailto:elanaleigh23@gmail.com).

### Minutes Available

The minutes of the 2020 ITAA Board of Trustees and Annual General Membership meetings are now available on the members-only section of the ITAA website at [www.itaaworld.org/user](http://www.itaaworld.org/user).

## Award Nominations Sought

### *Eric Berne Memorial Award*

**Deadline:** 1 December 2020

Send EBMA nominations to committee chair  
Lis Heath at [lis.heath@gmail.com](mailto:lis.heath@gmail.com)

### *Hedges Capers Humanitarian Award*

### *Muriel James Living Principles Award*

### *ITAA Service Award*

### *Goulding Social Justice Award*

### *Fanita English Lifetime Achievement Award*

**Deadline:** 1 January 2021

Send nominations for the Capers, James, Goulding, English, and Service Awards to ITAA Secretary Sumithra Sharatkumar at [sumithrask@gmail.com](mailto:sumithrask@gmail.com)

### *ITAA Research Award*

**Deadline:** 1 January 2021

Send nominations for the ITAA Research Award to committee chair Susan George at [susangeorge4@yahoo.com](mailto:susangeorge4@yahoo.com)

See the ITAA Web site at [www.itaaworld.org/itaa-awards](http://www.itaaworld.org/itaa-awards) or contact the ITAA at [info@itaaworld.org](mailto:info@itaaworld.org) for details on making nominations for these awards.

## Transactional Analysis Cumbrian Conference

### Call For Conference Workshop Proposals

**Saturday 27 February 2021—Online**

**“Global Connection—Global Survival” ❖ Keynote speaker: Andy Williams**

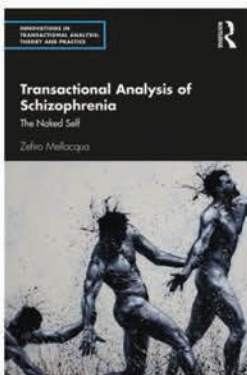
After another successful conference in 2020, with 200 delegates in Penrith and over 400 joining us online from around the world, we hope you will plan to join us in 2021 with Andy Williams as our keynote speaker and a wealth of conference workshops from which to choose. Continuing our longstanding relationship with Onlinevents, we look forward to running our 2021 conference entirely online as a response to COVID-19. Although we will be sad not to welcome delegates to Cumbria in person, we look forward to you joining us from wherever you are in the world! We are now inviting workshop proposals with a deadline of 2 October 2020. This year offers you the opportunity to present a workshop on the theme of “Global Connection—Global Survival.” We’d love to hear what this theme inspires or evokes in you that you want to share with others as a workshop presenter. We welcome workshops from both new and experienced presenters. Wherever you are on your presentation journey, we look forward wholeheartedly to hearing from you. Submit your workshop outline [here](#). Even if you decide not to present this year, please join us online on Saturday 27 February 2021. Booking for conference places will be available at the beginning of November. We will email you to let you know when bookings open.

**The TACC Organising Committee**

# Innovations in Transactional Analysis: Theory and Practice Book Series

This book series is founded on the principle of the importance of open discussion, debate, critique, experimentation, and the integration of other models in fostering innovation in all the arenas of transactional analytic theory and practice: psychotherapy, counseling, education, organizational development, health care, and coaching. It will be a home for the work of established authors and new voices.

Series editor: William F. Cornell



## Transactional Analysis of Schizophrenia

The Naked Self

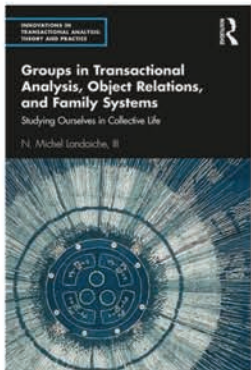
Zefiro Mellacqua

June 2020

256 pp.

£29.99/\$39.95

[www.routledge.com/9780367148423](http://www.routledge.com/9780367148423)



## Groups in Transactional Analysis, Object Relations, and Family Systems

Studying Ourselves in Collective Life

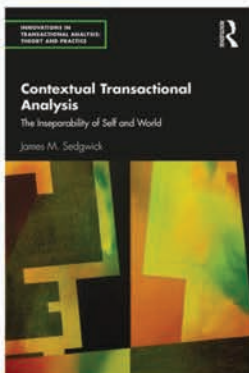
N. Michel Landaiche, III

June 2020

184 pp.

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[www.routledge.com/9780367369217](http://www.routledge.com/9780367369217)



## Contextual Transactional Analysis

The Inseparability of Self and World

James M. Sedgwick

July 2020

248 pp.

£29.99/\$39.95

[www.routledge.com/9780367192884](http://www.routledge.com/9780367192884)

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SEPTEMBER 2020

THE SCRIPT

## Graham Barnes

**I**t was with shock and great sadness that we learned that Graham Barnes died from a heart attack on 9 August 2020 at his home in Stockholm, Sweden, at the age of 83. Many of us had rejoiced at his presence at the Raleigh Conference just a year ago, where he delivered a keynote and served as one of the presenters for the social-action-focused TA 101.

Graham was working on a doctorate in social ethics when Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in 1968. He realized he had to do something, so he secured a grant to set up The Fellowship for Racial and Economic Equality (FREE) to help White leaders confront their racial intolerance and lead their institutions to work for racial justice and economic equality. In 1971, Graham obtained a second grant to train counselors and faculty at Black colleges and universities in TA and creative group problem solving. In 1973 FREE moved to Chapel Hill, NC, expanded its focus, and became the Southeast Institute for Group and Family Therapy with the mission of developing postgraduate education programs for psychotherapists, including a counselor education program for historically African American colleges and universities in the South.

In 1978 Graham left the Southeast Institute, and in 1983 he moved to Sweden to pursue further graduate studies and to expand his work in South America and Europe, where he taught in 12 European countries. He taught psychotherapy in the former Yugoslavia in the late 1970s, led his students in founding the School for the Cybernetics of Psychotherapy, and guided the organization of a foundation to establish a social democracy in Croatia that worked successfully to elect the first democratic president there.


Graham's published works include *Transactional Analysis After Eric Berne, Justice, Love and Wisdom*, and more than 40 papers. He studied the psychopathology that is brought forth in theory-centered psychotherapy, for which he received the Eric Berne Memorial Award in 2005.

Graham learned psychotherapy from the Gouldings at the Western Institute for Group and Family Therapy in California, eventually becoming a TSTA. A long-time member of the ITAA, he served as a trustee and later as vice president.

Janice Dowson, Chair of the USATAA Inclusion, Equity and Social Action Committee writes, "We are shocked and saddened by the passing of Graham Barnes, one of the esteemed



instructors on Project TA 101 course videos." Felipe Garcia, a long-time friend and colleague, said, "Graham was always warm, welcoming, and made me feel special. His intellectual curiosity and caring personality contributed to his many successes. We are so fortunate that he presented in the social justice TA 101 in Raleigh last year; his thinking and teaching style are now available in perpetuity." John McNeel added, "I knew Graham for more than 50 years. I am so happy I went to Raleigh last summer to see him. He and I had a splendid time, and I was able to tell him how much I loved him."

Graham is survived by his two sons, Christopher and James, his long-time partner and friend Stefanos Giotas, his sisters Jeanette and Joan, three grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. Condolences may be sent to Joan Seabury at [joanofart@ymail.com](mailto:joanofart@ymail.com). Watch upcoming *Scripts* for details about a memorial service. 

## TAJ Theme Issue on “Systemic Oppression: What Part Do We Play?”

by TAJ Coeditors Karen Minikin and Helen Rowland

This year has been unprecedented because of the global COVID-19 pandemic and then the murder of George Floyd and the subsequent demonstrations of the Black Lives Matter movement. All of this followed the rise of right-wing politics in many countries alongside opposition protests.

In response to all of this, the TAJ coeditors thought it was timely to devote a theme issue to the topic of systemic oppression in relation to the four fields in TA. The aim is to review our relationship to social and political contexts, institutional challenges, and our capacities and approaches to leadership as well as how we may consciously and unconsciously fuel systemic oppression. In this context, it is also relevant to look at how we may be oppressing each other in our interpersonal dealings as well as ourselves through our intrapsychic dynamics.

We are vulnerable to feeling great disappointment in our leaders when they are fallible. The pressure on leadership can be great, especially when social, political, and institu-

tional conflict is high. Inevitably, those in charge activate individual scripting and cocreate scripts that promote their survival. We have seen many examples of how oppression can be the outcome of how those with power seek to retain it through structures, processes, and psychological influence. It is possible that when Berne was devising his six hungers, he omitted a seventh: power.

The subtitle to this theme issue—“What Role Do We Play?”—invites us to reflect on the personal and professional roles we play in maintaining norms, even when they are oppressive. By way of inspiration, we borrow from John Lewis, the US civil rights activist who died in July: “I heard the voice of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on an old radio. He was talking about the philosophy and discipline of nonviolence. He said we are all complicit when we tolerate injustice. He said it is not enough to say it will get better by and by. He said each of us has a moral obligation to stand up, speak up and speak out” (*New York Times*, 30 June 2020). This isn’t always easy to do.




Karen Minikin

Helen Rowland

It can demand courage and provoke conflict. “Causing trouble” in these ways risks getting us into trouble.

Bearing this in mind, we are interested in how we have colluded with our structural and psychological processes. How have we challenged systemic oppression? What is achievable in terms of the work we do as transactional analysts? What does progress in our fields mean to us? We invite collective participation in seeking answers. Please send us your papers, whatever your TA field. The submission requirements are [here](#). Send your contributions to [robinfryer@aol.com](mailto:robinfryer@aol.com) by 1 August 2021.

Please direct questions to Karen Minikin at [karen@insights-sw.co.uk](mailto:karen@insights-sw.co.uk) and/or Helen Rowland at [helen@helenrowland.co.uk](mailto:helen@helenrowland.co.uk) 

## USATAA's Inclusion, Equity, and Social Action Committee

# Project TA 101: Personal Tools for Social Transformation — AVAILABLE NOW!



*Takeharu Matsunaga*

This transactional analysis information is available now—for anyone who wants to learn to use TA to understand, predict, and change what happens when people talk to each other and enable cultural change.

The response to the new TA 101 has been incredible! Since the program launch 8 days ago, the course videos have received 792 views, averaging 5 new subscribers daily with over 40 learners and seasoned members building community connections among the local and global community on the Project TA 101 Facebook discussion.

Among the many people who have been waiting to share this information, two universities in two countries plan to distribute course content to graduate students and a young mom, a community health worker serving Indigenous bands in a remote Yukon location, therapists using course videos as an adjunct to therapy, life coaches and pastoral counselors, a young doctor in Southeast Asia, a prison psychologist, a trainer in Africa, and an Indigenous band treatment center in northern Canada and many, many more plan to use the course materials for personal growth, professional development, and social transformation.

This wonderful gift to the world is brought to you by The Eric Berne Fund for the Future Scholarship Grant Fund Committee, USATAA, Inger Acking, Ellyn Bader, Brenda Bary, Koenraad Bosschaerts, Alexis Brink, Leonard Campos, Janice Dowson, Ruby Duxbury, Richard Erskine, John Evans, Simone Fragoso, J R Gage-Cole, Ildiko Galter, John Hallett, Bob Hempel, Marina Rajan Joseph, Cathy Katz, Inna Learn, Omar Lopez, Dianne Maki-Sethi, Rose Matovich, Gloria Noriega, Pavan Pandurangan, Sue E. Shealy, Carol Solomon, Lindsay Stewart, Freddie Suresh, Reiko True, Abe Wagner, Marian Weisberg, Laurie and Jonathan Weiss, and Christopher Zimmerman. **We are grateful to all of our generous donors!**

Very special appreciations go to the innovative course instructors—**Valerie Batts, Graham Barnes, Felipe Garcia, and Vann Joines**—for creating the social-justice-focused TA 101! Thank you to the USATAA Council for supporting the vision of making TA 101 information free online to our global community. We thank our project consultants Laurie Weiss and Felipe Garcia and the many people who have given care and attention to the project, including Michael Harsh, Reiko True, Cathy Katz, Karyn Crawford, Aleksandra Dobric Stanosevic, Lucy Freedman, and Dianne Maki-Sethi.

### **Volunteer opportunities are still available:**

- ▶ Community Connection resource
- ▶ Discussion Facebook group moderator
- ▶ Join the resource list of qualified TA 101 written exam evaluators

**For more information:** [iesacprojectta101@gmail.com](mailto:iesacprojectta101@gmail.com)

**Tell someone about this exciting new TA 101 today and share this link to access course videos, the learning guide, and the online discussion group:** <https://www.usataa.org/circles-of-interest/social-justice-circle/project-ta-101/>

*Janice Dowson, Inger Acking, Bob Hempel, Reiko True, and Freddie Suresh  
The Inclusion, Equity and Social Action Committee*

## How Do We Engage in Community Empowerment as Transactional Analysts?

by Wataru Suematsu

**T**he emergency declaration about the spread of COVID-19 here occurred on 7 April. At the telephone counseling service for suicide prevention in Tokyo, we had to decide whether to stay open. Some people said we should suspend services to protect the safety of volunteers; others thought we should continue to be available for the socially vulnerable. As the chief director, I decided we should continue.

When I read Diane Salters's article in the April 2020 *Script* announcing the new ITAA Social Engagement Committee, I felt I had found my place in the TA community because I have been practicing as a community psychologist for 30 years. I originally taught high school ethics and was interested in the students who exhibited delinquency, withdrawal, and a failure to live up to their abilities. I noticed it was difficult to solve such problems without the cooperation of everyone involved. So, while continuing to teach, I studied clinical psychology and community psychology, searching for a place to practice as a clinical psychologist. What I found was the telephone counseling service for suicide prevention. I left teaching to become a training director there in 1992.

The training at the service involves attending not only to the quality of the work performed for clients but also the care of volunteers and cooperation with social resources in the community. Our service demonstrates how real therapy requires active engagement with external circumstances as well with individuals. Our clients are in crisis with problems such as mental illness, being itself, human relationships, economic difficulties, and so on. I provide group counseling for the mentally ill and lectures about active listening, building constructive personal relationships, child rearing, and self-reflection.

Responding adequately to these needs requires a comprehensive and pragmatic theory that treats both the intrapersonal and interpersonal relationship. I did my TA training and supervision with the late Mr. Rokkaku, TSTA, after some training in phenomenological approaches. Then, in 1998 I enrolled in the postgraduate program at the Southeast Institute spurred partly because of the number of volunteers who left the service due to frequent and incomprehensible callers. Active listening and understanding game theory and autonomy were needed,



and TA is one of the most useful theories for community empowerment. When I supervise volunteers and staff, I work to avoid discounting and games between us, stroking what they did well and clarifying from an OK-OK position what they did not do so well. I have learned the importance of actualizing human dignity and cocreativity in supervision and learning as well as therapy.

Half of our 300 volunteers are now working. We hope that once the pandemic has eased, the rest will return and the service will function again at full capacity.

Wataru Suematsu can be reached at [wataru@mba.ocn.ne.jp](mailto:wataru@mba.ocn.ne.jp) . 5

## News from the PSC and the IBOC

by Thorsten Geck

**T**ransactional analysis was, from its beginning, international. Many people who are interested in it traveled to conferences to meet others from the TA community and learn from each other. Our certification system is also based on internationality. CTA and TSTA exams, training endorsement workshops, and even TA 101s live in the international encounter where candidates meet examiners and trainers meet learners to enter a dialogue about competence and learning. But what now, in 2020, when COVID-19 has shut down travel activities and our encounters have moved to online conferences?

As in other TA associations, in the ITAA the International Board of Certification (IBOC) and Professional Standards Committee (PSC) need to find answers for this time when traveling to another country involves uncertain outcomes: Will I return healthy? Will I need to quarantine for 2 weeks when I get back? Is it ecologically responsible to travel around the world with climate change looming? Online learning might also challenge our thinking and attitudes about learning in groups and in contact. We will have to explore those challenges as well.

If you participated in the ITAA

annual general membership meeting, you heard about the recent work of the PSC and the IBOC. This includes an update to the *IBOC Certification & Examinations Handbook* to include a section on ethics that describes how the ethics guidelines are linked to the ITAA code of ethics and some ideas about how to teach ethics when running TA courses. Our thanks to Janice Dowson for the great job she did bringing all of that together.


In addition to a minor change in the layout (the ITAA handbook is now an *IBOC Certification & Examinations Handbook*), there is one major change. In agreement with California law, the contract forms for future CTAs and TSTAs (12.6.3 and 12.6.4) have changed to explicitly state how responsibility for thorough, ethical training is shared among all the parties involved. The language is more legal and the result of extensive discussion with and advice from the ITAA attorney.

The IBOC has been asked in recent months about the future of certification and exams. We recently explored this by running online mock exams. The details are in our report [here](#).

The IBOC plans to establish a design for certification that takes account of restrictions created by the pandemic



and its impact on traveling. Meeting online might also be an option, especially considering the carbon footprint caused by traveling for learning, teaching, and certification (see de Graaf and Tigchelaar in the August 2020 *Script*).

The work of the PSC and the IBOC is done by volunteers. Currently the PSC team consists of chairs Giles Barrow, TSTA-E, and Karen Pratt, TSTA-E (we are looking for a third member); the IBOC team consists of chairs Jacqueline van Gent, TSTA-C, and Sue Eusden, TSTA-P (we are looking for a third member). If you are interested in contributing to the work of PSC and IBOC, let us know by writing to [iboc@ibocworld.org](mailto:iboc@ibocworld.org) and/or [iboc-manager@use.startmail.com](mailto:iboc-manager@use.startmail.com). 

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