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New Beginnings, New Learnings, New Energies

by Chitra Ravi

A warm hello, Happy New Year, greetings, and wishes to you all and welcome to 2022!

As we move into the new year, I want to share some reflections about how the first 5 months have been for me as ITAA President and for us as the board of trustees. Transactional analysis has had a significant influence on my personal and professional life for over 2 decades, and I feel privileged to offer leadership to the ITAA for the next 2 years.

TA helps us to understand why we do what we do. For example, what about a situation can I become aware of so that I can use my Adult resources and thinking in order to be in the here and now? Over the past 5 months as ITAA President, there have been several times when I have asked myself that question. In working with the board, we needed to ponder each task and every process, not just in terms of an immediate decision but also in relation to the implications and underlying dynamics of those decisions.

The routine tasks and activities of ITAA governance are fairly automated and implemented regularly. The COVID-era surprises that emerged over the last 2



years, some of which required urgent attention, brought our various capabilities to the fore to help us decide whether to act on something or not. This has impacted how we look at what we have “always done” and raised the possibility of new ways of doing things, including new processes and new thinking.

With the collective support of the board, I have summarized below the key initiatives of the past 5 months:

Elana Leigh moved into her role as ITAA Past President. I experienced her enormous ability to provide space for me to take up the reins while she eased up and only stepped in when her experience and wisdom were necessary. Her mentoring has been an almost invisible yet steady presence behind me in my presidency.

The International Board of Certification (IBOC) exams were the highlight of September 2021 under the steady leadership of **Thorsten Geck**, who held the ITAA Vice President Professional Standards position till October 2021.

- **IBOC:** Establishing and managing full Certified Transactional Analyst (CTA) and Teaching and Supervising Transactional Analyst (TSTA) online exams, for which **Sue Eusden** and **Jacqueline van Gent** are appreciated and applauded. Everyone was amazed about the balance of the firm structure along with the care that was provided. The exam debriefing and the learning offered possibilities for improvement and were transformed into tasks for 2022. The success of these exams established that online exams can be a stand-alone solution.
- **PSC:** **Giles Barrow** and **Karen Pratt** worked (and still do) closely

with the IBOC on the *IBOC Certification & Examinations Handbook* and guidelines, changed to reflect online exams needs.

- IBOC and PSC will be addressing culture-related issues in international exams, something that came up in the exam process review.
- Another focus of work is teaching and training in an online mode. The suggestions from the committee members were integrated into the briefing of the candidates for the TSTA online exams. All of this will be explored further, and online will become part of the reality in an eco-responsible and pandemic world.
- **Karen Pratt** has been appointed as the caretaker of the Vice President Professional Standards role. We appreciate and welcome her to this role and as the central point of contact.

The Communications Committee, under the leadership of Michelle Thomé, has worked with high levels of vitality and zest toward the launching of our new website early this year.

- They set up branding surveys and meetings to explore the brand attributes, purpose, personality, and tone of ITAA website. The ITAA Board of Trustees (BOT), *TAJ* coeditors, and committee chairs were invited to a meeting with our branding vendor **Karen Kwan** to support us in defining and writing possible ITAA mission and vision statements.

The ITAA Ethics Committee, under chairs **Anne de Graaf** and **Jan Grant**, is analyzing data obtained from an online survey of the membership about ethics issues and have planned a webinar for 21 February 2022.

“There are no words to adequately recognize how efficient, highly self-motivated, and competent our board has been and how committed the ITAA staff is. Each of them has stepped up when needed to see how best they could be of support to the board and the membership.”

ITAA Vice President Operations Alessandra Pierini and her conference team have been steadily working to organize the first ITAA online conference. They have established steering, scientific, organizing, and communication subcommittees and provide frequent updates in *The Script* and on social media. Among the plans they have been working on are the theme, the logo, the budget, registration, keynote speakers, publicity, workshop proposals, considering worldwide time zones, and so on. Kudos to them all for their stellar efforts. We look forward to many participants from across different regions and locations in the world joining us for this wonderful event in June 2022.

- Our policy and practices regarding TA World Conferences have been overhauled. A new World Conference Handbook and a new world conference contract have been formulated and finalized. The task team consisting of **Susan Arslan**, **Heather Fowlie**, **Rhae Hooper**, **Vladimir Gussakovski**, **Alessandra Pierini**, and I have worked for over a year on these updates. Special thanks to **Susan Arslan** for her zest and drive to pull the whole thing together!

ITAA Treasurer John Oates and ITAA Administrator Susan Lockwood have worked diligently to keep ITAA and IBOC financial records up to date, managing payments and receipts for ITAA and IBOC and ensuring timely filing of the formal

the SCRIPT

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ITAA Secretary Rema Giridhar

has expertly fulfilled her duties and kept us on our toes. Her agility and efficiency in attending to the needed tasks throughout the year have been deeply appreciated.

ITAA Vice President Research & Innovation Steff Oates

whose energy is contagious, plays a significant role in chairing the ITAA/Routledge Taylor & Francis Liaison Committee, overseeing the extension of our contract with Routledge as well as translation and republication requests. She is also working with the *TAJ* coeditors to stimulate ideas about growing the *TAJ* and widening access to it. Steff and the BOT wish to acknowledge the immeasurable input and support of Robin Fryer as our managing editor.

■ The idea and launching of the first podcast of a *TAJ* article, spearheaded by Steff, has offered us an exciting new way to make *TAJ* articles available, and we hope to see many more such podcasts in the future. I personally found Steff's voice on the podcast soothing, and it motivated me to listen to and then read the entire article.

■ As a member of the ITAA/EATA webinar committee, Steff chaired the recent one on "Neurodiversity," which was very well received by all those who attended it.

The ITAA staff—*TAJ* and Script Managing Editor Robin Fryer and ITAA Administrator Susan Lockwood—have been available at every turn to offer support to the board and committees. Their promptness,

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clarity, and diligence are a reassuring and a containing presence for all of us and the ITAA membership.

The BOT regional representatives—Anne Tucker (Australasia/Pacific), Prathitha Gangadharan (Asia/India), Sylvie Monin (Europe), Marguerite Sacco (Africa/Middle East), Michelle Thomé and now Paula Rodrigues (Latin America), and Lucy Freedman (North America)—contribute by being the major point of contact for ITAA members in each of their regions. Each representative is also a member of one or more committees. This allows for information to flow to and from the committees of the board and vice versa, thereby maintaining ongoing contact.

When I now reflect on the past 5 months, I heave a sigh of relief and feel a sense of calm about having somehow fit my life around this role and vice versa. I thank you, the membership, for putting your faith and trust in us on the board to make decisions and carry out the roles and

tasks that have been given to us.

In the "constellation" of how we are structured, somewhat like planets and satellites, I thank and appreciate the members of the ITAA Board of Trustees, the various committees, and the ITAA staff, each of whom has contributed many hours of their time in their respective roles. There are no words to adequately recognize how efficient, highly self-motivated, and competent our board has been and how committed the ITAA staff is. Each of them has stepped up when needed to see how best they could be of support to the board and the membership.

I also thank my highly supportive family, who have been mindful of the needs of this role and hence the time I have had to take away from them.

Finally, we urge those of you who are keen to be a part of the ITAA governance to write to us.

Once again, wishing you a very happy, successful, and safe 2022! 🍀

Events and Reminders Calendar

1 February 2022Deadline for ITAA Board nominations

1 February 2022Deadline for *TAJ* theme issue on "Ecological TA"

10 February 2022ITAA/EATA webinar

21 February 2022ITAA Ethics Committee webinar

25-26 March 2022Online IBOC CTA/TSTA Exams

3-5 June 2022.....ITAA Online Conference

22 June 2022ITAA/EATA webinar

4-6 November 2022TEW (deadline: 4 March 2022)

8 November 2022.....ITAA/EATA webinar

1 February 2023Deadline *TAJ* theme issue on "Neurodiversity"

For more details of these and other events, visit the ITAA website at www.itaaworld.org.

New Book on Transactional Analysis in Organizations

by Suriyaprakash C.

Suriya: Congratulations, Sari and Anne, on the publication of the new book you have edited, *New Theory and Practice of Transactional Analysis in Organizations: On the Edge* (2022). I know it is the latest in the *Innovations in Transactional Analysis* book series edited by Bill Cornell and published by Routledge. I found in it some refreshing new perspectives, including some articles in which the focus is on the collective, not just the individual. I was excited at the attention paid to both the intrapsychic and the interpersonal because I think it is high time organizations focused on rehumanizing the workplace. We are living in a “VUCA” (volatile, uncertain, chaotic, ambiguous) world in which corporate bottom lines tend to overshadow the human aspect of organizations. How do you see your book making a difference in these times, and what do you mean by “on the edge”?

Sari: I started compiling this book 3 years ago, and Anne joined the project in 2020. Together we approached 15 international organizational transactional analysts, and of those, 9 wrote chapters (along with the two of us): Ugo De Ambro-

gio, Patrice Fosset, Rosa Krausz, Mandy Lacy, Corinne Laurier, Marleine Mazouz, Jacques Moreau, Kathrin Rutz, and Graeme Summers. Our goal for this project was to create a contemporary international book on transactional analysis in organizations that was based on Berne’s (1966) *The Structure and Dynamics of Organizations and Groups*. In that book he described organizations as having three structures that operate simultaneously: the organizational, the interpersonal, and the psychodynamic. Our chapters are organized according to those structures and include new theory and techniques to facilitate organizational development using transactional analysis. These new theories and tools are particularly useful now. To thrive in VUCA times, we need to move from an individual to a collective paradigm, so organizational TA is needed more than ever. The subtitle “On the Edge” refers both to the importance of boundaries and dynamics in organizational theory and also to the times we live in.

Anne: The times in which Eric Berne and his colleagues developed TA were certainly less volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous! It



Suriyaprakash C.



Sari van Poelje



Anne de Graaf



is good to notice that TA continues to develop so that its theory and practice are kept up to date. I believe that working in and with organizations is by definition

a volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous job. It is the task of the TA organizational consultant to create awareness about this. The diversity of perspectives discussed in the various chapters of the book shows the strength of organizational TA in these VUCA times. Graeme Summers, for example, paints an interesting picture of the various ways in which management can be understood in an organization. Mandy Lacy spotlights new ways of learning in the context of teams and organizations. And so on. Actually, I think a book like we put together should be published with great regularity.

Suriya: I agree that such volumes are needed much more often than they are published. I like your focus on boundaries as the central aspect of organizational dynamics and going back to the basics of Berne's ideas about boundaries and organizations. How is that relevant to organizational practitioners today?

Sari: Berne defined organizations as social aggregations having at least one major external and one major internal boundary. Without boundaries, organizations do not exist. They differentiate outside and inside, leadership and membership.

Any organizational intervention starts with the alignment of boundaries to purpose. It is only after boundaries have been defined, clarified, and shared that it is possible to work at the interpersonal level. In these VUCA times, boundaries are accentuated. The pandemic has caused a global reestablishment and closing of boundaries. However, to move into postcrisis times, we will have to open those boundaries again so we can solve big problems collectively.

Anne: I love the way Eric Berne drew attention to boundaries when working with or in organizations. Creating and maintaining healthy boundaries demands a lot from management and employees. What helps people perform this task well is the TA concept of *contracting*, by which you and I, for instance, determine together where my task ends and yours begins. Eric Berne's understanding of boundaries might also have reflected the times in which he lived. Everything was (or seemed) more organized and clearer then. My thinking about boundaries today, however, is strongly influenced by Miller and Rice (1967), who were way ahead of their time in talking about "a boundary as a region." And yes, where are we if boundaries no longer provide clarity and certainty? VUCA times!

Suriya: This book covers a wide range of organizational topics, such as fear and anxiety, culture, psychological risk, vulnerability, leadership, learning, self-organizing teams, and force field. I am sure it must have been exciting working with such diverse subjects and authors. In your "Editors' Introduction," you quote Jim Allen's 2010 Montreal keynote in which he said, "People meet based on their similarities. They grow based on their differences."

How was your experience of working with such diverse writers, and what did you learn from that experience?

Sari: Throughout my TA career my purpose has been to create a platform for others, including through my training institute and my publications. I believe modeling a collective spirit is important. The TA community is not always a model of partnership and cooperation. What was reinforced for me in doing this book is the awareness of managing ego in partnership: It is more important to get it done than who gets it done.

Anne: Reading the various contributions was exciting precisely because Sari and I were looking for TA contributions from various corners of our planet. However, I think the book still has a too Western character. In a future book, it would be good to do a longer, more intensive search for TA perspectives from a wider variety of cultures.

Suriya: I believe the divide between the personal and the professional is artificial and forced. I found it fascinating how all the articles in your book brought out the interplay between the personal and the professional. What prompted you to edit such a volume and what brought you together for this project? How has your personal influenced your professional while working on it?

Sari: Our experience as editors set the tone for working on the edge. Anne and I are very different people, though we share a strong sense of values. We worked together to

"I believe that working in and with organizations is by definition a volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous job. It is the task of the TA organizational consultant to create awareness about this."

bridge our edges and invited our multicultural, multilingual authors to do the same.

Anne: Hurray!

Suriya: What do you hope readers will take away from reading this book?

Sari: I would like them to understand that organizational transactional analysis requires systemic concepts and not just a translation of individual concepts and a personalization of organizations. Groups do not have ego states, they have culture. Organizations do not have scripts, their founders do. I would like readers to embrace the wealth of systemic theory and applications in their work.

Anne: If I might, I will offer a quote from a chapter I wrote (Chapter 8) that I think is apt in answering your question: "It is helpful to differentiate between simple, complicated and complex tasks. Not being aware of this difference means managers might apply the wrong approach to the right problem or the right approach to the wrong problem." I hope the book inspires readers to make this differentiation. Applying the wrong approach to the right problem or the right approach to the wrong problem is a waste of time, money, resources, energy and, worst of all, dreams.

References

Berne, E. (1966). *The structure and dynamics of organizations and groups*. Grove Press.

Miller, E. J., & Rice, A. K. (1967). *Systems of organization: The control of task and sentient boundaries*. Tavistock. ⑤

Suriyaprakash C. can be reached at suriya.sunshine@gmail.com.

IN MEMORIAM

Additional Tributes for Chie Shigeta

Shortly after Chie Shigeta celebrated the success of her TSTA (P) exam in 2008, she was in intense negotiations with then ITAA President John Heath about organizing an international conference in Japan. Chie was not only an excellent psychotherapist but also a pioneer who could see the future of TA organizational relationships both in Japan and worldwide. She also had a magical communication style. Although she spoke of her experiences simply, her stories often moved and inspired others.

Chie spent almost her entire TA career involved in teaching and supervising in the leading psychological organizations in Japan. She became the influential person in the promotion and development of TA in both psychotherapy and educational fields in Japan. The following are representatives of leading organizations and groups who have expressed their condolences following Chie's death:

- Mutsumi Ashihar, MD, PhD, President of the Japanese Society of Transactional Analysis
- President Kumiko Shimodaira, NPO Japan Transactional Analysis Association (JTAA)
- Chief Director Setsuko Tanaka, Japan Industrial Counselors Association
- Rev. and Emeritus Professor at Japan Lutheran College Sachiko Shirai, The Japanese Association of the Redecision Therapy Study Group founded by Vann Jones, Chie Shigeta, and Sachiko Shirai
- Chairman Masaru Fujiwara, TA Research & Study Group
- President Takayuki Muroki, Japan Transactional Analysis Association (TAAJ)

In addition to the above, many other TA people have expressed regret at her death and the loss of her presence in their lives. Her legacy will continue to grow.

Takayuki Muroki

President of TAAJ, PTSTA (P) (tmuroki@edogawa-u.ac.jp)

Tomoko Abe

Vice President of TAAJ, TSTA (E) (tomoko11@fg7.so-net.ne.jp)



The late Chie Shigeta, Conference Hosting Committee Chair, spoke with her charming smile at the closing ceremony of the 2013 ITAA International Conference in Osaka, Japan.

First ITAA Ethics Webinar on 21 February

by Anne de Graaf and Jan Grant, ITAA Ethics Committee Cochairs

We want to thank the ITAA members who took the trouble to complete the ethics survey. Reading what you wrote had two effects on us: (1) We feel seen and heard in our commitment to update ITAA ethical thinking and acting, and (2) we feel challenged to step it up a notch. Many of you inspired us with surprising ideas, which we would like to take advantage of.

Most survey responses showed a desire to bring ethics out of hiding. How do we achieve a culture shift in which the dialogue about what is appropriate and inappropriate, what is inadvisable and worthy of recommendation, what is worth pursuing and what should be avoided is at the heart of our professional exchange? Such questions call for an ongoing and never-ending dialogue in our TA community.

Some members reminded us that less emphasis on the Parent and more on the Adult should not mean letting go of the Parent. “There is nothing unhealthy about the Parent ego state,” one wrote. Ethics is also about protecting. We take that feedback seriously. The ethics committee is currently exploring ways to work

with the fact that “blame free is not the same as accountability free.”

In Search of the Truth

The ITAA Ethics Committee likes to work on the principle that you should never start an ethical debate with the intention of ending it. TA professionals should fear the

moment someone thinks they know “what’s right and what’s wrong” or “what’s acceptable and what’s not.” Actual events around the globe show the harmfulness of this “knowing the truth.” It contributes to polarization and even splitting. To paraphrase Václav Havel, poet and former president of the Czech Republic, do search the proximity of people who are in search of the truth and avoid



Ethics Committee members in December meeting: (top row from left) Anne de Graaf, Michelle Thomé, Pierre Sebregts; (middle row from left): Jan Grant, Tomoko Abe, Anne Tucker; (bottom row); Trudi Newton

First ITAA Webinar on Ethics

**“Open & Ongoing:
The Essence of the Ethical Dialogue”**

**Monday 21 February 2022 from
10am–11:30am UTC**

To register for this webinar,
please go [here](#)

the proximity of people who are sure they have found it! He knew from his own experience during the Cold War what he was talking about. The wars under which the world was burdened in the last century were all fought in the name of “the one and only truth.” There are risks in thinking within a single paradigm.

The tendency to search for closure in an ethical debate instead of pushing it a little more toward the

boundary and keeping it open ended is deeply rooted in human nature. It was the 18th century philosopher Emmanuel Kant who said that the most important questions for philosophy (for life) are: What can I know? What should I do? What can I hope? These questions create uncertainty, whereas most people, often driven by the desire to get a grip on a confusing world, avoid uncertainty like the plague. They welcome a leader, a tradition, a religion, or a code of ethics that tells them what to do and what not to. In contrast, we are encouraging practicing the endurance of not knowing, with all the discomfort that may come with it. There are no definitive answers to Kant’s questions. They are questions that require constant reflection.

Considering Ethics

When considering ethics, there are many gray areas. What seems right in one context may be wrong in

another. What we intend, and how our behavior affects others, can be two different things. Sometimes the code of ethics seems more about protecting professionals rather than clients. The best way to deal with ethical issues is to be willing to have a dialogue about what is happening, even when it is uncomfortable to do so. This requires openness and vulnerability.

The ITAA Ethics Committee feels stimulated and challenged to make our code of ethics less parental in dialogue with the members of the ITAA. Adult exchange on ethical dilemmas is at the heart of our ITAA community. From this (preliminary) view, we invite the members of ITAA to participate in the first online Ethics Committee webinar on 21 February 2022 from 10am–11:30am UTC. The theme will be “Open & Ongoing: The Essence of the Ethical Dialogue.” To register, please go to this [EventBrite page](#). 

Transactional Analysis Cumbrian Conference

**Saturday 26 February 2022—Online ❖ Keynote speaker: Enid Welford, TSTA
“Finding Balance in an Ever-Changing World”**

After a brilliant 2021 online conference at which we welcomed 450 people from 30 countries, we are planning to meet online once again in 2022.

Workshop presenters include: Gunjan Zutshi, Mathew Elton, Bev Gibbons & Nicole Lenner, Dr. Seema Pradhan & Raguraman K, Haseena Abdulla, Linda Gregory, Ian Tomlinson, Lisa Bedford-Cooper, Andy Williams, Sudha Thimmaiah, Rebecca Elston, Dr. Cathy McQuaid, Daniel Weaver, Annette Terry, Anna Zuykova, Maggi McAllister-MacGregor, Alison Betteridge, Karen Minikin, Alexis Brink, Michael Gavin, Claire Bowers, Enid Welford, Sarah Taylor, Kathy Johnston & Wilf Hashimi, Jamie McDowell & John Heath, James Sweeney & Paul Robinson, and Lyn Wall & Kate Jones.

Bookings for the 2022 conference can be made via our website: <https://tacumbria.co.uk/>. Tickets are by donation on a “pay what you can” basis. Book quickly for maximum choice of workshops!

Recordings of many of the workshops from 2021 can be viewed free of charge on our website at <https://tacumbria.co.uk/>. They offer a wealth of resources.

Our conference is known for the quality of our workshops and the warmth of our welcome. We look forward to welcoming friends old and new to “virtual Cumbria,” and hope you can join us!

www.tacumbria.co.uk



January TAJ on “Schiffian Reparenting Theory and Practice Reexamined”

We are pleased to announce that the January 2022 theme issue of the *Transactional Analysis Journal* will be available this month on the Routledge/Taylor & Francis TAJ site.

In their editorial, coeditors Bill Cornell and Diana Deaconu write:

The focus of this issue of the *Transactional Analysis Journal* (TAJ) is one that has been close to our hearts, both as coeditors and as members of the international transactional analysis community. Its importance stems from professional curiosity and responsibility—namely, that of examining the theory of Schiffian reparenting—and also from a desire to offer space for reflection about a significant troubled moment in the history of TA.

At the time of Eric Berne’s sudden and untimely death in 1970, transactional analysis was flourishing, and its growth was producing such novel and diverse approaches as rededication therapy, reparenting, and radical psychiatry. As is so often the case with a burst of new ideas, these innovations

were met with excitement, competition, and idealization.

Schiffian reparenting—a radical approach to the psychotherapy of schizophrenic disorders—was pioneered by Jacqui Schiff and her colleagues in the late 1960s. Although it was controversial within and outside of transactional analysis, Schiff’s work, and what came to be known as Cathexis theory, made important contributions to the development of transactional analysis. Ultimately, following a series of ethical and legal charges against Schiff and her staff, the International Transactional Analysis Association required her to undergo stringent peer supervision. By refusing that condition, Schiff terminated her own membership in the association.

It has required the passage of time and the thought and concern of second- and third-generation transactional analysts to sort through what happened. As part of that process, we decided to publish this theme issue to examine

both the controversies and the contributions of reparenting. And as an indication of the importance of these issues to us as coeditors, we have both contributed articles to this journal.

In a rather implicit way, we let ourselves as coeditors be guided in this endeavor by the philosophy of writing laid out by Eric Berne (1966). In his view, writers have two obligations: integrity and craftsmanship. The articles included in this theme issue approach the topic of Schiffian reparenting with sensibility, a sound understanding of transactional analysis theory and practice, and respect for one’s capacity to learn from owning one’s failures. In our view, the authors have therefore fulfilled their obligations. ...

We hope to convey in this theme issue of the *Transactional Analysis Journal* that the theories we articulate need to be considered seriously, not by viewing them as unquestionable truths that dictate our independent minds and practice but from a

place that facilitates dialogue and acknowledges the troubles in which we, as practitioners, may find ourselves at times.

The articles in this issue include the following:

- “Schiffian Reparenting: 15 Years in the Early TA Literature (1961–1975)” by N. Michel Landaiche, III
- “Transactional Analysis Literature on Schiffian Reparenting (1975–2022): Future Explorations” by N. Michel Landaiche, III
- “Memories of a Young Man: A Witness to the Hearings About Jacqui Schiff” by John R. McNeel
- “Schiffian Reparenting Theory Reexamined Through Contemporary Lenses: Comprehending the Meanings of Psychotic Experience” by William F. Cornell
- “A Therapeutic Stance Addressing Destructiveness: What We Can Learn From Looking Back at the Experience with Schiffian Reparenting” by Nicoleta Gheorghe, Marina Brunke, Diana Deaconu, Alexandra Gheorghe, and Lucia Ionas
- “Schiffian Reparenting: A Critical Evaluation” by Cholena Mountain

In addition, this issue contains the introduction of a new *TAJ* coeditor for research, Moniek Thunnissen, and new and continuing editorial board members.

We hope you find this theme issue thought provoking and stimulating and would love to hear your comments.

Reference

Berne, E. (1966). *Principles of group treatment*. Oxford University Press. 📖

Altmetric Score Is High for Oates Article on Neurodiversity

We have received the latest Altmetric data from Routledge/Taylor & Francis for the *Transactional Analysis Journal*. These represent a weighted count of mentions of a piece of research over time. These can include (but are not limited to) mentions on social networks such as Twitter and Facebook, discussions on research blogs, and mainstream coverage. This can be used to help determine an article’s influence within the field.

Since 1 December 2020, the *Transactional Analysis Journal* has received 70 mentions in total. The article published in the *Transactional Analysis Journal* with the highest Altmetric score to date in 2021 is “What If My ‘I’m OK, You’re OK’ Is Different From Yours? Could the Inherent Optimism in Transactional Analysis Be a Form of Compulsory Ableism?” This article by Steff Oates was published in the January 2021 theme issue on “Normativity, Marginality, and Deviance” (coeditors: Diana Deaconu and Helen Rowland), and Steff’s article has an Altmetric score of 12.

We will be publishing an article in an upcoming *Script* describing more about Altmetric data and what *TAJ* authors can do to increase their scores and promote their articles, especially on social media.

In the meantime, congratulations to Steff! 📖

2021 TAJ Bound Volume Available

The 2021 bound volume of the *Transactional Analysis Journal* was mailed in late November. Those members who are entitled to copies based on their membership category should receive them by mid to late February. If you have not by then, please check with Susan Lockwood at info@itaaworld.org to make sure you were on the list to receive a copy. If you were, then you may request a replacement copy of the 2021 bound *TAJ* by emailing the Taylor & Francis Customer Services team at societydata@tandf.co.uk. Make sure to put in the subject line “ITAA member – Transactional Analysis Journal” so your query is responded to quickly. 📖

TAJ Theme Issues

“Ecological

Transactional Analysis”

Coeditors: Giles Barrow, Hayley Marshall, and Sylvie Monin
Deadline: 1 February 2022

“Neurodiversity and Neurodivergence”

Coeditors: Steff Oates and Helen Rowland
Deadline: 1 February 2023

Please follow the submission requirements posted [here](#).

Email manuscripts to *TAJ* Managing Editor Robin Fryer, MSW, at robinfryer@aol.com.

IBOC and PSC Updates

by Jacqueline van Gent, Sue Eusden, Giles Barrow, and Karen Pratt

As we go into 2022, the planning for our next set of exams in March is already underway. The call for examiners went out on 3 December, and we closed the list on 19 December. Thank you to all who completed the Google form. We will be in touch soon. For anyone disappointed they could not be involved this time, please put the September dates in your diary and watch for the next call for examiners in your inbox.

If you did not receive the email for the **March exams**, please contact our administrator, Caroline Donovan (iboc@itaaworld.org), to check that your email address is up to date in our database.

We are also currently looking for expressions of interest for the **position of Regional Exam Coordinator for Europe**. This role deals with written Certified Transactional Analyst (CTA) exams: receiving the papers and finding examiners, communicating with candidates, and being part of an international team managing written exams across the world. Being able to communicate in English is a requirement. The workload is light, and the position is open to Teaching and Supervising Trans-

actional Analysts (TSTAs) based in Europe. A PTSTA may be considered in certain circumstances and if they can demonstrate relevant experience. Please write to us via Caroline (iboc@itaaworld.org) with your CV and a short outline of your interest in this role. The closing date for applications is 31 January 2022.

A few words re IBOC administration: First, **CTA and TSTA candidates please note that all forms for your exams (logs, etc.) must be submitted in PDF format**. Second, Caroline works part-time hours for IBOC, and she has more work than we originally realized, partly due to the increase in the number of exams and because we also want to improve our systems. She does not work for IBOC every day, and **we ask that you be patient and trust she will get back to you as soon as possible**. Thank you.

We also want to update members following the recent announcement by EATA's Professional Training Standards Committee (PTSC) regarding the TSTA examination. As readers will know, **EATA decided in July that they would not recognize the online teaching examination component offered by IBOC. Since then, PTSC has developed an**

alternative option for managing the teaching examination. This month EATA trainers and candidates were informed of these new arrangements, which present a significantly different process from that of the live and online formats offered by IBOC. Although we have significant reservations about the practical and ethical aspects of the revised arrangements, we also understand the challenge and dilemmas facing PTSC. Consequently, we have decided that **the success of candidates via the EATA process will continue to be recognized by IBOC**, although we will continue with our own online exam format for the teaching examination.

We also hope to introduce a new revision of the *Training and Examination Handbook* early this year. There have been a number of helpful questions and observations accumulating over the past couple of years that highlight discrepancies and ambiguities that we hope to address/clarify. We have also taken the opportunity to frame the *Handbook* in the context of ITAA's values and principles. In doing so, we have begun to acknowledge the need for widening engagement in terms of diversity/inclusion and ecological awareness. 📍

Call for ITAA Board Nominations

The following positions are open for nominations now. **Deadline for nominations:** 1 February 2022 11 pm (23:00) UTC.

President-Elect (2022-2023)

Vice President Operations (2022-2024)

Vice President Professional Standards (2022-2024)

Regional Representative - Europe (2022-2025)

Nominations require the name and consent signature of the nominee (it may be yourself), the name of the person making the nomination (if not the nominee), and the names of two people seconding the nomina-

tion (one may be the person making the nomination). To be eligible for nomination, trustees may not have already served two consecutive terms of office in any position on the board. Position statements (charters) that describe the function and selection criteria for each of the officer positions are available on the ITAA website at itaaworld.org and from nominations chair John Heath at johnheath105@gmail.com. Nominees are encouraged to read and understand those and the full nomination/election documents before accepting nomination. Send nominations to ITAA Nominations Chair John Heath at johnheath105@gmail.com.



2022 ITAA Online Conference

“Courage, Physis and Resilience: Resources for a New Emerging World”

3-5 June 2022

**Conference registration opens soon!
Watch for an email when more information is available.**

In the midst of the terrible experience of the pandemic, which has affected the whole world, we need as a scientific community to come together, feel the power of belonging, and regenerate through the sharing of knowledge, training, and the enrichment that comes from the perspectives offered by others. This is the context for the upcoming ITAA conference, which has the ambitious goal of invigorating the physis that dwells within us to help us be courageous and resilient in the process of adapting to our altered times.

The conference will run for 24 hours a day for 3 days to cover all time zones, and we hope you will join us. Watch *The Script* for further program details as they become available.

Alessandra Pierini, 2022 ITAA Online Conference Chair

Welcome to New Members

NOVEMBER 2021

Evangelia Baltouma, Greece
 Claire Bloxson, United Kingdom
 Marija Bogdanovic, Serbia
 Lenka Cassidy, United Kingdom
 Jayne Chadwick, United Kingdom
 Kruthika Devanathan, India
 Ling Fang, China
 Emma Jackson, United Kingdom
 Shuo-Yuan Kao, Taiwan
 Georgia Kordatou, Cyprus
 Dawn McFarlane, United Kingdom
 Tania Mills, United Kingdom
 Sanaze Mochki, United Kingdom
 Lyn Moodie, United Kingdom
 Snizhana Nikolaieva, Ukraine
 Neill O'Connor, United Kingdom
 Maurice Pigaht, United Kingdom
 Mathangi Ramprasad, India
 Melissa Ratcliffe, United Kingdom
 Alan Rooney, United Kingdom
 Salma Siddique, United Kingdom
 Niki Titi Andreadou, Greece
 Francesca Trigwell-Santi, United Kingdom
 Anne Wagner, United States
 Katerina Yurova, Russian Federation

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