

## **TA CONFERENCES: Closed Circuits or Open Forums? A Dutch Experiment**

by Anne de Graaf  
and Raïssa Verdult

### **Unless We Change**

Most transactional analysis conferences are events where TA professionals meet other TA professionals to talk about recent developments in transactional analysis theory and practice. We love these events. We enjoy meeting people we have known for years. Most of the time we leave nourished and inspired. Although these conferences may be a celebration for our transactional analysis community, they are closed circuits. They are not easy to access for professionals with a different background or education or for a wider public with an interest in transactional analysis. In times when the interest in transactional analysis theory and its application is increasing, we

*"We need to open up our community to engage in dialogue with professionals from the academic world, the general public, and corporate organizations."*

need to open up our community to engage in dialogue with professionals from the academic world, the general public, and corporate organizations. Transactional analysis can have an enormous impact, especially in the field of organizations, where facilitating growth and stimulating change is a constant challenge. Opening up is vital for our transactional analysis community in order to grow, to develop, and to continue to be relevant in our changing world. We were inspired by what Richard Erskine said in his keynote speech at the ITAA World Conference in Johannesburg: "Unless TA changes, it will become absolutely irrelevant in our changing culture." We think that is absolutely true, and we would like to add: Unless transactional analysis changes it becomes totally irrelevant to the world of organizations.

### **Open Forum**

This reasoning inspired a group of transactional analysis professionals in the Netherlands, from the Dutch Association for Trans-acti-onal Analysis ([www.nvta.nl](http://www.nvta.nl)) and from a national consultancy firm that uses TA concepts in its consultancy, training, and interim-management work ([www.bmc.nl](http://www.bmc.nl)), to experiment with the annual national transactional analysis conference. We designed a TA conference as an open forum for debate and dialogue on creating a

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## **ITAA Board Meeting: Actions, Issues, and Plans**

by Gianpiero Petriglieri

The ITAA Board of Trustees (BOT) met for two full days in Johannesburg, South Africa, prior to the beginning of the 2008 World TA Conference. Since I was not able to attend in person due to the impending birth of my son, ITAA Vice President of Operations C. Suriyaprasaksh chaired the meeting as per the bylaws. Board members present included Lorna Johnston, Moniek Thunnissen, Trudi Newton, I. A. Mohan Raj, John Heath, Joaquín Granados-Rossi, Dan Cauble, Jan Grant, Gloria Noriega, Diane Salter, Anne de Graaf, and Maria Teresa Tosi. I participated by teleconference. Gaylon Palmer sent regrets. Immediately after the quorum was established, the board ratified the appointment of Trudi Newton as the new vice president of training and certification.

We spent the first portion of our meeting reviewing the past 12 months. Last year, 2007, was, by all means, a very good year for the ITAA. We closed it with 1548 active members, a 3.5 % increase over 2006 and our highest count since 2001. Over the year we welcomed 170 new members, the second highest number of new members in a decade. Financially, we were able to limit our costs and—thanks to the measures decided on in San Francisco and to Lorna's close supervision of our cash flow—we closed the year with a lower deficit than we had budgeted for. We only had to withdraw 11,575 USD from our investment funds capital, the lowest yearly sum we have taken out since 2003. We cohosted a successful conference in San Francisco, and our publications—which regularly shipped on

time—continued to generate much interest and lively debate.

Judging from its first half, 2008 also looked promising from many perspectives. We will likely be able to match our 2007 membership count. We published a new book—*Explorations in Transactional Analysis* by Bill Cornell—which has already generated much positive attention within and beyond the transactional analysis community. We cohosted the first ever international transactional analysis conference in Africa, and we developed a solid pipeline of conferences that extends into the next 3 years—resolving to manage them actively so that they are successful from the academic, community-building, and financial points of view. These successes would have been impossible without the commitment,

*"A committed and engaged membership is vital to the success of the association—the ITAA does not have members, it is its members."*

dedication, and work of the ITAA BOT members, volunteers, and staff that oversaw and/or managed them.

Alongside our successes, however, there were reasons for concern and areas in which we need to improve. The recent turmoil in the global markets stresses our current financial model. It highlights our vulnerability in depending on invest-



ments interest—and even capital—for financing daily operations. Several BOT members questioned whether the funds we continue to withdraw from our investments are used in the service of a vision for the ITAA's future. Others felt we lack a sound strategy for the association's development in the next 5 years, inclusive of indicators that may allow us to measure the return on our investments and activities. There was also a desire to discuss the culture of the BOT as a group and the ways in which it may reflect, or not, the culture of the association at large. Despite several successful initiatives, some BOT members harbored a sense that following an inspiring meeting in San Francisco, we had not done enough work with each other throughout the year. Executive committee teleconferences had largely been dedicated to reacting to emerging issues, and it had felt difficult for the BOT to remain in close and productive contact.

The 2007 BOT meeting had, in large part, been about affirming a vision for the ITAA as an international membership organization, based on participation, dedicated to the development of the global transactional analysis community. It

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## **Transactional Analysis in Romania**

by John Parr

On 3 July 2008, in Ljubljana, Slovenia, Ioana Duma, a doctor of psychology from Timisoara, West Romania, passed her Certified Transactional Analysis (CTA) oral examination in the psychotherapy field. Ioana is the first qual-



John Parr teaching in Romania with the help of translator Anca Coman from Bucharest

ified Romanian transactional analyst, and her success marks the end of almost 8 years of building a now thriving transactional analysis community in Romania. Hopefully, in 2009, a second Romanian, Vera Parausici, also from Timisoara, will take and, I am confident, pass her oral exam.

This all started in 1999, when Adriana Serbescu, a graduate in psychology from Timisoara University, contacted me via the Internet and asked, "Can you tell us how to qualify as a transactional analyst?" A professor at the university, Viorel Prelici, had introduced his students to the work of Berne, and this inspired them to go further. I agreed to go to Timisoara to run a TA 101 and to follow it with a seminar on training in transactional analysis.

I knew almost nothing about Romania, other than Ceausescu, Nadia Comaneci, and the orphanages. I discovered later that in Romania, under Communist rule, psychology had been illegal. As a result, few psychologists knew the practice of psychotherapy. There had been no formal training in transactional analysis, and they were eager to learn how to apply their psychology professionally.

Adriana told me that they were not "cash rich," although they could offer me my airfare. I contracted with them that I would come once at my own expense, and in return, they could show me a little of their country. This resulted in my receiving a breathtaking car ride between Timisoara and Bucharest, over 3 days, through magnificent mountains and picturesque towns and villages.

When I arrived to run the first TA 101 in Romania, I was rather surprised to find that I had a group of 89 students in a tightly packed room. We worked through translation for 3 full days (24 hours in total), and by the end of the workshop, the vast majority wanted to continue transactional analysis training, despite attending a seminar on what a training program would look like and the cost to them in time and resources. They were enthusiastic and hungry for knowledge and skills and asked if I was willing to return again soon for another TA 101 and to stay an additional weekend to run an intermediate-level workshop. Because I was impressed by their proactive attitude and their thirst to learn, I agreed to come again. This was not a difficult decision, because I was enjoying Romania, including their food and weather (well, I am English) and their warm and friendly way of being.

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became clear that this year's would be about the ITAA's strategy and culture. In discussing each topic on the agenda, the board considered four questions: Does this initiative advance transactional analysis theory and practice? Does it develop the international transactional analysis community? Is it potentially global in reach? Does it reinforce ITAA's identity as an inclusive, welcoming, diverse, professional, and collaborative association? As we took a strategic viewpoint, it felt important to consider what our decisions and practices convey about the ITAA as an association.

We engaged the topic of the BOT culture immediately after the aforementioned overview. Two themes emerged from the conversation and undoubtedly deserve revisiting, deepening, and broadening in the near future. The first theme is the ongoing tension, felt on the board, between the two "souls" of the ITAA—that of "professional community" and that of "social movement." We seem to aspire to be both an efficient organization and a value-driven community. The tension between the two has generated much of our uniqueness. The same tension also underpins many conflicts between members who value one "soul" slightly more than the other, as each comes with its own vision of success and its desired leadership style and management structure. Keeping this conflict constructive and creative is a challenge that requires trust and flexibility and one that we do not always live up to.

The second theme was the perception of a growing disconnect between the BOT and the ITAA membership. The lack of contests for any of the

open BOT positions and a letter from Bill Cornell and Jim Allen expressing concern about the impact on the association of the lack of elections gave us reason to ponder. We considered very seriously to what extent the BOT successfully keeps the broader membership informed and involved. Whether or not contested elections are held for each BOT position, we renewed our commitment to operating in a democratic fashion, which requires engagement on both sides of the board boundary. I will write more about this topic in future issues of *The Script*. It is important to mention it here because the BOT addressed the issue carefully and with passion. In short, membership engagement emerged as a strategic priority.

A committed and engaged membership is vital to the success of the association—the ITAA does not *have* members, it *is* its members. Therefore, a membership campaign is a logical next step. The board directed the membership committee to prepare a proposal for a "2010 by 2010" campaign. The goal, as the name suggests, is to close the year 2010 with 2010 active ITAA members. Surprisingly, we have often shied away from such concrete goals. While we acknowledge that membership engagement is a much broader issue than reflected in membership count, we are challenging our community to set a stretching, measurable target for its wish to prosper.

We reaffirmed once again the strategic importance of conferences. We are now looking ahead at a pipeline of inspiring events. The 2009 conference will be held in Lima, Peru, in collaboration with the local transactional analysis association and the Latin America regional association (ALAT). The contract is signed and the planning is well under way. In 2010, to celebrate the centennial of Eric Berne's birth, the ITAA will host a conference in his birthplace of Montreal, Canada. In 2011, it will be time for another World Conference in Europe. A contract draft for World Conferences every 3 years was reviewed by the BOT and is currently being considered by EATA and WPATA. Pending their decision, the signature of this contract will be a concrete landmark of our commitment to interorganizational collaboration.

Several projects were taken into consideration in the development area. The board approved pursuing the publication of a new book by Claude Steiner as well as a volume of EBMA-winning articles translated into Spanish under the editorship of Gloria Noriega. Next, we discussed the digitization of Eric Berne's tapes at the University of California, San Francisco, and decided not to include this project in the development portfolio. A 10,000 USD budget was approved for the incoming vice president of development to use for marketing existing products and services and for new initiatives. Finally, we reinforced our commitment not to undertake projects under any circumstance without a clear, signed written contract. Honoring a 2005 agreement, the ITAA will release the second installment of funding for USATAA to continue the revitalization of transactional analysis in the United States. Because the 2005 agreement lacks specific terms, the ITAA vice presidents of research and innovation and training and certification were tasked to develop with USATAA leaders concrete performance indicators for the release of the third installment.

Trudi Newton, our new vice president of training and certification, outlined the various bodies overseeing and managing transactional analysis training and certification globally. There was discussion of different images of the collaboration between the ITAA and the Training & Certification Council and of the need to articulate a partnership agreement. This will be done in the coming year. We also requested that the office staff update the members' list to reflect accurate qualifications and fields of certification. Next, we discussed whether the BOT structure and current bylaws could be improved to make the governance of the association more inclusive and efficient. We decided to define the regions as Asia/India, Africa, Australasia, Latin America, Europe, and North America—with one trustee elected from each region. Pending a legal opinion, we shall also put forward to the membership

a bylaws change that would allow for Internet-based voting.

On the financial side, after reviewing the Talent fee structure last year, this year we reviewed the full membership fees. These had remained stable since 2005 despite a significant drop in the value of the US dollar. There will be an increase in 2009 to 80 USD (for Associate and Student Members), 130 USD (Regular and Certified Members), and 200 USD (TSTAs). EATA TSTAs, who benefit from a discounted fee, will be offered the option to pay the full fee if they wish to do so. This is in line with what we currently do for other discounted membership fees (i.e., the Talent rates). We also agreed to hire a professional wealth manager to conduct a review of the ITAA's investment portfolio and tasked the finance committee to prepare a policy paper for the possibility of inviting ITAA members to bequeath funds to the ITAA in their wills. Any portion of the presidents' expenses budget that remains unspent will be distributed to the ITAA staff as bonuses at the end of 2008.

Finally, we expressed gratitude for the generosity of Bill Cornell, who donated all revenues from his book to the ITAA, and to Diane Salters, Sharon Kalinko, and their team for the vision and organization of the South Africa conference. We also acknowledged our gratitude for the work of those BOT members whose term ends this year:

Lorna Johnston, Gaylon Palmer, Gloria Noriega, Jan Grant, I. A. Mohan Raj, and Anne de Graaf. In the last few weeks, the nominees for president-elect, secretary, treasurer, and vice president of development announced their resignations. These positions will therefore be vacant from 1 January 2009. The board is investigating options for filling them, including the possibility of holding a new election.

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## DUES INCREASE ANNOUNCED

As of 1 January 2009, ITAA membership dues will be as follows:

- Association and Student Members: \$80 US
- Regular and Certified Members (CTAs): \$130 US
- Teaching Members (TSTAs): \$200 US

Talent rates will not change.

## TA Conferences

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healthy work environment in organizations. This topic seemed to be most open for "translation" into transactional analysis language. We all know that a healthy stroking climate offers solid prevention against game playing! The conference—entitled "Climate Change in Organizations! Soft or Serious Business?"—is a working conference for (executive) managers, (HR) consultants, coaches, and trainers who want to be(come) "climate managers" involved in creating a healthy workplace climate. At the time we are writing this (mid-September), over 300 participants have registered, and we expect more registrations in the weeks prior to the conference on 6 November. In a future edition of *The Script*, we will inform you of the results of this experiment.

### Too Much of an Impact to Ignore

The starting point for our thinking about this conference was an article by Daniel ("Emotional Intelligence") Goleman (2000) in the *Harvard Business Review* in which he stated that "when we look at the impact of workplace climate . . . [it] accounts for nearly a third of the results. And that is simply too much of an impact to ignore" (p. 82). If the employees go blithely to their work, eager for the day ahead, and return home feeling energized and happy about what they have done, the organization achieves: better results, better services to customers, a pleasant and productive atmosphere, and lower absenteeism. Moreover, the employees feel more engaged with the organization, they grow and develop more easily, and they are less inclined to seek employment elsewhere—an important advantage in these times of critical labor shortages.

### A Transactional Analysis Connection

At the conference, participants will be invited to interact with several keynote speakers to discuss the topic of "humanity in organizations" and to ask themselves the following questions: Why do so many employees leave their organizations to start businesses of their own? What does that tell us about what it is like to work in organizations these days? Participants can meet with senior managers who created a climate change in their work environment. This gives them the opportunity to enlarge their knowledge, exchange best practices, discuss business cases, and, of course, network. In each part of the conference, insights will be connected to transactional analysis con-



Raïssa Verdult and Anne de Graaf

cepts because they provide a flexible and creative approach to understanding not only how people, teams, and organizations function, but also how to stimulate development, growth, and healthy interactions. Transactional analysis, as we all know, is a powerful tool for building common strategies for addressing the particular needs of organizations, for forging functional relationships, and for reinforcing productive, problem-solving behaviors. In the process, dysfunctional organizational behaviors are eliminated. Transactional analysis stimulates autonomy, empowerment, and healthy workplace relationships, resulting in vital, flexible, focused people and organizations.

We are really looking forward to this conference and believe that national, multinational, and international transactional analysis organizations should take this model forward. We all know that transactional analysis is a great theory and a powerful tool. What about telling others?

For more information on the program, go to the conference Web site at [www.werkklimaat.nl](http://www.werkklimaat.nl). For the English version, please click on the link at the bottom of the homepage or go to [www.werkklimaat.nl/english.asp](http://www.werkklimaat.nl/english.asp).

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## Grateful for a Yard Sale

by Arthur Hohmuth

I know Eric Berne only through his writing, yet his ideas have had a major impact on my life. They initiated a midlife

correction toward greater personal authenticity. That correction was intense for about 12 years but hopefully continues to evolve.

I earned a PhD in experimental psychology in 1969 due to circumstances external to myself; I was simply avoiding the military draft. A year before completing my PhD I found a college teaching job and for 8 years taught courses in sensation and perception and learning theory (based largely on animal models). After the initial excitement of teaching college courses wore off, I realized that I was bored. I had little real interest in what I was teaching and felt like a fake. In the fall of 1976 I took a sabbatical and taught nursery school for a year.

During my graduate training I had some exposure to psychoanalytic thinking, but it never made much sense to me. It seemed a kind of poetic science fiction. I found support for my reaction in the writings of Thomas Szasz, B. F. Skinner, and Hans Eysenck. My first exposure to transactional analysis was to be very different.

During the year teaching my class of 3-year-olds, I came across Muriel James and Dorothy Jongeward's (1971) *Born to Win* at a yard sale. It had a picture of a young child on the cover, and I thought it might contain ideas relevant to my sabbatical job. While the book did somewhat shape the way I interacted with my students, its

effect on me went way beyond that. It was not poetic science fiction. The phenomenological validity of what I was reading was powerful. The analysis of transactions in terms of the ego states involved seemed absolutely brilliant. I was reminded of the development of cell theory. In the mid-1600s, Robert Hooke looked through a microscope and described cells. Soon many others saw them as well. I believed Berne had done something similar in describing ego states and transactions. Once the concepts were described they seemed essentially correct. However, I found myself looking into a mirror that reflected an image I was reluctant to see. This led me to *I'm OK, You're OK* by Tom Harris (1967) and finally to Berne's books. It took me years to accept and process the facts that I was living my life largely through my Parent and Adapted Child ego states, that I chronically rescued and persecuted so as to feel better about myself, that my interpersonal relationships were burdened with psychological games, and that my life script had, indeed, been put in place as I grew up in a dysfunctional family.

On returning to college teaching, I had the good fortune to be part of a rather large department, and I persuaded the department chair to pass the learning course to a colleague and allow me to take over a class called "Mental Health." *Born to Win* was required reading and the course was mostly about transactional analysis. I had new enthusiasm for teaching because I was presenting material that I believed was of important and enduring value to my students. They shared my enthusiasm, and my student evaluations went to the top of the chart. I was delighted when students would tell me that, as a result of the course, their relationship with their mother (brother, father, boyfriend, etc.) was much improved or that it had a significant impact on the way they related to people. I was unnerved the first time I

was told that because of the course a student had ended a relationship. In time I came to believe that this was also a plus.

During my sabbatical year, I attended a local workshop presented by Richard Erskine, who invited me to join his training group in New York City. The following fall I took him up on the offer. I worked with Richard and with Rebecca Trautmann from 1978 until 1986. I became a Clinical Member in 1985. I spent 2 additional years training with Bill Cornell. In the course of this experience with three excellent trainers and many, many talented and wonderful trainees, I was able to process at an emotional level the intellectual insights I had arrived at years earlier. By 40 years of age I was finally getting to know and accept myself. In the context of this training and through attendance at many conferences, I also experienced a number of other important therapists. Harry Boyd, Jack Dusay, and Bob and Mary Goulding especially stand out, although there were many others.

I maintained a part-time clinical practice for 18 years. My work with clients served as further evidence of the power of transactional analysis as a therapeutic tool. It also gave me strong motivation to read whatever I could about the types of pathology I was dealing with. This reading, in turn, enhanced my teaching. During this time I published two theoretical articles and 16 book reviews in the *Transactional Analysis Journal*. I recently returned to writing reviews, and I somewhat reluctantly let my clinical practice go a few years ago. I am now a full-time professor of psychology and am of an age where I simply do not want to work 60 hours a week. However, I now teach courses in personality theory and abnormal psychology, and Berne's writing and my clinical experience still provide me with some of my best illustrative examples and stories. I miss the train-

ing groups and I miss my clients, but life has a way of evolving and moving on. In 2004, I joined the board of directors of the Eastern Regional TA Association. While I helped to organize a couple of weekend seminars, I believe my main motive was to reconnect with a couple of people who had been part of my original training group and to once again feel part of a transactional analysis community. Through this group I also had the distinct pleasure of experiencing Fanita English at work and at play.

One of the hot research topics in personality studies these days is the extent to which personality remains stable over a lifetime. It is clear to me that I am very different from the person I was 25 or 30 years ago. I am much more content with who I am. I have been through a divorce and a remarriage. My current marriage, of 22 years, is warm, loving, mutually respectful, mostly Adult to Adult, and as far as I can tell, mostly game free. My family is very different than the dysfunctional one in which I grew up. My relationships with my children and grandchildren are a source of great pleasure. Would I be the same person had I not been exposed to Berne? I don't know for sure. There have been other formative influences: I studied a martial art for 25 years, I have had important friends, I have meditated and read some Zen Buddhist literature, my current wife has had a large impact on me. Still, I'm glad I went to that yard sale.

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## Social Dreaming: Exploration Extended

by Servaas van Beekum and Kathy Laverty

The social dreaming matrix (SDM) at the 2008 World Transactional Analysis Conference in Johannesburg was a 3-day event during which 40-50 participants, at the beginning of each day, shared dreams and associated to their meaning, thus exploring part of the collectively held unknown. Social dreaming is a method of identifying cultural knowledge; it is not about the individual but about a space in which to find the voice of the collective.

The dreams are expanded through free association. Once a dream is spoken into the matrix, it is viewed as no longer belonging to the individual but as the property of the collective to be honored as a voice speaking of what the British psychoanalyst Christopher Bollas (1987) refers to as the "unthought known."

The primary task of the SDM honors the intuitive mind and allows dreams to dialogue with each other, making links and finding connections. This provides an opportunity to tell and listen and associate to dreams without moving to interpretation. The matrix makes it possible and can weave a tapestry of meaning in which divergent thinking is not seen as a threat that needs to be defended against but as a gift to be considered. We collectively enter a space in which we can play together, drawing from the social unconscious and not caught up in narcissistic preoccupa-

tions. (For further exploration of social dreaming, see Lawrence, 2003; van Beekum, 2008; van Beekum & Laverty, 2007).

### South Africa and Transactional Analysis

The social dreaming experience in South Africa offered a rich tapestry of images, associations, feelings, thoughts, meaning found, and meaning lost. As a dreamer, we dream into the context in which we take part. In Johannesburg, there was South Africa and there was a gathering about transactional analysis. As much as we can see the complexities of what it means to be part of diversity in the post-apartheid era of South Africa, in the same way we can actually try to see the complexities of what it means to be part of diversity in transactional analysis, in the world of psychotherapy and consulting. Africa holds the traditional African concept of ubuntu, a philosophy that is ethical and humanist, that focuses on people's allegiances and relationships with each other. Ubuntu means "a person is a person through (other) persons." Dreaming in the context of South Africa and of global transactional analysis gave meaning to the notion of interconnectedness that was expressed in so many of the dreams and the associations we heard about in the SDM in Johannesburg.

### Exploration Extended

When opening up to the unknown—as the social dreaming matrix does—the images, pieces of

meaning, and questions are not lost after the session or the conference ends. Once found and spoken, they are around and add to the understanding of the complexity of which we are part. The richness of the South African experience is not lost, nor should it be put on ice until a next occasion.

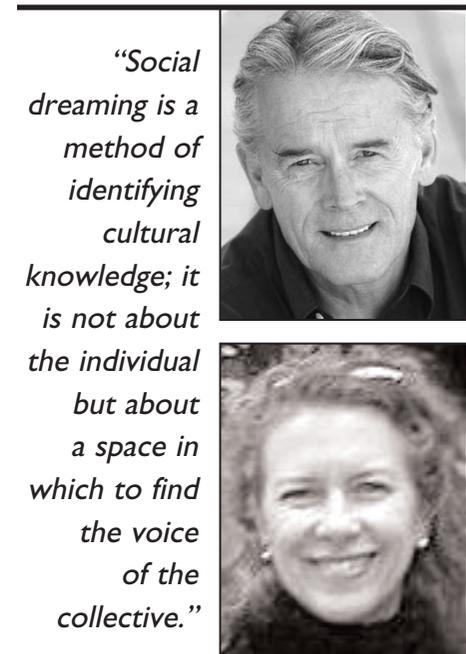
As two of the three consultants to the SDM in Johannesburg, we are starting an experiment, in which each reader of *The Script* can participate. We invite you to tell us about your dreams and your associations to them—whether they are about the conference or the TA community or not—and we will share them in the pages of *The Script*. This is open for those who were present in Johannesburg and for those who were not. Many people who were not even at the conference have contacted us about the SDM event. The images and stories keep influencing us.

We will serve as the editors for this column, and within six issues, we will assess if the project is viable and can be extended or whether it needs to be changed or terminated.

Please send your contributions to Servaas and Kathy at: [servaasvanbeekum@bigpond.com](mailto:servaasvanbeekum@bigpond.com).

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"Social dreaming is a method of identifying cultural knowledge; it is not about the individual but about a space in which to find the voice of the collective."

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Kathy Laverty is a Certified Transactional Analyst (psychotherapy).

# Responses to “The Road Less Traveled: Senior Practitioner Route”

Dear Editor:

Ann Heathcote's article in the August 2008 issue of *The Script* is important and should be studied by the ITAA Board of Trustees as well as by all ITAA members. I assume that the vast majority of members practice transactional analysis but do not spend much time teaching and supervising. The whole point of teaching is, I hope, to help therapists become skilled in transactional analysis. It is not to keep them perpetually paying for another step in a much too long process toward Teaching and Supervising Transactional Analyst (TSTA) certification. Long ago, the ITAA had a January conference whose purpose was to bring together all advanced members, clinical and teaching, to, as Heathcote requests, “improve and hone clinical skills and knowledge.” Nothing has taken its place.

There is another, tragic side to the TSTA issue. Transactional analysis could have been an important therapy in the United States. We lost the chance when we decided to accept as teachers only those who had jumped through more and more hoops. Our great teachers—professor Joen Fagan at Georgia State; John Gladfelder, who taught privately and still works with PhD candidates at the prestigious Fielding Graduate University for clinical psychology; Peter Madison of Arizona State; and so on—taught literally thousands of students to use transactional analysis in their clinical practices, but because these teachers did not have the TSTA credential, their students were never eligible to become certified TA therapists. We lost clinicians and we lost university prestige. Today Dr. Reiko True, who lives in the United States and is on the board of a new, prestigious school of professional psychology in Tokyo, knows and practices transactional analysis but has no ITAA credentials, so again we are losing both her, her faculty, and her students. The list goes on and on. And no one has been willing to make any changes in our self-destructive system of credentialing.

Bob Goulding and I had an absolute rule: When a participant in our training program was a good TA therapist, we recommended him or her for Clinical Membership. We did not care how long the person had studied with us, and we filled out the necessary papers as we chose in order for him or her to qualify for exams. Many of our best current Clinical and Teaching Members never needed to do what ITAA prescribed. “Don't ask. Don't tell.” We cared about how well they did, period. We tried to push people like Joen and John through the teaching maze, but it became so disgustingly complicated that we gave up.

Now, I am pleased to report that the rules for membership in the Redecision Therapy Association are that clinicians who are licensed to practice (or are permitted legally to practice) in their own country or state may become rededecision therapists when they state that they are rededecision therapists. When they decide they want to teach and supervise, they may become the equivalent of advanced members simply by getting the approval of whoever taught them rededecision therapy. Maybe a few of the “less talented” will squeak through . . . and we will not have lost the most talented who simply do not sit still for thousands of hours and thousands of dollars of subservience to TSTAs.

I welcome questions and comments to my e-mail at [marygoulding@yahoo.com](mailto:marygoulding@yahoo.com).

Mary Goulding, Berkeley,  
California, United States

**ITAA WEBSITE:**  
**[www.itaanet.org](http://www.itaanet.org)**

Hello Ann:

I read with great interest your article in *The Script*—it is music to my ears! I qualified as a Certified Transactional Analyst (CTA) in 2003 and have just completed my formal 5-year continuing professional development (CPD) review. I have often questioned what happens to us practicing qualified CTAs and how we keep abreast of theoretical developments—and where are the courses to keep us on track and improving our clinical practice? I have hit a blank wall, and invariably it is suggested that I pursue becoming a Provisional Teaching and Supervising Transactional Analyst (PTSTA), with the expectation to proceed to TSTA—which I do not want to do!

Also, I have some reservations as to the appropriateness of the route as it currently exists. I am content to continue to practice as a psychotherapist and simultaneously feel the need for theoretical stimulus and a place where I can be challenged and acknowledged while continuing to hone my skills. I am interested in your suggestion regarding a senior practitioner forum/route and would like to be kept informed of any interest you receive. *The Script* is the place to start this discussion, I think, as the implications for the whole structure of transactional analysis need to be addressed. The United Kingdom could lead the way to fundamental changes in the existing hierarchical structure and to the addition of a route that acknowledges and challenges the skills of all us CTAs out here!

Carole Middleton-Lowe  
Brecon, Wales

Hi Ann:

Like my wife, Carole Middleton-Lowe, I read your article and must say your words leapt off the page. When Carole commenced her transactional analysis training, I was aware of the general ethos of TA. Therefore, I subsequently completed the 101 because I wanted to better acquaint myself with the theory both to understand what Carole was doing and also to be able to use aspects of transactional analysis in my work as a senior manager in the public sector.

What amazes me is the apparent lack of management and/or any cohesive strategy for the development of transactional analysis. At a practical level, I agree with you that the assumption that CTAs should progress via Training Endorsement Workshops (TEWs) and PTSTA to TSTA is misplaced. It is common practice in many occupations to recognize the skills of experienced practitioners either by way of salary increments and/or differential gradings, thus catering to those who do not necessarily wish to pursue a career path or management role. In that way, those who have the most relevant experience are retained as practitioners where their skills can be utilized to the full. If the transactional analysis model of progression were to be followed to the letter, it would only be a matter of time before there would be no practitioners—only people with lots of letters after their names!

If the CTA exam purpose is to certify competent beginner practitioners, at what point does that practitioner cease to be a beginner? Given the requirements for CPD, supervision, and peer-

group review, it seems a little perverse to me that, for example, a CTA may deliver a TA 101 (for a 3-year period) after approval by a TSTA (and payment of a substantial supervision fee), but a PTSTA can deliver that same program without any assessment. The assumption appears to be that the PTSTA is in some way superior, yet “time in the job” may be far less. Indeed, I sometimes think that PTSTA, TSTA, and so on equal “I'm OK,” whereas CTA equals “You're not OK.”

Although not part of the transactional analysis community as such, I fully support the sentiments you expressed in your article and have to say that in organizational terms, the logic of what you propose must shine through. And should it not, then it is the TA community's loss.

Allan Lowe, Brecon, Wales

Dear Ann:

Thank you for what you have written in *The Script*. Above all, it resonates with my long-held sense of the need to be able to develop professionally in transactional analysis beyond CTA and to be included in TA's development, particularly contributing (hours) in the development of trainees.

I began PTSTA training because I felt ready for the next step professionally. PTSTA training seemed to provide this as well as a way to be included in a transactional analysis community, to contribute, and to be recognized. If there is a senior practitioner route/forum explicit in the ITAA structure, being part of this would be a benefit. I might be challenged and motivated to write about my work as professional development. I love the idea of communicating and sharing with others at a senior practice level. I could push my comfort zone and present at conferences as others might also because it would be counted in training. We might experience a different sort of enrichment in our professional meetings.

“Good job,” as we say around here, and thank you warmly.

Marion Wade, Wellington, New Zealand

Dear Ann:

I read your article on “Senior TA Practitioner: The Road Less Traveled” and enjoyed it because it puts a finger on an old and important issue in the transactional analysis community. We often discuss it in both EATA and in some national associations, looking for ways to fill this gap or, better, to take the opportunity to create projects that can enhance and meet the need for advanced and continuing development of CTA practitioners. I will refer your article to Sabine Klingenberg, chair of EATA's Professional Training and Standards Committee (PTSC) as a way to pursue this topic and will bring this topic up in the executive committee again.

Also, I want to remind you that in EATA we started a project some years ago called “international colloquia” to meet the need of advanced practitioners' training (see page 5, this issue). EATA covers the expenses of a one-day workshop for CTAs, with presenters from two different countries. Nevenka Miljkovic, one of EATA's vice-presidents, is in charge of this kind of event. She can be reached at [nevenkamiljkovic@t-online.de](mailto:nevenkamiljkovic@t-online.de).

Maria Teresa (Resi) Tosi, Rome Italy

Dear Ann:

I realized when I read your thoughts on senior transactional analysis practitioners that there is conflation in the TA world between learning to



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## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Our 4th International Conference is devoted to the theme of psychotherapy of acute trauma, cumulative neglect and chronic stress. Some of the topics to be presented are: The psycho-therapy of grief, postpartum depression and stress, resolution of intergenerational neglect and trauma, schizoid process, relational group psychotherapy, cumulative trauma, spirituality and mindfulness, psychotherapy of traumatized children, compassion fatigue, working with imagery and music and much more. The conference theme will be attractive to professionals of different psychotherapy orientations who are dealing with stress, trauma and neglect.

## ORGANIZATION

The conference is organized by the International Integrative Psychotherapy Association (IIPA). The International Integrative Psychotherapy Association is a nonprofit educational organization that facilitates international communication among professional psychotherapists who use the concepts of Integrative Psychotherapy. The host of the conference in Slovenia is the Institute for Integrative Psychotherapy and Counselling, Ljubljana (Institute IPSA).

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teach and supervise, which are discrete skills in themselves, and developing a deeper understanding of clinical practice. I think all three disciplines must involve theory, practical application, and skills techniques.

My personal experience as a PTSTA is that the practice and skills are focused on teaching and supervising, leaving a gap in the development of clinical practice and skills. In terms of the TSTA exam, I think the development of clinical aspects of the candidate's work are appraised in the theory board section of the exam. I do not see this as an overt process but rather as an inferred aspect of the theory board: They are examining to see if the candidate is a senior practitioner. This being the case, we may already have a mechanism in place with which to examine senior practitioners by having them take a "theory board" as a stand-alone exam.

For myself, I have always wanted to supervise and teach, so it was a natural progression for me to go the PTSTA route, but I am aware of many colleagues with whom I have lost touch over the years because there was not a way for them to develop along their chosen path of deepening their skills as clinicians.

Also, as a developing clinician myself, I have found it almost impossible to find training that caters to more advanced theory discussions. There is also the problem of having to exclude myself from certain events because I know my own client(s) will be attending. This appears to be a bit of a gap in the transactional analysis training/CPD world.

These are just initial thoughts that I have not reflected on in any great depth, but I hope they contribute to the discussion, which I am very interested to be a part of.

Frances Townsend, Great Addington,  
Northamptonshire, United Kingdom

Hello Ann:

Thank you for your thoughtful and timely article. I qualified as a CTA in 1998 and was reluctant at the time to pursue further training as a TSTA because I already had qualifications in teaching and a master's degree in education. There was no mechanism for recognition of prior learning in the training pathway.

I recently read some critique of the transactional analysis training system by Keith Tudor (2007) in his paper "On Dogma." Again, timely and needed critique.

I am presenting a paper at the Australia-New Zealand Transactional Analysis Conference, in Rotorua, New Zealand. Here is a relevant extract.

#### "Richard Noll: *The Jung Cult*"

One aspect of this book that I wish to bring to this analysis is his critique of the Jungian movement as a model of charismatic leadership accompanied by a hierarchical training and accreditation process resembling a pyramid marketing scheme.

Max Weber (1864-1920), a contemporary of Jung, was fascinated by the growth of neopagan cults in Germany and described the phenomenon of charismatic leadership that was a significant component of such groups (Noll, 1996, p. 16). Examples of such men were Wagner, Nietzsche, Haeckel (promoter of evolutionary biology and founder of the Monistic Religion), Steiner (founder of the Steiner schools), Freud, and Jung. In recent history we could include Eric Berne (TA) and Fritz Perls (Gestalt). Weber (1962) described such movements as follows: "Sects of voluntary association which admitted only those to its ranks who had the requisite religious qualities and adhered to the leader's guiding principles" (p. 123).

Noll is blunt in his description of the Jungian movement. The elite members of the Jungian movement, such as Aniela Jaffe, maintained and promoted what Noll describes as a manufactured pseudo charisma by a power-seeking elite who promoted Jung in a way to ensure their econom-

ic and social rewards (Noll, 1996, p. 15). Further, "Today, the entire routinised system operates with an economic structure like a multileveled marketing pyramid, with individuation as the vague product sold, and Jungian analyst status essentially equivalent to a distributorship that can be bought" (p. 281).

Within the capitalist system there is a need to protect intellectual capital, and within the mental health field this is one of the principle roles of professional bodies. In Australia and the United States, the professional bodies of the respective psychological associations have been very successful in protecting the market share of their members. They do this by influencing critical factors on job descriptions and by being active in the promotion of legislation that writes them in as the specialists and successfully excludes other modalities. Professional associations are also important in maintaining and promoting the status of the profession to ensure the branding of "psychologist" as a first choice for potential customers. The recent advertisements in New Zealand fronted by John Kirwan (a famous rugby All Black winger who had a depressive episode) clearly encourages people to seek the help of a psychologist. Other alternative modalities are not mentioned. The current debates in Australia and New Zealand around professional registration for counselors and psychotherapists are indicative of these tensions.

By default we have fallen into a model of service delivery that could have a number of detrimental impacts on broader community well-being. The training and recruitment models identify and capture people with a heart for healing and in some cases make them unavailable to the broader community. They secure themselves in private practice where significant barriers to entry exist through expensive pricing. Their talent is not as available to the broader community, and, in fact, their leadership potential may be completely lost

to the community as their skills are captured by the corporate world and affluent socioeconomic communities. From a health economist's perspective, this is a well-documented phenomenon wherein health resources are captured by those members of society who are better resourced through wealth and education.

In response to your request for persons interested in training issues, count me in.

Maurice Vaughan, Otago, New Zealand

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Dear Ann:

I have been meaning to write to you since reading your article in *The Script*. It raised a lot of points for me, including the fact that I supervise many transactional analysis practitioners, trainees, graduates, and trainers, and I know some of the trainees are annoyed with me for not being a qualified transactional analysis trainer, which would enable them to obtain TA credit for supervision with me. They must choose to be supervised elsewhere to obtain credit. As you point out, any workshops I present are not currently counted as part of their transactional analysis training hours. The question seems to be one of where to place senior practitioners, those who have chosen not to take the formal training path.

Early in my career, after qualifying as a CTA, I found myself coming up against a level of disturbance, ego disintegration, and fragmentation in my clients that I felt ill-equipped to work with. Yet I was a qualified psychotherapist. I became

## Explorations in Transactional Analysis: The Meech Lake Papers

by William F. Cornell



Explorations in Transactional Analysis brings together many of Bill Cornell's articles on transactional analysis. Written over 20 years, these papers reflect his ongoing exploration of the interfaces among transactional analysis, the body-centered therapies, and contemporary psychoanalysis. Much of Bill's writing exemplifies the potential and enrichment brought to our work in human relations through the use of one theoretical model to challenge and enhance another. An extensive section devoted to working with the body in psychotherapy brings together a selection of papers and book chapters available for the first time in a single volume. Often written to raise questions more than provide answers, many of these papers are written in an unusually personal voice. (TA Press, 2008, ISBN 978-0-89489-007-9)

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"Cornell has single-handedly brought Berne back into psychology, not only providing a remarkable and historic service to transactional analysis but to all of us interested in who we are and why we act as we do. That Cornell's book was written, over decades, in the wilds of Canada, is remarkably fitting as he has brought Berne back from the wilderness."  
Christopher Bollas, psychoanalyst, author, London

interested in working effectively with and understanding these processes. I know the training of transactional analysts has changed a lot, but at that time, nothing in my formal training had prepared me for working at that depth.

At that time there was no obvious post-qualification route within transactional analysis to support my professional development. I also chose to look further afield to obtain the knowledge and understanding that I felt I lacked. My various articles and workshop presentations have been an attempt to share with others my learning. I currently run several professional development seminars to support practitioners' continuing professional development. What I offer to practitioners is, in a sense, the path I myself have taken.

I think there is a need to support the development of newly qualified practitioners. I would not be in favor of a formal prescribed route, because I think there is benefit in allowing practitioners to choose their own paths, thus enabling them to follow their interests and clinical needs and requirements. There may be an important discussion to be had within the transactional analysis community as to how the above might be possible.

Ray Little, Edinburgh, Scotland

Hello Ann:

I read your article in *The Script*. I am glad to see that there are people interested in sharing and advancing transactional analysis theory and practice through organizing some kind of open/friendly forum. The senior transactional analysis practitioner route/forum sounds interesting. On many occasions I suggested that a TA moderated colloquium/discussion group be organized for Certified and Teaching Members. I would be interested in participating if such a thing takes off.

Melita Janosev, Zrenjanin, Serbia

### International Colloquia Sponsored by the EATA

The European Association for Transactional Analysis (EATA) offers special international colloquia as a platform to strengthen professionalism, internationalism, and the development of new theories, models, and methods. These were developed, in part, to address several issues:

- One of the implications of TA's growth within national organizations is the potential for these national groups losing touch with EATA as an integrating organization. National conferences, national exams, national newsletters—they all lead to a potential for a loss of international flavor. How could this growth be encouraged and still keep the multicultural, international spirit of transactional analysis?
- Some fields of specialization report feeling less important than others. Moreover, the growing professionalism of each of the fields means that there is less "overlap" between them. How could the needs of all fields be addressed? Do the fields need each other? Is there benefit in being open to theories from the other fields?
- And, indeed, from approaches outside of transactional analysis? How can we liaise in the wider fields of psychotherapy, counseling, education, and organizational development in order both to learn from them and share with them?

As an answer to these questions and challenges, since 2006 EATA has offered international colloquia free of charge (except for translation) as a service to EATA members who have a CTA and above. These 1-day meetings are offered once or twice a year in different European countries. The costs for presenter travel and the venue are covered by EATA and translation is paid for by participants. The experts might include, for example, three experts from outside the host nation and one domestic expert; the participants might include, for example, 80 CTAs and above from Europe. The procedure for organizing international colloquia is as follows:

1. The national organization (NO) agrees to organize a colloquium in the country.
2. The NO decides about the field of application for the colloquium.
3. The NO makes a suggested list of European experts whom they would like to present their theory in this field.
4. EATA organizes the contacts.
5. All EATA members are invited to the colloquium in the EATA newsletter and via the EATA Web site.

The colloquia offer these benefits: members/participants have an opportunity to see the state of the art in a specific field on the European level; professionals and presenters have the opportunity to discuss with transactional analysis colleagues from the field; and the larger transactional analysis community gains written material that will be produced on the topic of the colloquium.

Our thanks to Nevenka Miljkovic for sending us information about the EATA International Colloquia and to Resi Tosi for suggesting that this would be relevant for our discussions here.

## Senior TA Practitioner Route Wanted?

I have been surprised and delighted by the number of responses to my piece entitled "Senior TA Practitioner: The Road Less Traveled" (Heathcote, 2008). It clearly touched a significant nerve within the transactional analysis community.

The responses pick up on many important issues, including: when does a CTA practitioner cease to be a beginner; the conflation in the transactional

analysis world of learning to teach (and supervise) and developing a deeper understanding of clinical practice; losing talented people from our transactional analysis community; senior practitioners contributing (hours) in the development of CTA practitioners and TA trainees; the lack of advanced workshops/training for post-CTA practitioners; and the hierarchical nature of the training and accreditation process. In addition, EATA President Maria Teresa (Resi) Tosi writes in her response that this is an old, important issue and explains how EATA has made efforts to meet the needs of CTA practitioners through their international colloquia.

In the best spirit of transactional analysis and using Berne's (1963) authority diagram, I have drawn two figures to show how I perceive the current situation within transactional analysis and one possible vision for the future.

In Figure 2, "Other Members" are placed more prominently. We have many Associate and Regular Members who have an enormous amount to contribute to our transactional analysis community and who do not require/wish to become trainees, CTAs, or TSTAs. I believe it is important to show we value these members of our organization. However, this is an issue for another time.

Within the proposed vision for the future shown in Figure 2, both TSTAs and Senior Practitioners would/could offer advanced training for post-CTAs, and they would share theoretical, clinical, and learning/training developments with each other.

I would also like to see more creative sharing of knowledge and skills at all levels, between levels, and between all members of our transactional analysis community—and by so doing to treat transactional analysis as gift as well as commodity (Newton, 2008).

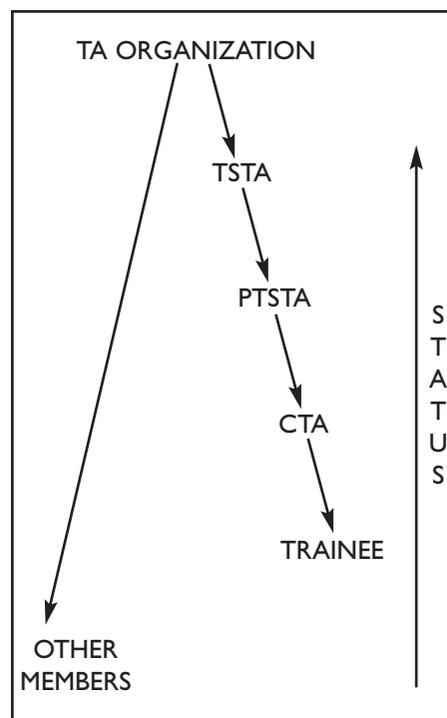


FIGURE 1  
Current Situation

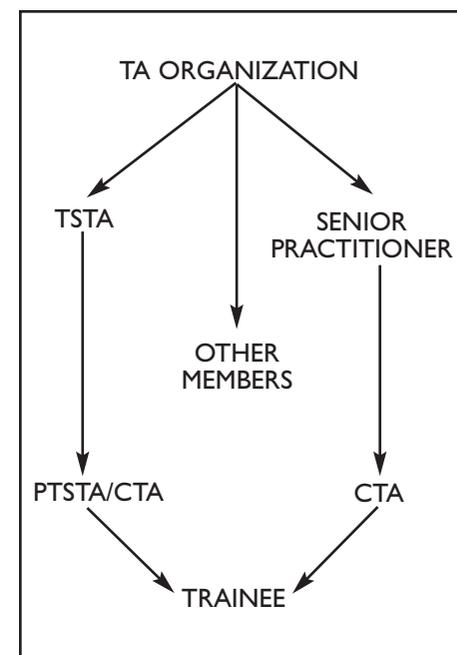


FIGURE 2  
A Vision for the Future

We need to offer post-CTA practitioners who do not wish to become trainers and/or supervisors a better deal. It may not be as in the potential vision for the future I have laid out here, but one thing is for sure: "There is a need to support the development of newly qualified practitioners" (Little, 2008, p. 4). I believe the time has come to take action and to make significant changes to the transactional analysis organizational training structure.

Ann Heathcote, Manchester, England

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## CTA EXAM PREPARATION

This is a group for people preparing for their written and/or oral exam, including trainees who are just starting the process and want support from peers as well as those who are actively working towards their oral exam. The days are grouped in series of three or four. Participants normally commit themselves to at least two series of workshops. The group works on a cooperative basis – on each day the content is negotiated by the members. A typical day may include focus on a particular theme or theory, a discussion of part of the written exam and practice viva sessions.

**Facilitator:** The days will be facilitated by Carole Shadbolt, TSTA(P)

**Dates:** 13th December, 17th January, 14th February, 14th March, 9th May, 13th June, 11th July

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The workshop format is highly flexible, with several different activities taking place at the same time within subgroups of others who are preparing for the same examinations as you. Typical activities include mock exams, tape presentations, appraisal and evaluation, theory, organizational questions and discussions, ethical and professional discussions, as well as multilevel supervision and supervision of teaching—all in a cascade format.

In addition to the content of the mock examinations from both contemporary as well as traditional TA perspectives, we will offer participants coaching on managing the exam process itself.

Led by highly experienced staff from the following team: Suzanne Boyd, TSTA (P); Heather Fowlie, TSTA (P); Jill Hunt, PTSTA; Gun Isaksson-Hurst, PTSTA; John Renwick, TSTA (P); Carole Shadbolt, TSTA (P); Suhith Shivanath, PTSTA; Charlotte Sills, TSTA (P).

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## The Road

continued from page 6

On the second trip, once again they had formed a huge group, this time of 84 students, mostly psychologists and psychiatrists, all eager to hear what their colleagues had already heard. For the TA 202 the following weekend, there were 126 participants, all actively questioning and engaging in exercises. After this workshop, I agreed to design and manage a training program to carry the group to readiness for the CTA examination. This was a commitment to being willing to work with them until they had their first CTA and were on the road to autonomy. I already had a belief that the most effective way to train in Eastern Europe was to encourage a group to form and to invite them to take as much responsibility for themselves as they could, so this was an opportunity to test my belief.



*Carmen Musat (left) coordinated the establishment of the Bucharest group and is president of the Bucharest chapter of ARAT and Eugen Hriscu is a past president of ARAT.*

Because they had such a large group, Adriana told me that between them they could afford to pay my flight and a small fee for each workshop. They were doing this on their own initiative, without calling for support from EATA or the ITAA, although I had explained to them that financial help might be available. I am sure that this proactive attitude was an essential part of them finding their feet and becoming autonomous as a group. It also fit with my view that it was important to avoid inviting them into dependency, although clearly they would need training, supervision, and therapy input for some years to come. In the first year we had the two TA 101s and an intermediate workshop. In the second year we had four intermediate, foundation workshops, and by the third year we were running 10 workshops a year, the equivalent training hours for a group in the United Kingdom. Also by the third year, a second training group, in Bucharest, had emerged, adding to the membership of their Romanian TA association (ARAT).

Ioana and Vera were in the first TA 101 in Romania and so have both shown a huge commitment to their training and their national transactional analysis community. For me, their success marks the end of this start-up era. We now have our first CTA in Romania!

Romania has been a hard-work success story. Currently, there are still two training groups: the first, the Timisoara group, with about 50+ regular trainees, and another group of about 70 regular trainees in Bucharest. Several trainees from each group are now in the final stages of exam preparation, writing their case studies and so on.

Romania's thriving transactional analysis association, Asociatia Romana de Analiza Tranzactionala (ARAT) ([www.arat.ro](http://www.arat.ro)), now has over 185 members, almost all of them in training, although not all with training contracts. This

number continues to grow, and with the TA 101 in September 2008, should reach over 200.

In 2004 ARAT organized their first European transactional analysis conference, a wonderful event with so much energy and fun as well as enthusiasm for learning. Managing this conference through difficult times was a true testimony to the competence and ingenuity of these young people. (I estimate that the average age of the membership is about 30.) ARAT members are mostly psychologists, psychiatrists, and doctors, all wanting to use transactional analysis professionally. Many of them already work in institutions and hospitals. There is also a small number of organizational psychologists.

In 2007 the group organized the first annual national conference and again were very successful. They invited other non-TA colleagues to join them, and this attitude of reaching out to other modalities is extremely encouraging. They will have a regular annual conference and would welcome participants from other countries because they need qualified people to run workshops. This year, on their own initiative, they also organized a summer school, inviting foreign trainers to join them in the mountains. I hear this was also a good deal of fun for all involved.

I want to stress that this has all been achieved with a minimum of external support. EATA has for a few years now been contributing to half the airfares of visiting trainers, and this helped us to keep the training affordable. In the UK a private member of the ITA raised £500 to donate to Romania for books after having been impressed by the Romanians at the Timisoara conference. Moniek Thunnissen, Johan Hopmans, and others (mostly from the Netherlands) raised funds to support Anne-Marie Linnenkamp and Ans Gielen coming to run miniscript groups to further the training, personal development, and growth of senior trainees in both Timisoara and Bucharest. A UK trainer donated books, as did Kevin Smallwood from his book shop. Ian Stewart and Vann Joines granted ARAT permission to translate their books *TA Today* and *Personality Adaptations*, with all profits going to ARAT for supporting training. EATA also provided some additional financial support to ARAT following the joint conference, and I am grateful for the generosity of EATA in supporting this work. The ITAA has donated the *TAJ* on CD ROM for the ARAT libraries, again a crucial support because obtaining a library has been one of the major additional financial burdens to the trainees.

I should perhaps say a few words about the Romanian economy. Romania is still in recovery from their communist past. The majority of Romanians have very low incomes, a benchmark being that a fully qualified doctor may earn about €300 a month, a psychologist even less. Most of them only survive by having more than one job. From their low incomes the trainees have been committing about €40 a month for 10 months of the year for their training plus additional sums for supervision and therapy. I see this as a true



*(from left) Adriana (Serbescu) Margineanu, who started transactional analysis in Romania, translator Carla Neumann, and Diana Luches*



*Some of the members of the Timisoara group in Romania (from left): Ioana Duma, Vera Parusici, Liliana Horvath, and Gabi Bugarin*

commitment to their personal growth and development. Only their ingenuity in building large training groups has made this possible. For their dedication alone they deserve our respect and applause.

From the early days, when I was the only trainer, until now, when there is a dedicated team of trainers going regularly to Romania, the security of the project has been built so that it is now on a secure base. I thank all those who have given so much to support this project and these trainees. The fees have been relatively low, the time they have given has been precious, and I know it has cost them all a loss from their own practices.

The trainers are: Marijke Wusten (the first who agreed to come), Sari van Poelje, Nelly Micholt, Birgitta Heiller, Anne de Graaf, Anne-Marie Linnenkamp, Ans Gielen, Joanna Beazley Richards, Jon and Laurie Weiss, Colin Brett, Helene Cadot, Marijke Arendsen-Hein, Martin Bertok, Kaare Kristiansen, Dave Spenceley, Giles Barrow, and Julie Hay. The list is in no particular order of merit; all have given of their skills to the benefit of the groups.

I have now handed over the coordination of the project to Anne de Graaf and Anne-Marie Linnenkamp, who together with the team construct and manage the two training groups. Without the commitment from these trainers, the project simply could not have been completed.

There are many others who deserve mention and strokes, way too many to acknowledge them all here. However, among them are Eugen Hriscu, past president of ARAT, who led the group to stability; Nicoleta Gheorghe, the current president, also managing ARAT with a steady hand; Carmen Musat, the president of the Bucharest group, who did so much to bring Bucharest into the training program; Cezara Dasu and Daniel Ciucur, both very active in organizing events and

managing contacts with the college of psychologists; and of course Adriana Serbescu, now Adriana Margineanu, who started the ball rolling, founded ARAT, and was their first president.

The past 8 years have been challenging for me and have cost me on many levels. On the other hand, I have the satisfaction of seeing my dream of founding an autonomous transactional analysis community, where there was none, come to fruition. Romania has also given me a wonderful



*(from left) Catalina Niculae and Nicoleta Gheorghe, current president of ARAT*

wife and a son, and I am very much in love with them both. I have learned about working cross-culturally; I still have thriving organizational work in Romania and so am able to visit my adopted country frequently. I lived in Romania for almost 6 years, an experience I would not have missed for the world. Transactional analysis is truly a language that can cross cultural boundaries, and the theory and practice of TA has huge potential worldwide.

I am convinced that the ITAA can contribute to other projects to "seed" transactional analysis communities around the globe, and Romania has shown that this can yield a large new membership. I encourage the ITAA Board of Trustees to find ways of including associations like Romania to bring new blood and vigor into the organization. I also encourage EATA to continue supporting such projects and to manage them with clear contracts, including reciprocity.

Finally, I wish ARAT, the team of trainers, and the Romanian transactional analysis community every success for the future. I feel confident that this community will continue to grow in the coming years.

*John Parr, MSc (psychotherapy), is a Certified Transactional Analyst (psychotherapy) and Provisional Teaching and Supervising Transactional Analyst. He can be reached at [john.parr103@ntlworld.com](mailto:john.parr103@ntlworld.com).*

# KEEPING IN TOUCH

## EUROPEAN REGION

**Daniel Ciucur**, the vice president of Asociația Română de Analiză Transacțională (ARAT), the Romanian national TA association, writes that they are organizing their second national TA conference. The theme is "The Life Script: A Story about Relationships," and the dates are 27-30 November 2008. There will be sections on organizational, educational, and clinical transactional analysis and preconference and postconference institutes. They invite all transactional analysis members from around the world to participate. For more information see <http://www.arat.ro/> or e-mail [conferinta.arat2008@gmail.com](mailto:conferinta.arat2008@gmail.com).

*Gianpiero and Jennifer Petriglieri are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Pietro James, on 17 August 2008 in Fontainebleau, France. Pietro says "Hello."*



**Valerie Cunningham, Keith Tudor, and Bill Cornell** have each contributed chapters to *The Past in the Present: Therapy Enactments and the Return of Trauma*, coedited by David Mann and Valerie Cunningham and published by Routledge. The book explores the experience and meaning of enactments and trauma in psychotherapy with chapters written from both psychoanalytic and humanistic perspectives. Valerie's chapter is "Mutual Enactments within the Therapeutic Relationship"; Keith's chapter, co-authored with Louise Embleton Tudor and written from a person-centered perspective, is "Past Present: Person-centered Therapy with Trauma and Enactment"; and Bill's is "Loves and Losses:



*Participants of a group on the treatment of scripts led by Richard Erskine on 9-13 July 2008 at the Manchester Psychotherapy Training Institute in the United Kingdom*

Enactments in the Disavowal of Intimate Desires." The collection is a unique collaboration in presenting analytic and humanistic perspectives in the same volume.

## NORTH AMERICAN REGION

**James R. Allen, MD**, has been listed as one of America's top psychiatrists in the 2009 edition of the *Guide to America's Top Psychiatrists* published by the Consumers' Research Council of America.

## ASIA/INDIA/AFRICA REGION

**Dr. Marina Rajan Joseph, MD, TSTA**, Associate Director of IITA Palai and associate professor in the Department of Community Medicine in the MOSC Medical College in Kolenchery, organized two TA 101 courses in June 2008, one at Pambakuda and one at Muvattupuzha. In all, 30 participants attended. The first course was primarily for the priests and leaders in the churches of Kandanad East Diocese. Bishop H. H. Thomas Mar Athanasius and 18 priests attended. The participants purchased Sr. Annie Maria's textbook on *TA in Malayalam*. The feedback from the participants was that the course was "an eye-opener." The second session was for the women's fellowship of the same diocese and was attended by 11 participants. They also purchased Sr. Annie Maria's textbook. The feedback from this group was "we need similar sessions for our youth forum and other forums too." Rebecca Trautmann, TSTA, visited IITA Palai on 21 June 2008 and presented a session on 4-stage counseling. There were 40 participants. Dr. Marina presented two sessions on "TA for Teachers" as an invited faculty at the Rajagiri School of Engineering Technology in Kochi in July 2008. Many participants purchased Sr. Annie Maria's textbook and others decided to buy available English books on transactional analysis for future use. The feedback was, "It gives us tremendous self-awareness and a tool for further personal growth."

**The Third South Asian Association of Transactional Analysis (SAATA) Conference** will be held 25-27 September 2009 in Calicut, Kerala, India. The theme is "Springing to Life with Joy, Wholeness, and Equanimity." Board of Certification CTA exams will be held on 24 September and a Training Endorsement Workshop will be held 27-29 September. For more information, visit [www.saata.org](http://www.saata.org) or e-mail [saata2009calicut@gmail.com](mailto:saata2009calicut@gmail.com).



*On 23 August 2008, Dr. Marina Rajan Joseph, MD, TSTA, conducted a session on "TA for Effective Interpersonal Relations in TB Control Work," a 3-hour program for the staff of the District RNTCP Unit Ernakulam Kerala. In the photo, sitting in the front row from the left: Dr. Shajia, Dr. Marina Rajan Joseph, Dr. Sreedharakumar (The Dist. TB Officer), Mr Balaji, and Mr. Damodaran*

## Award Nominations Sought

### Eric Berne Memorial Award

Nominations Deadline: 1 December 2008

### Hedges Capers Humanitarian Award ♦ Muriel James Living Principles Award Goulding Social Justice Award

Nominations Deadline: 1 January 2009

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

## EXAM CALENDAR

Exam	Exam Adm.	Exam Date	Location	App. Deadline
CTA	COC	6-7 Nov 2008	Bordeaux, France	1 Aug 2008
	COC	13-14 Nov 2008	Neustadt, Germany	1 Aug 2008
	COC	5-6 Dec 2008	Turin, Italy	1 Sep 2008
	COC	15-16 Apr 2009	Nottingham Univ, UK	1 Jan 2009
	COC	2-3 Jul 2009	Rome, Italy	1 Mar 2009
	BOC	5 Aug 2009	Lima, Peru	5 May 2009
	BOC	24 Sep 2009	Calicut, Kerala, India	24 Jun 2009
	COC	24-25 Sep 2009	Belgrade, Serbia	1 June 2009
	COC	30 Sep-1 Oct 2009	London, UK	1 Jun 2009
	COC	12-13 Nov 2009	Switzerland	1 Aug 2009
	COC	Nov 2009	Nantes, France	1 Aug 2009
	COC	7-8 Apr 2010	United Kingdom	1 Jan 2010
COC	8-9 Jul 2010	Prague, Czech Republic	1 Mar 2009	
TSTA	COC	6-7 Nov 2008	Bordeaux, France	1 May 2008
	COC	13-14 Nov 2008	Neustadt, Germany	1 May 2008
	COC	5-6 Dec 2008	Turin, Italy	1 Jun 2008
	COC	15-16 Apr 2009	Nottingham Univ, UK	1 Oct 2008
	COC	2-3 Jul 2009	Rome, Italy	1 Jan 2009
	BOC	5 Aug 2009	Lima, Peru	5 Feb 2009
	COC	12-13 Nov	Switzerland	1 May 2009
	COC	Nov 2009	Nantes, France	1 May 2009
	COC	7-8 Apr 2010	United Kingdom	1 Oct 2009
	COC	8-9 Jul 2010	Prague, Czech Republic	1 Jan 2009
CTA Written	All Regions (Non-Europe)	Your choice	Submit to Regional Exam Coordinator after paying \$50 fee to T&C Council	Your choice
TEW		28-30 Jun 2009	Rome, Italy	28 Feb 2009
		Aug 2009	Lima, Peru	Apr 2009
		27-29 Sep 2009	Calicut, Kerala, India	27 May 2009
TEW/CEW		12-14 Jul 2010	Prague, Czech Republic	12 Mar 2010

\*COC CTA exam candidates who are doing the COC written case study must submit it no later than six months before the oral exam date. Details/application available from the COC Language Group Coordinators.

**NOTE: Exams subject to availability of examiners/exam supervisors.** BOC not responsible for expenses incurred when unavailability of examiners/exam supervisors causes exams to be canceled or postponed. To be an examiner for an ITAA/BOC exam, examiners must be at least a CTA for a CTA exam or a TSTA for a TSTA exam.

**To arrange to take a BOC exam**, contact the T&C Council, 2186 Rheem Dr., #B-1, Pleasanton, CA 94558-2775, USA. Note: COC people sitting for BOC exams must forward the equivalent of the EATA fee to the T & C Council office. **To arrange to take a COC exam**, contact your EATA Language Coordinator. Check with the EATA office or the EATA News for the name of the appropriate Language Group Coordinator. **TSC Training Endorsement Workshop fee:** \$450 ITAA members/\$600 non-ITAA members payable in US dollars to T&C Council, c/o the T & C Council office, 2186 Rheem Dr., #B-1, Pleasanton, CA 94558-2775, USA. **COC Training Endorsement Workshop:** to take a COC TEW, contact the European TEW Coordinator, c/o the EATA office.

## STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP AND CIRCULATION

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William Cornell, Editor