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The Path Is Now Clear to Establishing a New Professional Association

by Thorsten Geck

I am happy to report that you have decided and given the ITAA Board of Trustees (BOT) a mandate to establish a professional association. This association will be the new home of all of our members once it is established. Here are the results of the election that ended on 17 October 2023:

Yes, I vote in favor of amending the statutes: 250

No, I vote against amending the statutes: 1

I abstain: 3

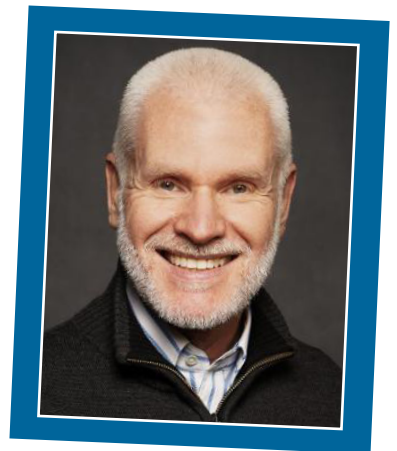
Thank you for your trust in the ITAA Board of Trustees (BOT), which has been steering this complex process for months!

What does this mean in practical terms:

With the approval of amending the bylaws, the BOT will now work with the ITAA lawyers to form a new professional organization called the International Transactional Analysis Association. Once this is done, members will be transferred without further action, and new members will be admitted to the new association.

The existing funds will remain in the "old ITAA," which will be called the ITAA Foundation. The *Transactional Analysis Journal (TAJ)* belongs to the ITAA Foundation, but members of the new association will have access to it, which we will arrange with the publisher, Routledge/Taylor & Francis.

The *Script* will be transferred to the new professional association, and ITAA conferences and training will be offered by the professional association.



How we distinguish between the two associations:

To make the new association feel like our “old home,” we are calling it the “International Transactional Analysis Association” (ITAA). The old home will now be called the “ITAA Foundation.” Our lawyer has filed these name changes with the relevant Californian agencies, and we have received confirmation that they have been accepted.

The two associations will be closely linked: Members of the new professional association will have access to TA’s heritage and treasures. So, although everything changes, much remains the same!

Here are a few terms that are important in the context of the changes we are undergoing:

- The ITAA Foundation is a C3 organization, more specifically an IRS 501 (c)(3), a public benefit association under California (CA) law. The ITAA Foundation and the original ITAA founded

“With the approval of the bylaws, the BOT will now work with the ITAA lawyers to form a new professional organization called the International Transactional Analysis Association. Once this is done, members will be transferred without further action, and new members will be admitted to the new association.”

by Eric Berne are C3 associations dedicated to the development and spread of TA. This name represents what the “old” ITAA stands for: It was founded to disseminate, publicize, and develop transactional analysis. It will hold the funds, the historical archives, and the *Transactional Analysis Journal (TAJ)*. The Board of Trustees will refer to the BOT of the ITAA Foundation (C3).

- The new association will be called the International Transactional Analysis Association (ITAA). The ITAA is a C6 organization, more specifically an IRS 501 (c)(6), a professional association under CA law. The new ITAA will represent the interests of members working with TA. The Board of Directors refers to the BOD of the ITAA (C6).

The members of the C6 will have access to the assets of the C3, and a reduced board of trustees will continue to run the business there.

We will keep you informed about further developments.

This is an important step for the ITAA. Standards and quality are becoming increasingly important in the professional world. At the same time, we do not want to lose sight

of the fact that TA is there for people, their needs, and their personal growth! With the change of the corporate form, we take into account the professional needs of the members and remain true to our values.

If you have any questions, please send them to president-itaaworld@use.startmail.com.

Thorsten Geck, ITAA President 

Welcome to New Members

SEPTEMBER 2023

Anara Akhmetzhanova, Kazakhstan
Stephanie Birtles, United Kingdom
Katie Bonner, United Kingdom
Amanda Bradley, United Kingdom
Joaquim Braga, Brazil
Ana Braidwood, United Kingdom
Tess Christy, United Kingdom
Louisa Clarke, United Kingdom
Zak Dakkash, Lebanon
Silvia Di Falco, Italy
Polly Dunlevy, United Kingdom
James Emanuel, United Kingdom
Louise Gill, United Kingdom
Smriti Goel, India
David Gowling, United Kingdom
Helen Lee, United Kingdom
Kieran Mac Feely, United Kingdom
Irene Massai, Italy
Doris Merkl-Davies, United Kingdom
Andrea Mills, United Kingdom
Lyn Moodie, United Kingdom
Paul Moon, United States
Barbara Nannini, Italy
Iryna Nekhoda, Ukraine
Silvia Palandri, Italy
Vani Prasanna, India
Lisa Rendell, United Kingdom
Elizabeth Ruffell, United Kingdom
Kim Siyeon, Korea, Republic of
Charalambos Soleas, Cyprus
Alessia Tintori, Italy
Sladjana Zelic, Serbia

SCRIPT

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Our Responsibility as Transactional Analysts in Relation to World Events: We Invite Your Responses

From time to time, shocking events dominate the news; they are in the foreground and move us. At the same time, there are developments in the world that are similarly worrying but are forgotten, overlooked, or seem less important.

These conflicts resonate with our inner feelings for many of us. Right now, my thoughts and feelings are with those who are affected by the current conflict in the Middle East and who have experienced and are still suffering.

“How do we as transactional analysts deal with events in our world that involve violence, suffering, death? How do we care for ourselves? How do we meet our clients? How do we respond to strong feelings and the invitation into not-OK positions in ourselves and our fellow human beings?”

This conflict raises, once again, many questions for us: How do we as transactional analysts deal with events in our world that involve violence, suffering, death? How do we care for ourselves? How do we meet our clients? How do we respond to strong feelings and the invitation into not-OK positions in ourselves and our fellow human beings?

We would like to hear from you on these and other questions that come up for you given the circumstances in your lives and our world. If you want to be in exchange about these, to seek conversation and/or dia-

logue, write to us here at *The Script* Members' Forum. We are looking for ways to make your voice heard.

Thorsten Geck, ITAA President

Human Beings Are Capable of Such Violence

As I have witnessed the eruption of horrifying violence between Hamas and the Israeli government, on the heels of Putin's vicious assault on Ukraine, I feel like a helpless and hopeless witness to the very worst of human nature.

Suddenly, unexpectedly, I found myself thrown back to TA classes I led more than 30 years ago for men serving life sentences for their truly horrible, violent crimes. They would be spending the rest of their lives in prison. Somehow, they had heard of Marty Groder's Asklepieion programs in prisons, and they approached me to lead a TA group with them. They had approached the University of Pittsburgh to have me given faculty status so that I could teach a "class." Some of the men lived with profound regret for their crimes; a few felt none. But they all shared a hunger for some human contact within the isolating and depersonalizing environment of the prison. With great persistence, I was able to gain permission to have a female cofacilitator (women were not allowed in a maximum-security prison). Carol and I worked with these men for more than 3 years. We led a group in a glass-walled classroom with armed guards outside.

Then Carol became pregnant, and pregnant women were not allowed in the prison. With great reluctance (on both sides), she said goodbye. After her baby was born, she made a video tape of herself with her newborn baby, saying hello and goodbye to the inmates. Video technology was very limited at that time, so the only room with the needed equipment was one with solid walls, self-contained. As the men watched the video, they became extremely upset, turned on me, and attacked me physically. The guards rushed in and pulled the men off me.

“Since the outbreak of this tragic war, there are growing calls for compassion and action for the suffering of the people on both sides of the conflict. This is essential. But compassion and empathy are relatively easy to come by. To face, frankly, the impact of the profound levels of depersonalization enacted by the leadership of both sides of this murderous, mutual assault is much harder to accomplish.”

The group members and I began to talk, and they told me that seeing Carol with her baby, clearly caring for her baby, was unbearable to them. Carol's future was in her arms; they were imprisoned with no future outside those walls. They thought I was incredibly stupid to have done this. They were right. And with this experience, I began to comprehend

October TAJ Free-Access Article Looks at Berne's Group Theory in Relation to War

For the October 2023 issue, the free access article is “War: A Transactional Group Analysis” by Keith Tudor. This timely article offers a brief review of Berne's application of group theory to the topic of war. Stimulated by the responses of governments and the governed to the coronavirus pandemic (from 2020) and the invasion of Ukraine by Russia (in 2022), Tudor considers how this specific aspect of Bernean group theory may be used to understand these and other examples of violations of group structure. The article and its analysis are first positioned as a transactional analysis contribution to social psychology. Following this, the article provides a review of the TA literature on war and a brief discussion of group structure and leadership; highlights the six ways Berne identified by which a group's existence can be terminated; and finally, suggests a certain sequence to these processes.

We hope all TAJ readers will read this article and use this important opportunity to encourage your colleagues and friends to learn more about contemporary transactional analysis. You will find the free-access article from the October issue available on the Taylor & Francis TAJ website. Look for the green checkmark in the lower right corner.

the consequences of relentless depersonalization as a foundation for violence.

We are witness to this in the horrifying outbreak of war, initiated by the Hamas barbaric assault on Israeli citizens. I very intentionally write Hamas here because I do not believe they represent the lived realities and wishes of the vast majority of Palestinians. Hamas, from my point of view (and there are many),

“Living with no sense of a future, with no experience of being known by those different from ourselves, breeds violence.”

has depersonalized both the Israelis and the Palestinians themselves. So, too, the current Israeli government and its occupying forces have treated the Palestinian people as nearly nonhuman beings.

Since the outbreak of this tragic war, there are growing calls for compassion and action for the suffering

of the people on both sides of the conflict. This is essential. But compassion and empathy are relatively easy to come by. To face, frankly, the impact of the profound levels of depersonalization enacted by the leadership of both sides of this murderous, mutual assault is much harder to accomplish.

Living with no sense of a future, with no experience of being known by those different from ourselves, breeds violence.

We are faced with a social and political world that has become increasingly motivated by men and women who appeal to fervent, compelling, nationalistic, and pseudo-religious motivations to depersonalize those who differ from themselves. The ultimate price of establishing a “belonging” and identity through demonization and depersonalization is murder.

I crave the days when we went to the streets in constructive protest, when we refused to accept the posturing

of government leaders. We thought for ourselves. We did not believe that governmental violence led to any lasting peace and respect for one another. We stood up together for the moral good, as we've witnessed more recently in the Black Lives Matter demonstrations.

On the wall of my waiting room is a poetry broadside written by Robert Bly bitterly grieving the deaths of children murdered by American soldiers attacking villages during the Vietnam War:

Counting Small-Boned Bodies
Let's count the bodies over again.

...

If we could only make the bodies
smaller,
Maybe we could get
A whole year's kill in front of us on a
desk!

We shall continue to count the bodies, small- and big-boned, so long as our leaders—and we as followers—see war as a more viable option than the toleration of differences and peaceful coexistence.

Bill Cornell, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States

Israel and Gaza: To Be Called “Sister”

Recent events in Israel and Gaza have been horrifying, and have left me with intrusive images and feelings of revulsion, anger, and despair about what is happening. It is a collective trauma and nightmare for people who live in these places and vicarious trauma for the rest of us. I desperately want a ceasefire and a pathway to peace, and right now, it seems to me insights and views need to be led by people who live or have roots there.

Amidst the images that have haunted me, especially at night, are the

“Recent events in Israel and Gaza have been horrifying, and have left me with intrusive images and feelings of revulsion, anger, and despair about what is happening. It is a collective trauma and nightmare for people who live in these places and vicarious trauma for the rest of us. I desperately want a ceasefire and a pathway to peace.”

memories I have of visiting these regions just about 30 years ago. Some readers know that in a former life, I worked as cabin crew, and many of the flights I did were to Africa and the Middle East. I often visited Tel Aviv, where I would take an afternoon walk along the beach up to Jaffa. Images of families eating in cafés and children playing on the beach enliven my mind, and I can almost feel the warmth of the sun on my skin. Likewise, when I visited Amman in Jordan and Damascus in Syria, I would walk around the streets. There were similar scenes there: Families and friends enjoying each other’s company over shared food.

Recently, I have seen photographs of Damascus—reduced to rubble, the city is destroyed. It is one of the most extraordinary places I have ever been to. A city that is 8,000 years old with the atmosphere of all those generations of people that have lived and walked there, and now that is gone. A sense of deep loss stirs in my body.

In those days, my hair was dark, and I could walk around in those places and be mistaken for a local. I used to relish that, to be in a place where I looked as if I could come from there. One day, in Amman, I

was drawn into a wood carving shop full of beautiful, intricate artefacts. The shopkeeper addressed me in Arabic, and like many times before, I explained my origins. He smiled warmly saying, “Then you are a sister.” The term has more than one meaning for me—and I am holding on to them all.

Karen Minikin, Wellington, Somerset, United Kingdom

Palestine and Israel: A Very Personal Response

I am writing this simply because I don’t know what to do with the pain in my heart.

My first father-in-law was a Palestinian Jew, born in Jerusalem of a mother, a fifth generation Palestinian Jew herself, also born in Jerusalem and a father who had fled there from Lithuania, probably to escape one of the pogroms. They would have lived among the many Palestinian Muslims and Christians. The Holy Land was holy to all of them. At some point in his childhood, the Turks expelled them, and thousands of other Russian connected Jews, from the region—it would seem more for their Russianness than their Jewishness, but who knows. They eventually returned home, but in 1930 he instead emigrated to South Africa, like so many at the time, seeking his fortune. This was all before the state of Israel existed and before the Nakba displaced so many Palestinians who were not Jews in 1948.

In South Africa he married, raised a family, became a successful businessman, and, in his own small way as a person classified White, was a beneficiary and supporter of the apartheid regime that came to power in 1947 (although the term only came into being in 1956). The

apartheid regime had a strange relationship to Israel: It was rife with antisemitism but supported Zionism. Israel was a strong ally to apartheid South Africa and helped it establish an armed nuclear capability.

On the other hand, the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa included many Jews from various parts of the world who, remembering their own oppression, refused to become oppressors themselves. Although the number of White people who took the risk of opposing the apartheid regime was small, the number of Jews involved in opposing it was disproportionately high. A significant number in South Africa today oppose the state of Israel for the same reasons.

“No state can ever be truly safe if its safety depends on the systematic oppression of its own people or its neighbors. That seems to me, a South African, a self-evident truth.”

For someone who grew up in that apartheid state, it is only too easy to see why Israel is described in similar terms. It is also clear to me that although race was a justification for our apartheid system, it was really all about land, displacement, exploitation, and colonial power. It seems to me the same is true of Israel. It is not really about the separation of faith or race. It, too, is about competition, dispossession, and, ultimately, survival. In a colonial system, the colonists will always be unwelcome; the colonized will always fight for their land and dignity and the colonists will have to fight for their survival ... until some other way is found.

The historic question of the rights or wrongs of the colonial endeavor is, in one sense, irrelevant. The col-

onists are now there and cannot be wished away. The White people in South Africa are there and now have a deep commitment to the country. The Jews living in Israel (those who support their government and those who do not) are there and have claims of their own (ancient and modern) to belong within the region. But, of course, the injustices of the colonial impact cannot be ignored. They are the basis for the Palestinian resistance (and let us remember this is not by any means confined to Hamas). No state can ever be truly safe if its safety depends on the systematic oppression of its own people or its neighbors. That seems to me, a South African, a self-evident truth.

As a therapist, I am awed and dismayed by the human capacity to reenact trauma—to visit on others the suffering we have endured. The Boers, in all sorts of ways, re-created for Black people exactly the same kinds of humiliation and dispossession to which the English subjected them during the Anglo-Boer wars around 1900. The only thing that can be said for the South African apartheid regime is that it did not attempt a systematic genocide. Only Hitler did that. That terrible wound is deeply part of the rationale for a Zionist state and the fear on which it was built. The wave of sympathy that flowed to the people of Israel from around the world after the horrendous Hamas attacks is now receding as the state unleashes its own terrible attack. Richard Poplak (2023), a journalist based in Johannesburg, recently described it so well: “Now, the mourning has been stripped of its dignity by a staggering display of rage—a bombing campaign that defies all logic outside of the crudest interpretation of dissuasion: this is what happens when you hurt us.”

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In South Africa, we still have a lot of work to do to heal the wounds of our colonial past, but we were fortunate to have great people to lead us out of our imprisonment. Albert Luthuli, Desmond Tutu, and Nelson Mandela (once jailed as a terrorist)—all Nobel Peace Prize winners—called on us to stand by the bold words of the Freedom Charter (1955):

“We, the People of South Africa, declare for all our country and the world to know: that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people; that our people have been robbed of their birthright to land, liberty and peace by a form of government founded on injustice and inequality; that our country will never be prosperous or free until all our people live in brotherhood, enjoying equal rights and opportunities; that only a democratic state, based on the will of all the people, can secure to all their birthright without distinction of colour, race, sex or belief; And therefore, we, the people of South Africa, black and white together equals, countrymen and brothers adopt this Freedom Charter; and we pledge ourselves to strive together, sparing neither strength nor courage, until the democratic changes here set out have been won.”

I deeply pray, in my nondenominational way, that the people of Palestine and Israel will find such leaders and such a Charter for their liberation and join us on the slow road to healing.

Diane Salters, Simon’s Town, South Africa

Reference

Poplak, R. (2023, 20 October). The Israel-Hamas war represents the Michael Bay-ification of geopolitics. *The Globe and Mail*. https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-whats-happening-in-the-middle-east-is-war-as-spectacle-viewer/?intcmp=gift_share



Keep Your Account Current

Remember, you are responsible for renewing your membership and making sure your account information is current online. If your postal address is not current, you will not receive the bound *Transactional Analysis Journal*. If your email is old, you will not receive *The Script* teasers. If you do not have a Consent to Use of Electronic Transmissions on file, you will not be able to receive the teaser or respond to ballots and other ITAA communications electronically.

To renew your membership and/or check your account information: Go to the ITAA website at www.itaaworld.com, click on “Member Login” in the upper right corner of the homepage. If your information does not appear, enter your username and password and click on “Log In.”

If you have questions or need help, please write to info@itaaworld.org.



Introducing Our Common Mission Statement

by John Heath

The following statement was delivered at the International Trainers' Meeting in Dublin, Ireland, on 4 July 2023. It concerns the Common Mission Statement that has been voted and agreed on by the ITAA Board of Trustees and the EATA Council. The actual statement is elsewhere on this page.

Mindful of the fact that this meeting is in Ireland, I begin with a reference to Seamus Heaney, one of Ireland's most famous poets, who won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1995 for "works of lyrical beauty and ethical depth which exalt everyday miracles and the living past." He certainly knew how to inspire! Heaney grew up in times when it was sensible to be careful about how you spoke in a public space, and he often began a lecture with advice he was frequently given in childhood: "Whatever you say, say nothing!" It sets the tone for what I want to achieve today, which is not literally to say nothing but to speak broadly and to share the spirit, or the dream, of this Common Mission Statement (CMS). My hope is that if I can catch the dream behind the words, then perhaps you

Common Mission Statement

Transactional analysis is a psychological approach to understanding individuals, groups, and community. The TA philosophy of equal relationship, mutual respect, and engagement is expressed in the ethical values and principles of our organizations. This is relevant to our relationship with each individual and each organization as well as to the environment and to the world as a whole. Our TA organizations embrace sustainability and social justice as part of our personal, professional, and ethical choices. We are committed to a perspective that embodies, celebrates, and accounts for interconnectedness, social responsibility, and care for our planet.

This statement has been voted and agreed on by the ITAA Board of Trustees and the EATA Council.

will catch it too, and that will be the best hope of it rippling out of this room and into the world.

The people involved in creating the CMS were all current or former post-holders in EATA or ITAA. The membership of the group included Peter Rudolph, Sylvia Schachner, Chitra Ravi, Adrienne Lee, Nicole Lenner, and myself. We were all clear that we were not working from a position of executive authority but from a base of long experience and affection for TA and our organizations. We tasked ourselves to dream a dream of a mission on behalf of both organisations and their members. The dream was of unity, and in particular, unity through diversity, which is what we find in organic systems. Biological and social systems progress through the activity of separate but linked parts. Each part does its job and is regulated in relationship with all the others. In a living system, no single part is in charge. Early neuroscientists, for instance, committed to a hierarchical view of the nervous system, searched for the "pontificate neuron" that held ultimate authority in the brain.

But no such structure exists. The brain is much more consultative than they imagined. Change in any part stimulates change throughout the whole system. A family is an example of a social system that works in a similar, organic way. Families work best, not when one person is in charge of everything, nor when all the members are the same, but when they regulate each other around the same core values and purposes. When families work like this, the diversity between individuals becomes an asset and an enriching feature.

When I first began my journey in TA around 40 years ago, one of the things that delighted me was that

“My hope is that if I can catch the dream behind the words, then perhaps you will catch it too, and that will be the best hope of it rippling out of this room and into the world.”

the theory I was learning was being taught all over the globe. I had only the most rudimentary idea of the organisational structures of the TA world, but I loved the idea that I was in some way part of a global community. So now, all these years later, to have had the experience of working with others to articulate a mission that might unite and cohere us in our diversity really is like a dream come true.

The statement starts off in a more or less standard way, describing TA as a way to understand individuals, groups, and communities. It goes on to assert our commitment


John Heath can be reached at johnheath105@gmail.com.

“Our dream embraces sustainability and social justice as a constant feature of our professional choices. And so the mission commits us to apply our theory in a way that contributes to taking care of the only place any of us can call home, the planet we live on.”

to equality, mutuality of respect, and engagement. This actually means that in our actions we will be involved with, and responsive to each other, whilst holding to core ethical values. The mission statement gets even more exciting then, because it states that this connectivity will extend not only to our members and organisations but also to the environment and the world as a whole. Our dream embraces sustainability and social justice as a

constant feature of our professional choices. And so the mission commits us to apply our theory in a way that contributes to taking care of the only place any of us can call home, the planet we live on.

This is the dream we are asking you to dream: that as a member of EATA and/or ITAA, either as an enthusiast, trainee, or qualified professional, you apply TA ethically, not only for the good of your clients and colleagues but also for the common good. This means, whatever our individual points of view or subjectivities, we task ourselves always to hold a bigger picture in mind, which is the good of the world we share with diverse creatures, diverse human beings, and diverse cultures.

It’s a big mission and, ultimately, perhaps the only one that counts. 

Award Nominations Sought

Eric Berne Memorial Award

Deadline: 1 December 2023

Send EBMA nominations to committee chair Lis Heath at lis.heath@gmail.com

Hedges Capers Humanitarian Award ❖ Muriel James Living Principles Award ❖ Fanita English Lifetime Achievement Award ❖ ITAA Service Award ❖ Goulding Social Justice Award

Deadline: 1 January 2024

Send nominations for the Capers, James, Goulding, English, and Service Awards to ITAA Secretary Rema K Giridhar at rema.k.giridhar@gmail.com

ITAA Research Award

Deadline: 1 January 2024

Send nominations for the ITAA Research Award to committee chair Rosanna Giacometto at rgiacometto@gmail.com

See the ITAA website at www.itaaworld.org/itaa-awards or contact the ITAA at info@itaaworld.org for details on making nominations for these awards.



Join Us for the Next ITAA-EATA Webinar 28 November 2023 10 am UTC

“Social-Cognitive Transactional Analysis:
Discovering and Exploring a TA Theory Development and Its Application in Practice”

with *Laura Bastianelli and Rosanna Giacometto*

The aim of this joint webinar is to **introduce social-cognitive transactional analysis (SCTA), a development of TA theory and practice.** Participants will learn about this model through direct experience and discussion in order to discover its application in practice and research.

Laura Bastianelli is a psychologist, psychotherapist, and Teaching and Supervising Transactional Analyst (psychotherapy). She lives in Rome, Italy, where she works in private practice as a psychotherapist and supervisor. She is an invited professor at the Pontifical Salesian University of Rome and a trainer at IFREP (Institute of Training and Research for Educators and Psychotherapists). She is a member of LaRSI (Lab for Research on Self and Identity), the research group at IRPIR (Institute for Research on Intrapsychic and Relational Processes, Rome). Since July 2013, she has been part of the EATA Transactional Analysis Theory

Development and Research Committee, first as the chairperson and then as a co-opted member. Laura can be reached at Via Ermogene 52, 00124 Rome, Italy; email: l.bastianelli@tiscali.it.

Rosanna Giacometto is a psychologist, psychotherapist, and Teaching and Supervising Transactional Analyst (psychotherapy) with a deep passion for TA in the educational field. She lives in Rome, where she works in private practice as a psychotherapist and supervisor. Rosanna is an invited professor at the School of Specialization in Psychotherapy of the Pontifical Salesian University of Rome. She also works in seminars for priest formation and is a clinical specialist in trauma-informed care, particularly advising



Laura Bastianelli

Rosanna Giacometto

on survivors of abuse engagement and safeguarding. She is a member of LaRSI (Lab for Research on Self and Identity), the research group at the IRPIR (Institute for Research on Intrapsychic and Relational Processes, Rome) and is currently chair of the ITAA Research Award Committee. Rosanna can be reached at Via Riccardo Grazioli Lante 15/a, 00193 Rome; email: rgiacometto@gmail.com.

Sign up for this webinar [here](#). 

Call for ITAA Board Nominations

The following positions are open for nominations now.

Deadline for nominations: 27 January 2024 11pm PST (23:00 UTC):

President-Elect (2024–2025)

Vice President Operations (2024–2027)

Vice President Research & Innovation (2024–2027)

Vice President Development (2024–2027)

Vice President Professional Standards (2024–2027)

Treasurer (2024–2027)

Regional Representative, North America (2024–2027)

Regional Representative, Africa/Middle East (2024–2027)

Regional Representative, Latin America (2024–2027)

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 name of two people seconding the nomination (one may be the person making the nomination). Trustees who have served two consecutive terms of office in any position on the board are not eligible for nomination.

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 Rema Giridhar at rema.k.giridhar@gmail.com. Nominees are encouraged to read and understand these and the full nomination/election documents before accepting nomination.

Send nominations to ITAA Nominations Committee Chair Rema

Giridhar at rema.k.giridhar@gmail.com.

Those who accept nomination to any of the above positions must sign the “Rules for Candidates Seeking Election” (see page 11), which they will receive from Rema Giridhar and are also posted on the ITAA website. They must also email a written statement (maximum of 250 words) and digital photo to Rema as soon as possible and no later than the 27 January 2024 deadline.

Important Note About Nominations for the ITAA Board of Directors and the ITAA Foundation Board of Trustees

Individuals who are nominated for the ITAA Board of Trustees by the 27 January 2023 deadline (and elected if the position is contested) will be serving on the Board of Directors of the new International Transactional Analysis Association C6 professional association once it is established. That is, they will govern the C6 as the Board of Directors.

Once the C6 is formed, the Board of Directors (C6) will then appoint the Board of Trustees (C3) for the ITAA Foundation. **We are also looking for interested persons to serve as President, Treasurer, and Secretary for the C3 ITAA Foundation Board of Trustees.** That board will be responsible for administering the ITAA Foundation, including the preservation and maintenance of the historical archives and the funds representing members’ assets. **If you are interested in any of these three positions, please contact the ITAA Secretary** Rema Giridhar at rema.k.giridhar@gmail.com. The guidelines for election (see page 11) to the current ITAA Board of Trustees (soon to be Board of Directors) will also apply to anyone expressing interest in serving on the new ITAA Foundation Board of Trustees.

Election Procedures: As per the ITAA bylaws, if there is no more than one candidate per position, there will be no ballot, and the results of the election will be announced in *The Script* newsletter. An unopposed candidate will take up his or her position following the Annual General Membership (AGM) meeting. If there is more than one nominee for a position, a ballot will be sent to all voting members within 45 days after the close of nominations. The deadline for return of ballots is 45 days from the date of mailing. The results of the election will be announced to the candidates within 45 days after the election results are determined.

If you have not already submitted a Consent to Use of Electronic Transmissions so that you are eligible to vote electronically in case of a ballot, we urge you to do so immediately by visiting [this link](#).

Rules for Candidates Seeking Election

3.4 Election Campaign Guidelines

Preamble. These guidelines are intended to assist in maintaining a spirit of collegiality and essential fairness in all ITAA elections and to keep the amount of campaigning and electioneering for trustee positions within established procedures. They also offer a procedure for identifying a campaign violation and spell out the consequences.

3.4a Endorsement of Candidates

- i. Individual members may endorse candidates for elected positions within the ITAA provided that such endorsement makes clear that it represents the personal view of the endorser. If such personal endorsements are made by individuals holding an elected,

appointed, or honored position within the ITAA, they may not mention their position within the organization as part of the endorsement.

- ii. ITAA resources may not be used for the purpose of supporting any one candidate over another.
- iii. The electioneering use of online, social media, newspaper/newsletter, or journal advertisements, as well as setting up websites and social media pages, is prohibited.
- iv. The association's newsletter may be used to report the candidacy of nominees and election results provided that the report is included as a news article and all candidates for a nominated position are represented.
- v. The staff of the ITAA are to refrain from electioneering in any form, including making personal statements regarding the qualifications of any candidate.

3.4b Campaign Statements

- i. Candidates may make written statements to appear in the ITAA newsletter at such time as the nominations are announced therein. Such statements will be confined to a discussion of issues facing transactional analysis and the ITAA as well as a brief personal biographical sketch. Statements from nominees for all positions may not exceed 250 words. Statements exceeding the word limit will be edited down at the discretion of the ITAA Managing Editor.

3.4c Campaign Spending and Membership Appeal

- i. Mass mailings, including mass emails, on the part of a candidate seeking nomination or election or on behalf of that candidate

by other individuals or organizations are prohibited. Although it is appropriate for nominees for elected positions within the ITAA to communicate their platforms and qualifications to the membership (see item ii below), mass mailings are deemed inappropriate because they create the possibility of unfair economic advantage for some nominees.

- ii. Individual personal letters, including emails or phone calls to friends and colleagues, are appropriate.
- iii. Form letters or "Dear Colleague"-type letters or emails sent by an individual or a group of individuals to a group of persons on a mailing list are not acceptable practice.
- iv. Setting up a website, distributing an electronic poll, and/or using social media in such a way that it may be deemed to be part of a future or ongoing election campaign is also not acceptable.

3.4d Dissemination of Information on Electioneering

- i. These election guidelines will be published in *The Script* newsletter at the same time and along with the announcement of the list of nominees for the year if there is at least one contested position and therefore an election ballot.
- ii. The ITAA Nominating Committee chair will mail a copy of the election rules to each candidate at the time his or her nomination is official. For nominations to be accepted, nominees must sign and date the rules form.

3.4e Reporting a Violation of Campaign Procedures

- i. Any member who suspects that he or she received or viewed communication from a nominee or on behalf of a nominee that violates

these election guidelines may file a complaint by emailing the ITAA Secretary.

- ii. Members are encouraged to first reach out directly to any such nominee to clarify his or her intent and to give the person feedback about the communication in question.

3.4f Violation of Election Guidelines

- i. These guidelines are posted on the ITAA website.
- ii. All nominees are expected to know the guidelines and will therefore be held responsible for following them even before the guidelines have been sent to them when their nomination is submitted. Any behavior counter to the guidelines, therefore, is considered a violation of campaign procedures.
- iii. The ITAA Board of Trustees will contact any nominee thought to be in violation of these guidelines as part of an inquiry into his or her actions.
- iv. If the Board of Trustees judges the nominee to be in violation of the guidelines, the person's nomination will be rescinded for that election cycle.
- v. The nominee will not be prevented from participating in future election cycles. 📍

ITAA Contact Info

ITAA
2700 E. Foothill Blvd., Suite 209
Pasadena, California 91107, USA
626-689-4810

Email: info@itaaworld.org .

Reminder to Apply to 2020 Birmingham Conference Grant Fund

The Birmingham Conference Grant Fund is established to provide discretionary grants and is potentially available to all those who booked and paid for the 2020 Birmingham TA World Conference and who did not have their booking fee returned by other means. A grant payment will be considered for those who have not had their booking fees covered by monies returned by the liquidator and/or payment card company, insurance, or other means. This grant is to be used toward furthering training and/or education in TA. Those wishing to apply to be considered for a grant will need to complete the form at <https://itaaworld.org/itaaworld2022/birmingham-grant-fund/>.

Deadline for submitting is 15 November 2023 and booking evidence is requested. 📍

Webinar Recordings Online

Ethics Committee webinar:

“From the Intrapsychic to the Systemic: Evolving Ethical Thinking”
27 October 2022

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CctEW-5H5-0>

Social Engagement Committee webinar:

“Hope & Despair: How Do We Conceptualize and Experience Them as Transactional Analysts?”
4 April 2023

<https://youtu.be/k9QRdVulOM>

Social Engagement Committee webinar:

“What Is Your TA Work or Your Idea of Social Engagement?”
30 October 2023

https://youtu.be/_5CUTP1Hd4c

Conference & Event Calendar

6 November 2023

EATA Outreach Program
Lisbon, Portugal

7 November 2023

Transactional Analysis Supervisors & Trainers Network Event
London, UK

11-12 November 2023

French-language TA Conference
Lille, France

19–21 April 2024

UKATA National Conference

IBOC News

October Online Exams

The October exams certified 15 new CTA colleagues, and 9 TSTA candidates passed combinations of the three TSTA exams. Involved were 45 CTA examiners, 25 volunteers for TSTA exams, and 29 TSTA examiners, all of whom gave their time to ensure 35 different exams happened over those 3 days. Candidates and examiners came from 26 different countries. So let's celebrate!

On Thursday 5 October, the following passed their CTA exams:

Anastasiia Borodkina, CTA-P, Russia
 Jaipreet Singh, CTA-C, India
 Jermund Norberg, CTA-P, New Zealand
 Josephine Devotta, CTA-C, India
 Kala Balasubramanian, CTA-P, India
 Lisa Paul, CTA-E, UK
 Milena Markovic, CTA-P, Serbia
 Natalie Astin, CTA-P, New Zealand
 Piyush Dixit, CTA-C, India
 Sharon Baker, CTA-P, UK
 Sophie Bruas, CTA-E, Kenya
 Susanna Scutt, CTA-P, UK
 Weihua Wang, CTA-P, China
 Yulia Radygina, CTA-P, Russia
 Zarko Ivanovic, CTA-P, Montenegro

Thursday through Saturday, 5–7 October, the following passed their TSTA exams:

Alan Jones, STA-P, UK
 Alice Timmermans, TSTA-O, NL
 James Sweeney, STA-P, UK
 Paul Robinson, TSTA-E, UK
 Sonja Billmann, TSTA-O, NL
 Sandor Antol passed his supervision exam and is now a TSTA-O, Hungary



CTA collage (from left, top to bottom): Kala Balasubramanian, Jaipreet Singh, Anastasiia Borodkina, Susanna Scutt, Sophie Bruas, Weihua Wang, Sharon Baker, Lisa Paul, Jermund Norberg, Natalie Astin, Piyush Dixit, Zarko Ivanovic, Yulia Radygina, Milena Markovic, and Josephine Devotta



TSTA collage (from left, top to bottom): Cholena Mountain (TSTA), Alan Jones (STA), Paul Robinson (TSTA), Frédéric Back (passed TOE), Alice Timmermans (TSTA), Danijela Budiša Ubovic (passed TOE), Sonja Billmann (TSTA), and Sandor Antal (TSTA) (Not shown: James Sweeney, STA)

Cholena Mountain passed her teaching exam and is now a TSTA-P, UK
Frédéric Back passed his TOE exam-P, France
Danijela Budiša Ubovic passed her TOE exam-P, Serbia,

We want to thank everyone involved:

CTA Examiners: Piotr Jusik, Monika Cox, Sudha Thimmaiah, Jr-Earn Lam, Taranjit Nair, Marleen Dehondt, Keiko Hoshino, Rosario Chavez, Raguraman K, Danijela Djuric, Lies de Bruijn, Marguerite Sacco, Olivier Sprangers, Haseena Abdulla, John Evans, Sushma M R, Roxana Draghici, Kate Hardy, Gerry Pyves, Prathitha Gangadharan, Debi Davidson, Seema Pradhan, Ioana Cupsa, Maya Lutay, Claire Bowers, Maja Delibasic, Lyn Wall, Liliana Horvath, Alina Brigitte Rus, Alistair Berlin, Zoryna Sevalneva, Frouk Willering, Alina Comendant, Jane Tillier, Annette Terry, Suriyaprakash C, Nims Dhawan, Linda Gilliam, Marion Umney, Michelle Hyams-Ssekasi, Cholena Mountain, Nicole Lenner, Julie Hay, Vaaruni Sundar

TSTA Volunteers: Sudha Thimmaiah, Jr-Earn Lam, Taranjit Nair, Beatrijs Dijkman, Marleen Dehondt, Keiko Hoshino, Rosario Chavez, Raguraman K, Danijela Djuric, Lies de Bruijn, Marguerite Sacco, Sushma M R, Gerry Pyves, Prathitha Gangadharan, Debi Davidson, Seema Pradhan, Ioana Cupsa, Maya Lutay, Maja Delibasic, Alistair Berlin, Jane Tillier, Michelle Hyams-Ssekasi, Vaaruni Sundar, Annette Terry, Alla Babich

TSTA Examiners: Anne Tucker, Susan George, Mandy Lacy, John Savage, Susie Katharine Hewitt, Karen Pratt, Lieuwe Koopmans, Blanka Cepická, Harry Gerth, Tomoko Abe, Rosalind Sharples, Evelyne Papaux, Michele D'Errico,

Julie Hay, Olivier Montadat, Jan Grant, Dina Kononova, Boris Volodin, Marij Peeters, Patrick Brook, Sandra Wilson, Sashi Chandran, Gemma Mason, Marion Umney, Matti Sannen, Valerie Redman, Traian Bossenmayer, Eleonore Lind, Karen Minikin

Exam staff: CTA Exam Supervisors—Marian Timmermans & Jacqueline van Gent. TSTA Exam Supervisors—Sue Eusden & Jacqueline van Gent. Volunteer Coordinators—Tess Elliott and Haseena Abdulla. TSTA Zoom Assistants—Tin Vanderhoeven, Nicole Lenner, Beatrijs Dijkman


The next exams will be 21–23 March 24. The call for examiners will be sent out to all certified members in early December, so please watch out and sign up there if you want to be part of the next exam set.

Applying for CTA Contracts and Submitting CTA Written Exams Online

It is now possible to submit and pay for your CTA contract and CTA written exam online. Please use the link <https://iboc.itaaworld.org>. This will be on the Training and Certification in TA page on the ITAA website. If you send in your contract/written exam to the administrator, she will direct you to the correct place. Please inform your candidates and colleagues of this new format and start using it. Because it is a new system, we also welcome feedback from you. This is a big improvement, and we hope it will reduce our admin work, make things easier and faster for members, and help us build good digital systems. We will continue to add similar procedures for TSTA contracts and other *Handbook* forms over time.

Once Yearly TEW

The IBOC has decided to run one TEW per year. We had been running two, but the number of applicants has reduced such that one per year should be sufficient. Please check the dates on the website.

Jacqueline van Gent (jacqueline@itaaworld.org) & Sue Eusden (sue@itaaworld.org), IBOC Cochairs 

TAJ Theme Issues

“Intimacy and Creativity Within the Real Self: Revisiting Berne’s Secret Garden”

Coeditors: Edward T. Novak and Karen Minikin
Deadline: 1 February 2024

“Relationships in Love, Play, and Work”


Coeditors: Brad McLean and Helen Rowland

Deadline: 1 August 2024
Please follow the submission requirements posted [here](#).

Submit manuscripts through the TAJ Submission Portal by going to “Submit” [here](#).

Reminder to Access the TAJ via the ITAA Website

As of 2 August, ITAA members were able to access the *Transactional Analysis Journal (TAJ)* only via the ITAA website instead of going through the Taylor & Francis website.

If you require assistance, please contact ITAA Vice President Development Michelle Thomé at michellethome@gmail.com or ITAA Vice President Research & Innovation Steff Oates at lfan@me.com 

What It's Like Being on the Ethics Committee and What's Happening Now

by Anne Tucker

I didn't know what to expect when I agreed to be on the ITAA Ethics Committee. I had a go at reading through the manual, which I found rather daunting and somewhat stern. I was asked to sign a contract, which I thought was "very TA" and that outlined clearly and concisely what was expected of me. When I raised a suggestion and found a receptive audience, I thought, "Well, this is a good start. My contribution is valued and respected." I was warmly welcomed and experienced a commitment to building good relationships with a team that meets monthly. It felt collegial.

One of the first tasks I was involved in was developing and conducting a survey (June 2021). We agreed on four questions:

1. What do you value about the current ethical discussion in ITAA?
2. What do you value about the ITAA Code of Ethical Conduct and the Ethics Procedures Manual?
3. What do you value about the current activities of the ITAA Ethics Committee?

4. What would you value in future developments and actions with regard to ethics in the ITAA?

Over 12% of members across all four TA fields responded with thoughtful, constructive comments. The results were covered in our first ethics committee webinar in November 2021. As I reread those now, I realize again how engaged members' responses were. Although we have not yet met all of your requests, we are slowly working our way through them.

Many of you said how much you appreciate the ethics articles in *The Script* as each committee member presents some thoughts and asks pertinent questions. We trust you continue to find these useful and thought provoking.

One request from the survey was that we let you know what we are up to on the committee, so here is an update:

■ **As of 2023, we have four new members:** Emma Haynes (TSTA-P, England), Marina Rajan (TSTA-E, India), Keiko Hoshino (PTSTA-E, Japan), and John Evans (PTSTA-P, New Zealand). We continue to meet monthly for 1.5 hours and work well together.



■ There have been a **couple of ethical issues of concern raised that we have been addressing.** In addition, Alex van Oostveen (a previous committee cochair) and I contracted with the committee to work through the current ethics procedures manual addressing a request from the Board of Trustees some years ago to revise the manual and consider including a mediation process. Taking into account survey feedback, we have restructured the manual, changed the punitive language in a way that we trust will be engaging and finding the learning edge, and integrated a mediation as well as restorative process. We also

“Taking into account survey feedback, we have restructured the manual, changed the punitive language in a way that we trust will be engaging and finding the learning edge, and integrated a mediation as well as restorative process. . . . We have been mindful of reflecting the Adult ‘spirit of inquiry’ that many of you wanted and at the same time being clear about a process if a respondent is not able to see their part in the issue that has been raised.”

included some colorful diagrams, including a flowchart showing the process. We have been mindful of reflecting the Adult “spirit of inquiry” that many of you wanted and at the same time being clear about a process if a respondent is not able to see their part in the issue that has been raised. We have also continued with the values and principles of TA and the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. At the same time, we have continued to be clear about the parameters of abiding within an ethical code that honors TA principles. We have also taken account of your request for examples that show how to use the ethical grid that so many of you find helpful.

■ In addition, **we have kept in mind your request for training resources for teaching about ethics.** We have some exciting ideas about how we might gather those (watch future *Scripts*).

Of course, the updated proposed ethics manual will need to go through its paces with the ITAA

Anne Tucker can be reached at annetuckernz@gmail.com.

Board of Trustees, and we trust you will have the opportunity for input. We were delighted to meet with the cochairs of the International Board of Certification and the Professional Standards Committee and to receive their glowing responses.

■ Next year we also hope to reengage in holding webinars, which many of you requested we continue to provide. One of the key elements in the survey was your

appreciation and ongoing openness and opportunity to talk about ethics. You want the opportunity to discuss ethical issues and to talk about how to teach ethics, so we will look forward to planning those webinars and engaging with you when they occur in 2024. **Let us know if you have some pressing issues you want us to consider in the webinars. Your thoughts are always welcome.** 📍

ITAA Members Now Have Free Access to *Psychodynamic Practice: Individuals, Groups and Organisations*

We are excited to announce that **ITAA members may now access the *Psychodynamic Practice: Individuals, Groups and Organisations* journal and its archive directly from the ITAA website.**

Psychodynamic Practice: Individuals, Groups and Organisations was chosen by the TAJ coeditors because of its interesting and wide-ranging articles and the fact that it is relevant to practitioners working in many TA fields. It publishes articles on counseling, psychotherapy, and consultancy for those who use psychodynamic thinking and explores psychodynamic ideas for occupational settings. *Psychodynamic Practice* emphasizes setting and application as well as theory and technique and focuses on four broad areas:

- Clinical practice
- The understanding of group and organizational processes
- The use of psychodynamic ideas and methods in different occupational settings (for example, education and training, health care, social work, pastoral care, management, and consultancy)
- The understanding of social, political, and cultural issues

The journal aims to make psychodynamic ideas accessible to a broad audience and is a home for new, as well as experienced, writers. Each issue contains an editorial, articles, short papers, and book reviews. An Open Space section contains short papers that reflect a range of themes, preoccupations, and experience, including thoughts inspired by longer articles and the relationship between psychodynamic understanding, culture, and the arts.

To access *Psychodynamic Practice*, first make sure you are signed in to your ITAA account (using Member Login in the upper right corner of the homepage of the ITAA website). Then, click on the button under the *Psychodynamic Practice* paragraph that says “Click here.”

We know you will enjoy reading this journal and welcome your comments.

Transactional Analysis Supervisors & Trainers Network (TASTN-UK) is holding an event entitled “**Existential Issues in the TA Community: Destabilisation and Restoration of Balance**” on **Tuesday 7 November 2023 in London, United Kingdom**. The challenge of the day will be to identify the significant existential issues that are relevant in local, regional, and global communities and to find the means by which the potential polarities can be unified in the process of equanimity. Trainers and supervisors of TA from all fields will be invited to connect, think, and engage at several metalevels, from the social, psychological, and existential. For more information and to register, visit <https://padlet.com/AndyWilliamsTSTA/tastn-uk-8qvt9hga69k19c9o/wish/2721317669>. The TASTN-UK Network is a group of suitably qualified practitioners from all fields of TA who have a professional interest in delivering supervision and training employing transactional analysis. This group originates in the UK but all are welcome from across Europe and internationally. The TASTN is not affiliated with any organization and fosters openness and welcomes all who deliver TA training and supervision.

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THE SCRIPT

In Memoriam

Grainger Weston of Texas died on 7 October 2023. Dmitry Kasyanov of St. Petersburg, Russia, has written that Grainger “sponsored



Dmitry Kasyanov (left) and Grainger Weston in Jamaica in 2011

many TA events not only in the United States but also in Russia, especially in the late 1980s and the 1990s. Because of his personal involvement and help, several prominent TA people visited St. Petersburg, including Tom and Delphine Frazier, Denton Roberts, Felipe Garcia, Ruth McClendon and Les Kadis, and Petruska Clarkson and Sue Fish. Grainger laid a foundation for further TA professional training in Russia. As a result, TA here is a popular growing branch of humanistic psychology that helps people live in harmony with themselves and the world. Amazing how one man did such a noble thing—in the right time and the right place!” We agree and will be publishing a longer piece about Grainger in an upcoming *Script*.

George Imperato of Albany, New York, died at age 94 on 3 October 2023. After an early career as a scientist, he pursued a degree in mental health counseling and embarked on a second career as a psychotherapist. During that time he was involved in the Eastern Regional Transactional Analysis Association community with his wife Gloria Wax (who predeceased him). A funeral service was held on 16 October 2023.



Gloria Wax and George Imperato