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**AN INTERVIEW WITH BILBAO KEYNOTER NATALIA OJEDA**

**Building Bridges between  
TA and Neuroscience**

by Igor Fernandez

**T**he Bilbao conference will have keynote speakers on each day, most of whom are well-known members of the transactional analysis community (Richard Erskine, Jose M. Martinez, Maria Teresa Tosi, Gloria Noriega, Daniel Ceridano, and Jim Allen). The one keynoter from outside TA is Dr. Natalia Ojeda, and we thought you would enjoy learning a little about her through the following interview conducted by Igor Fernandez, a member of the Bilbao conference publicity committee.

**IF:** Thank you for agreeing to this interview, Natalia. I'd like to start by asking you to tell us a little about your professional background.

**NO:** I have a PhD in psychology from the University of Deusto and am now a professor there and an accredited psychotherapist. I completed a specialization in neuropsychology at Johns Hopkins University and am currently the president of the Vasco Navarra Association of Neuropsychology and a consultant for the International Neuropsychological Society. My current academic, research, and clinical work is in this field.

**IF:** What are you currently working on?

**NO:** I run a research team, and for the last 10 years we have been investigating the role of cognition in brain development and organization in both healthy people and those who suffer from severe mental illness. We are



*“Changes in the brain will be shown in some behaviors and, at the same time, vital experience and interaction with the environment and other people will be fixed in neurological changes.”*

looking at the way cognitive deterioration influences clinical diagnosis and functional prognosis.

**IF:** What was your reaction when you were invited to speak in the TA World Conference?

**NO:** I was surprised because my field of work is not obviously linked to transactional analysis. However, our team tries to stay in contact with and to share our work with other professionals, so I see my participation in the conference as an opportunity to build bridges.

**IF:** Do you think such bridges exist between clinical work and neuroscience?

**NO:** Absolutely. People are whole, not with the brain on one side and the mind on the other. Even in evaluating severe mental disorders, to isolate cognition from emotion or behavior interjects a significant bias. Understanding the per-

son in front of me demands that, sooner or later, I get close enough to learn about the rest of his or her context and story. The American Psychological Association's 40th Division (psychotherapy) describes clinical neuropsychology as the study of brain-behavior relations, which includes cognitive behavior, emotional behavior, and the expression of personal uniqueness.

**IF:** Considering our conference theme of "The Challenge of Growth," what does "to grow" mean in neurological terms?

**NO:** The brain is constantly changing, positively and negatively. Humans are born with the least developed brain of all animals, which means that in early life, the environment has a much greater influence on its physiology and, therefore, on the components that will be essential for future change and development. There are milestones in brain development and its deterioration later, but these are continuously bidirectional: Changes in the brain will be shown in some behaviors and, at the same time, vital experience and interaction with the environment and other people will be fixed in neurological changes.

**IF:** So, the nervous system is in relationship.

**NO:** Yes, interactions with the environment will have repercussions for either the size of the structure or the way the neural networks take shape in the brain, which is unique in every person. And these influences occur throughout life.

**José M. Tafoya's email address** at the end of his article in the January *Script* was incorrect. The correct address is [iaoptimo@gmail.com](mailto:iaoptimo@gmail.com).

**IF:** Is change a challenge for the brain?

**NO:** Of course, but the natural state of the brain is change. In fact, the healthiest brain is the one that adapts best to change. When we find a fixation in certain brain areas, it usually indicates a disturbance or pathology, although change continues, even in the face of pathology. The challenge of growth is to arrive at the milestones I mentioned before, in which the change is imposed, and to overcome them with biological success and success in the tendency that these changes will mark in the future life of the person.

**IF:** We are talking about adapting to internal and external circumstances, but the concepts of potential and growth is important in transactional analysis. How are those understood in the neurosciences?

**NO:** This can be translated into the concept of cognitive reserve. We know that someone who is interested in growth has a cognitive reserve with a biological reflex that guarantees greater potential and that this will be protective in case of any eventuality. That tells us that when someone takes an active role and is committed to personal growth, the biology responds to it as well. In terms of prevention, to take care of mental life, among other things, we need a good source of stimulation (depending on our own interests). In addition, the oxygen that we breathe, our diet, sleep, and level of stress will have an influence.

**IF:** In this potential development, what is the role of relationships?

**NO:** Over the last decade, research has been intense in this regard, for instance, about mirror neurons, theories of the mind, how in relationships this reflex is biologically

gathered and sealed. The relational level is essential to growth: We need one another to grow. The quality of affection has an effect on the fetus and its brain even before birth, fixing and establishing a preset and fostering or limiting growth at a specific moment. It is so essential that a lack of stimulation can lead to death.

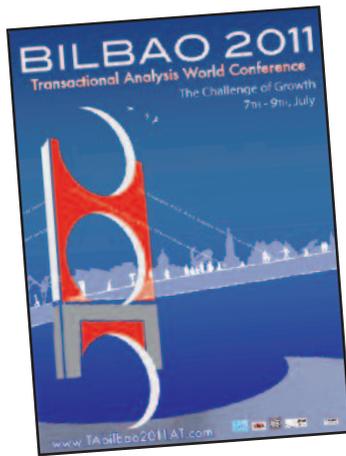
**IF:** Transactional analysis is applied in the educational and organizational fields as well as in psychotherapy and counseling. What applications does neuropsychology have in these fields?

**NO:** It has a big impact in education, for example, on syntonic stimulation of child development, academic stimulation, child disorders such as attention deficit hyperactivity, and learning disabilities. In organizations there are two major trends: in advertising, with the understanding of emotional intelligence, and in neuromarketing, with the understanding of the way decisions are made or how risk behavior operates in relation to investments.

**IF:** Thank you again for speaking with me Natalia. Is there anything you would like to add in closing?

**NO:** Just that I am grateful for the invitation to participate in your conference because it is not always easy to find opportunities to build bridges among disciplines. Although I believe that growing always implies a certain risk, it's worthy it, and I look forward to learning how knowledge from both our fields can be integrated. 📍

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## Bilbao Presenters Announced

We are happy to provide details about the workshops to be offered at the 7-9 July 2011 World TA Conference in Bilbao, Spain, sponsored by EATA, ITAA, ATAA, and APPHAT on the theme of "The Challenge of Growth." To register, go to [www.tabilbao2011at.com](http://www.tabilbao2011at.com).

- Susan Alt:** "Organizations Grow—And Leave More and More Employees Behind"
- Daniella Allamandri:** "Human Growth in Transcendence"
- Iris Anfuso, Nadia Fratter, and Stefano Iapichino:** "Critical Events, Trauma, and Growth"
- Marijke Arendsen Hein:** "My Client Is in Love with Me, Now What?"
- John Baxendale:** "Spiritual Abuse"
- Joanna Beazley Richards and Stefan Sandström:** "Clarifying and Expanding the Theory of Positions"
- Andreas Becker:** "The Educational Relationship: Between the Poles of Symbiosis and Autonomy"
- Susanna Bianchini, Paola Fulignoli, and Claudia Visone:** "Partner, Parent, and

- Child: A Circular Relationship for Change Opportunities"
- Cristina Capoferri and Stefano Morera:** "A Child's Play in the Analysis Room"
- Marina Caravella and Michele D'Errico:** "Narration without History: Trauma and Borderline Personality"
- Ariela Casartelli:** "Play and Grow Up"
- Jean Illsley Clarke:** "Remind Me of Someone I Know: Putting Berne's Theory of Group Imago into Personal and Professional Practice"
- William Cornell:** "Hope and Dread in the Face of Growth"
- Jesús Cuadra:** "Cómo Crece Una Relación Terapéutica"
- Conchita de Diego:** "The Seventh Art: An Instrument of Psychotherapy"
- Milly de Micheli and Richard Erskine:** "The Script System in Counseling Interviews: The Challenge to Growth"
- Richard Erskine:** "The Healing Relationship: A Challenge to Growth"
- Georges Escribano:** "TA and Psychosociology"
- Felicitas Estevez Montes:** "El Desafío de Crecer o Cómo Crecer Cuando Has Crecido"
- Igor Fernandez:** "Reescribiendo el Guión para Hacer Cine"
- Annelie Figul and Anette Dielmann:** "Move, Learn, Love"
- Antonella Fornaro and Antonella Liverano:** "Affective

- Addiction and Interpersonal Relationships"
- Cesare Fregola, Raffaele Mastromarino, and Milena Rosso:** "Group Supervision: A Safe Learning Environment for the Growth of Professional Roles"
- Felipe Garcia:** "The Challenge of Growing from Painful Transitions and Ending Relationships"
- Rosanna Giacometto, Antonella Liverano, and Mara Scoliere:** "Repair the Unexpected: Strategies for Working with PTSD in TA and Sociocognitive TA"
- Eluned Gold:** "Awareness, Acceptance, Autonomy: Integrating Transactional Analysis Theory and Practice with Mindfulness-Based Approaches"
- Vladimir Goussakovski, Tatiana Sizikova, and Margarita Sizikova:** "Challenges of Growth in Families"
- Monica Guarise:** "Hide to Play Rather than Hide from the Game: How to Help Parents Find the Pleasure of Playing with Their Children"
- Elena María Guarrella:** "Are You an Ideal Alter or an Intimate Partner?"
- John Heath and Steff Oates:** "Character, Script, and Drama"
- Lis Heath:** "Experiencing and Exploring the Depth in Games"
- Anthony Jannetti:** "Psychotherapy of the Introjection: The Resolution of Inter-generational Scripts"

**Nico Janzen:** “Significance of Boundaries for Growth”

**Vann Joines:** “Using Attachment Theory in Couples Therapy”

**Stephen Karpman:** “TA Intimacy Theory and Training”

**Bertine Kessel:** “Contract-Process: Using Unconscious Resources with the Help of a Projective Method (ZRM)”

**Bernd Kreuzburg, Sabine Klingenberg, and Günter Hallstein:** “‘Exhausted Self’: Shame and Narcissistic Structures in Counseling, Psychotherapy, and Organizations”

**Mandy Lacy:** “Healing Within: Fantasy or Future for Organizations”

**Kathy Laverty:** “Covering and Uncovering Shame”

**Andrea Marconcini:** “Why Don’t We Be Friends Outside the Therapy?: Projective Identification in TA”

**Itziar Martinez:** “Creciendo por Dentro, Integrando Mi Imagen”

**Amaia Máuritz Etxabe and Roberto Inocencio:** “Growing: Shadows & Lights”

**Renao Morandi:** “Relational Coaching”

**Anita Mountain:** “From the Individual to the Whole”

**Gillian Neish:** “Yes, We Are All OK!”

**Andrea Nespoli:** “Working in Sport through Four Fields of TA”

**Gloria Noriega:** “Los Guiones Transgeneracionales: Un Desafío Familiar”

**Mirko Paolinelli Vitali:** “Analysis of Ego States in the Best Performance for an Olympic Champion”

**Antonio Pedreira:** “New Transactional Approaches for the Challenge of Overcoming Anxiety”

**Alexandra Piotrowska:** “From an Acorn into an Oak”

**Amelia Pulvirenti and Sandra Maffei:** “In Front of the ‘River of Heraclitus’: What Opportunities for Growth? Child Processes for the Construction of Responsible Spontaneity”

**John Renwick and Karen Cesarano:** “The ‘Self’ Is Shamed”

**Paula Requeijo and Graciela Padilla:** “El AT Como Método de Análisis de Películas y Series de Televisión”

**Eva Sylvie Rossi:** “Preventing Mobbing in the Workplace with TA Tools”

**Mil Rosseau and Rik Rosseau:** “TA 2.0.”

**Mario Salvador:** “Integration and Growth of Somatic Ego States through a Neurobiological Approach (Brainspotting)”

**Sylvia Schachner:** “Jedem Anfang wohnt ein neuer Zauber inne”

**Jürg Schläpfer:** “Violence Begins with Words”

**Sabine-Inken:** “It Is about the Ants—And Not the Elephants”

**Henning Schuzle:** “The ‘Turned Discount Matrix’ and the ‘Stroke Cube’: From Theory Orientation to Application Orientation”

**Annacarla Senesi:** “Psychotherapy with Old People: What Sort of Change Is Possible?”

**Claude Steiner:** “Una Hora, Dos Horas, Una Mañana, Una Tarde con Claude Steiner”

**Anna Emanuela Tangolo:** “Dreams about Healing and the End of Psychotherapy: Analysis in Group Therapy”

**Lynda Tongue:** “Going for Growth!”

**Frances Townsend:** “Using the Feeling Cycle for Healthy Emotional Growth”

**Harry Tyrangiel:** “The Existential Dimension”

**Marion Umney:** “The Challenge of the Shadows to the Potential

for Growth”

**Ciriaco Uriarte:** “Psicoterapia y Espiritualidad: Integración del Trabajo Interior en el Trabajo Psicoterapéutico”

**Felicitimo Valbuena:** “Análisis Transaccional y Comunicación Política”

**Francesca Vignozzi:** “‘I’ll Be as You Want Me to Be’ to ‘I Exist’: The Case of Mister X”

**Llargués Vilardelli, Pere Salinas Rovira, and José Manuel Martínez Rodríguez:**

“Psychotherapy through Art and Relationship”

**Ineke Vonk:** “The Human Element: A Powerful Approach for Expanding Self-Awareness and Awareness of Others”

**Ali Babaei Zad:** “Homosexuality and Challenge for Growth”

### Update on Transactional Analysts for Social Responsibility

In the last issue of *The Script*, we inadvertently omitted mentioning that Leonard Campos, coordinator of the informal email network Transactional Analysts for Social Responsibility (TAFSR), spearheaded the effort to bring together the group of outstanding transactional analysts making up the panel on social/cultural applications of TA. Our apologies to Leonard for this oversight. He was the original architect and moderator of the panel before realizing he would be unable to attend the Bilbao conference. John Monk-Steel graciously stepped in to take his role as moderator. He and John will be giving us an updated report on the panel experience and other news in a later *Script* edition.

Amaia Máuritz Etxabe,  
Bilbao Conference Organizer

# Navathy (90th Birthday Celebration) for Fr. George Kandathil

by P. K. Saru

**N**avathy is the Sanscrit word for a 90th birthday celebration. Fr. George Kandathil turned 90 on 25 December 2010. He was born on Christmas day, which in itself makes him quite special. Fr. George is the icon and father of transactional analysis in India, and the torch he lit is glowing brightly all over south India. Fr. Jose Thachil and the governing council of the Institute of Counselling and Transactional Analysis (ICTA) wanted to make Fr. George's Navathy a memorable event. It included a solemn ceremony blessed by the Bishop and the Provincial of the Jesuit congregation to which Fr. George belongs. I had the honor and privilege of being one of the felicitators because I am one of the pioneer trainees of Fr. George. It was a great opportunity to offer my gratitude to my Guru (teacher) and mentor.

Fr. George is a beacon light in the Indian arena of transactional analysis. Although he went to the University of California, Berkeley, to learn pastoral counseling, with his progressive and inquisitive mind he

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became attracted to transactional analysis and got himself trained and certified. He returned to India and founded the ICTA in Kochi in 1970. Since then, the number of transactional analysis programs he has conducted in corporate, educational, and individual settings is astounding. The first trainee to take CTA accreditation was Sr. Annie Maria, CMC. After that, Fr. George began his formal training group in 1989 in Kochi, and seven of those trainees took their CTA exams in 1993 at the first ITAA designated conference in India.

The highlight of the Navathy celebration was the reading by the Provincial of the Jesuits of a letter to Fr. George from the Pope acknowledging and acclaiming his work in empowering the economically marginalized segment of society in a village in the capital of Kerala, which belonged to that diocese. Fr. George was given the title of "Spiritual Leader" by the Pope.

The torch Fr. George lit in disseminating transactional analysis is passed on by his efficient disciples in the true spirit of the Guru



*P. K. Saru (middle) presents Fr. George Kandathil with a ponnada (shawl) in the tradition of honoring one's Guru (Teacher), which Fr. George was for her.*

(teacher)-Sishya (student) relationship embedded in the Indian tradition and culture. So much so that we now have four TSTAs, 30 CTAs, and 10 PTSTAs in South India alone as well as nearly 70 trainees.

Fr. George has also written many transactional analysis books in the vernacular Malayalam and in English. He has also developed his own perspective on TA theory and concepts with a focus on spirituality.

Fr. George's vitality and spirit is legendary, even at his age; it is manifested in how he maintains his large garden and institute campus, keeping it impeccable all by himself.

May the light he lit send its light still wider to create a strong bastion of transactional analysts in India! 📍

# From Paris: Transactional Analysis Is Still a Living Language

by Jean-Pierre Quazza

**O**n 22 January 2011, about 100 transactional analysts from Belgium, France, and Switzerland, mostly professionals from various fields and TA students in training, gathered in Paris to participate in the “Journée des Actualités en Analyse Transactionnelle,” a one-day event that included a series of presentations and exchanges. The selected theme this year was “Script Stories” or new approaches around script theory.

*“The ‘Journée des Actualités en Analyse Transactionnelle’ is part of an ongoing effort to maintain and improve the perception of transactional analysis as a fully scientific discipline in its diversified fields of applications.”*

The day was organized, as it has been every year since the late 1980s, by the French Editions d’Analyse Transactionnelle and the French TA journal, *Actualités en Analyse Transactionnelle*. As keynote speaker on script protocol, France Brecard discussed the adaptive nature of script as a defense against the inscription of early traumas in

the subject’s unconscious. As a striking and metaphorical example, France revisited for us the true and eternal story of Oedipus, who, unaware of the initial trauma caused by his abandonment as a baby, kept traveling the world, coming closer and closer to his destiny with every move he made and finally fulfilling the curse he tried so hard to avoid.

For the second keynote, Jean-Pierre Quazza presented on organizational scripting as a multidimensional systemic inclusion of patterns at different levels (beliefs, behaviors, emotions, and technologies, following Barnes’s model on TA schools’ scripts) and thus shifting away from the anthropomorphic perspective of organizations frequently but inaccurately described as having a PAC. This more systemic approach to culture also included a comprehensive description of past and present



*Elyane Alleysson (far left) with 2011 Raymond Hostie Awards winners (next from left) Brigitte Evrard, Jean Maquet, and Jean-Pierre Quazza (José Grégoire was not able to be there)*

organizational leaders, both as script founders/transmitters and as possible script revisitors/redeciders.

The afternoon began with a presentation by Elyane Alleysson about the workings of the journal. After providing statistics on the sales and circulation in various French-speaking countries, Elyane described the selection and editing process articles undergo when submitted for publication. This not only gave recognition to the hardworking members of the editorial board but also helps authors understand that their writing is not treated lightly.

Later in the afternoon, a panel discussion was organized on the theme “Can We Move Out of Our Script?” Evelyne Blain-Joguet as moderator brought together some unconventional views expressed by

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Laurie Hawkes, Salomon Nasielski, and Anne Ziegler-Abecassis.

The day also offered the opportunity to announce and celebrate the Raymond Hostie Award, which honors a transactional analysis article originally published in French in *Actualités* during the past 2 years. The selection this time—"nominees" chosen by our TA-certified readers—was of very high quality. The 2011 award went to Brigitte Evrard, José Grégoire, Jean Maquet, and Jean-Pierre Quazza for a two-part article entitled "Autonomy of Our Practices: Can We Compromise with TA Theory? I and II" published in *Actualités* in July 2009. In these two articles, the four authors summed up the thinking of a group that had



Kenote speaker France Brecard uses the metaphor of Oedipus to discuss the adaptive nature of script.

been working together for several years on examining discrepancies in our theory and striving to bring more coherence to the concepts.

This was also an opportunity to celebrate the vitality of our TA community and of our journal, which has existed since 1977 (published first in Brussels, Belgium, under the direction of Raymond Hostie, and then in France beginning in 2001). One thousand copies are printed each quarter, and our readership is growing. As an extension of the *Journal*, The Editions have also published 11 books (including translations of some books by Eric Berne that were not previously available in French). Their most recent publication, *Mon enfance à Montréal* (A Childhood in Montreal), is a vivid reminiscence



"Can We Move Out of Our Script?" panelists (from left) Anne Ziegler-Abecassis, Evelyne Blain-Joguet (moderator), Laurie Hawkes, and Salomon Nasielski

by Eric Berne of his experiences as a child in the city of his birth.

The "Journée des Actualités en Analyse Transactionnelle" is part of an ongoing effort to maintain and improve the perception of transactional analysis as a fully scientific discipline in its diversified fields of applications, as opposed to a handy tool kit that will easily and magically help solve problems "in-the-name-of-Eric." This, of course, needs to be completed by increased and continued relationships with other TA scientific publications around the world and by networking with places where transactional analysis is considered to be a scientific discipline for understanding and working with the human psyche. We firmly believe that TA is not a dead language, ritually repeating ill-founded assumptions and endlessly drawing the same diagrams as if "the map were the territory." Rather, we believe that transactional analysis is a living language to be used as a support for exchanging reflections on the real world and that we are in urgent need of filling in the black holes remaining in our theory. **S**

## TA Conferences Worldwide

**4-8 May 2011:** Thanneermukkom, Cherthala, Kerala, India. Institute for Counselling and Transactional Analysis (ICTA) National Conference. Contact: [www.ictaindia.org](http://www.ictaindia.org).

**7 May 2011:** Bath, England. Institute of Developmental Transactional Analysis Spring Event. Contact: [www.instdta.org](http://www.instdta.org).

**7-9 July 2011:** Bilbao, Spain. Major International TA Conference sponsored by EATA/ITAA/ATAA. Contact: Amaia Máuriz Etxabe at [bios@bios-psicologos.com](mailto:bios@bios-psicologos.com).

**27-29 October 2011:** San Antonio, Texas, USA. USATAA Conference. Contact: [www.usataaconference.org](http://www.usataaconference.org).

**2-5 November 2011:** Merida, Yucatan, Mexico. Latinoamerican TA Conference/30th Conglat Mexico 2011. Contact: Martha Silva, Conference Logistics ([marthaisilva@yahoo.com.mx](mailto:marthaisilva@yahoo.com.mx)); José M. Tafoya, Chairperson (email: [iaoptimo@gmail.com](mailto:iaoptimo@gmail.com)); website: [www.amatsc.org.mx](http://www.amatsc.org.mx).



## Four Green Fields

by John Heath

**F**or my heading this month, I'm using the title of an Irish song, written in times when it was possible to refer to certain matters only in metaphor. It's a powerful, ultimately hopeful song.

*What did I have, said the fine old woman  
What did I have, this proud old woman did say  
I had four green fields, each one was a jewel  
But strangers came and tried to take them from me*

The fine old woman is Ireland, and the four green fields are her regions. The "strangers" are the British, of course, but that's another story for another time. Mostly I'm quoting the song because I like the image of the green fields and the fact that there are four of them. In transactional analysis we have our own four fields, and, as the song says, each one is a kind of jewel.

But jewels don't come cheap, and people tend to squabble over them as well as delight in them. I don't think we are in danger from strangers coming and trying to take them from us, but there is something to look after nevertheless. Our four fields are one of our assets, and assets need to be taken care of.

In all our fields, we're interested in the landscape. I'm a psychothera-

pist now. My field is the clinical one. We clinicians have our own particular interests, and we tend to get fascinated by them. We like to use TA diagnostically, to describe the inner landscape of the individual, including its geological substructure. We are very keen on knowing what lies beneath what is visible. Then we work with it in a way that we hope improves the landscape in the opinion of the individual who inhabits it. This can sometimes take a long time. Geological foundations can be difficult to change. Sometimes though, a new substructure can mean that a landscape that looked drab and lifeless and resisted all attempts at cultivation can come to surprising new life and vitality.

*"In transactional analysis we have our own four fields, and, as the song says, each one is a kind of jewel. But jewels don't come cheap, and people tend to squabble over them as well as delight in them."*

The counseling field is similar in its interest in inner landscape, but it tends to be much less geological. That means that the visible landscape often changes faster because it gets more direct attention. What's underneath does not always

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matter, and if we attend to it when we don't need to then we waste time and energy. Sometimes, as Freud said, a cigar is just a cigar. Counselors know that very well and tend not to get bogged down in pointless interpretation and historically based explanation.

The educational field is about learning. I used to be an educational psychologist, and I know that in this field the landscape is changed through the acquisition of new skills and concepts. There are two crucial roles in the educational field: that of the learner and that of the teacher. They are more fluid than the layperson might think, but nevertheless, there is a key activity in education based around the interdependence of those two related positions. At its best, education is the most relational of all the fields.

In the organizational field, which is the one I know least about, I think the guiding principle is efficiency. Here the hallmark of success in organizationally applied psychology is to get the most out of the land-

scape that exists or to alter it in a way that makes it more fit for a given purpose. The organizational field shows us clearly that the individual is not the only psychological entity that matters.

Having four fields is sometimes hard work. I've been to conferences and gatherings that are entirely about psychotherapy, and, even if we are from different modalities, there is often an ease of communication and a sense of commonality that is pleasant to be part of. At TA gatherings it's not always so easy. We might use similar language, but we use it for different purposes and with different intent.

Once, early in my TA career, I saw someone get upset in a workshop because he thought the presenter's answer to his question had been given with a therapeutic intent. He was offended that someone would think it right to look beneath the surface of him without his consent. Rightly so perhaps, though in my

field the answer would not have been judged as intrusive and would probably have been welcomed. A little recontracting and some respectful accounting of differences soon took care of the matter, by the way. I don't think anyone carried anything difficult away with them, and most people present would probably not even remember the exchange. I did though, because it was then that I realized something important: that our common language did not mean we were all thinking about the same things with it. I could get into difficulty if I assumed that what was an obvious, even self-evident, focus for me would be the same for someone else. I concluded that I should not talk TA in future without accounting for that. Not surprisingly, I have failed in that intent many times. And others have made similar mistakes with me. So it goes!

There are difficulties in having neighbors who don't see life quite like you do. Sometimes they're noisy when you'd like to be quiet. Sometimes they cook things that smell funny to you, or grow things you don't want to look at. We probably all sometimes enjoy aspects of our own exclusive monoculture, back in our home field. I think that's absolutely fine. Sometimes it's really important to have fences between fields. But we need gates as well.

What I've grown to be glad about over the years is the diversity of our community. Had I belonged to an association exclusively interested in psychotherapeutic applications, there are things I might never have learned to appreciate. As a TA psychotherapist I know clearly that there are many ways in which people grow. I know that so vividly because my professional life keeps me in touch with people who tend

their fields differently from me. Those people in other fields are my friends and companions, not quite in the same way as the people in my own field, but equally importantly.

We have representatives from three of the fields on the ITAA Board of Trustees at present. Counseling is always underrepresented, and it is the missing one. Let that be a wake-up call to any aspiring colleagues who work as counselors! We need you to come forward and weave your particular wisdom in with the other three. We are hoping to announce a proposed new structure for the ITAA governance later this year. It will be less centralized, with a smaller board and more work in committees, hopefully with regional involvement. There is much to do and a great future ahead for us. So do look out for opportunities to get involved and help us keep our four fields green and flourishing. They truly are our jewels. 🍷

## the SCRIPT

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## Nominations Wanted for ITAA Board

**Officers** (nominations allowed from any region and elected at large by all ITAA voting members)

- Vice President Development (2012-2014)
- Secretary (2012-2014)

**Regional Trustees** (nomination and election only by members of the region)

- Australasia (2012-2014)
- Asia/India (2012-2014)

Send nominations to ITAA Nominations Committee Chair Sumithra Sharatkumar at [sumithrask@gmail.com](mailto:sumithrask@gmail.com) by 31 May 2011.

**Update on TA in France:** Laurie Hawkes writes, “November is always a busy month for the French TA Association (Institut Français d’Analyse Transactionnelle or IFAT). It used to be the time when we held our national conference, but that tradition was suspended 2 years ago after the Bordeaux conference in 2008 because IFAT has been in turmoil for several years. The crisis reached a head in 2008 when no one wanted to run the association anymore. Fewer and fewer people had been attending the members’ meetings, which had become quite confrontational. In 2008 a group offered to run for the main board positions, with a clear platform: not to do “IFAT business as usual” but simply to hold the

ship steady while the entire membership reflected on what they wanted for their association. So, no more conferences or events—just meetings of the board to reflect on how to structure things so members could actively make proposals. Board members volunteered to take care of membership dues and other absolutely necessary administrative chores while the deliberations and discussions went on.

“This year, on Saturday 13 November, something different was in the air at the IFAT general assembly. In the previous weeks, half a dozen ‘interest groups’ had sent the board a description of their plans. There was a group of students in transactional analysis, a group for research, two groups wanting to create a TA

psychotherapy association, a trainers’ group, and more. IFAT, which might change its name to something other than ‘Institute,’ would become a kind of network, an umbrella association linking the interest groups to EATA. The atmosphere in the room reminded me of what began happening for the ITAA in Montreal: There was energy, enthusiasm, and creativity, people were caring about their association again. One measure of that was the high attendance, much better than we had seen in years.

“I did wonder about another problem when one of our new members, Carmen Musat—who moved here from Romania—remarked to me, ‘People are so much older here than in Bucharest!’ We will need to get more young people interested in transactional analysis in France!”



Some members of the outgoing IFAT board in November 2010 (from left): Catherine Frugier (PTSTA-E), outgoing treasurer Véronique Guelfucci (TSTA-E); Yves Verdier (TSTA-P), president; Anne Noé (TSTA-P), vice president, and Nathalie Deffontaines (CTA-P)



Audience at the November 2010 IFAT meeting, a larger than usual number, with 120 people present or represented by proxy out of approximately 500 members.

**The Institute for Counselling & Transactional Analysis (ICTA)** announces its 38th national conference to be held 4-8 May 2011 at KTDC Lake Resort, Thanneermukkom, Cherthala, Kerala, India. The theme is “Relate to Grow.” For more details, visit [www.ictaindia.org](http://www.ictaindia.org).

## Share Your News & Photos

Now that *The Script* has gone digital, we hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to easily and quickly share news and photos of TA activities in your region. Send your submissions electronically to managing editor Robin Fryer at [robinfryer@aol.com](mailto:robinfryer@aol.com).

**Tomoko Abe** writes that she gave a 2-day TA 101 in Fukuoka in south Japan on 5-6 February 2011. There were 26 participants, all of whom were given certificates of completion. This is Tomoko's second TA 101 group in Fukuoka, the first having been held in July 2010 with 24 participants. She says, "Both groups were full of people with super enthusiasm and passion about TA. We all experienced exciting transactions and learning over the 2 days."



*Tomoko Abe (third from left) and the participants of the February 2011 TA 101 in Fukuoka, Japan. Just to her left are the man who organized the event and his assistant.*

**Tony White** traveled to Serbia in November 2010 to do 4 days of workshops in Belgrade and Novi Sad. In Belgrade the participants were mainly TA trainees at various levels as well as other professionals, such as social workers, psychologists, and psychiatrists. The 2-day workshop comprised a Certificate 1 in addictions counseling. The basic introductory course taught how transactional analysis can be used to understand drug use and addiction along with the basics of TA psychotherapy with substance users. A Certificate 2 in addictions counseling is planned. The other workshop was on transactional analysis, child development, and the psychopathology resulting from disrupted development. At the culmination of the workshops, Tony was offered the new position of Honorary Lecturer: TA Centre—Association of Transactional Analysts of Serbia. He accepted the new position with great thanks to the president of the associa-

tion, Zoran Milivojevic. Tony also had the opportunity to catch up with old Serbian friends and make some new ones as well.

Then in January 2011, Tony went to Singapore at the request of the Executive Counselling & Training Academy (ECTA) and the Transactional Analysis Association of Singapore (TAAS). The president, Jessica Leong, asked him to do four workshops. The first was for the psychiatric staff at the Tan Tock Seng Hospital on personality types and their similarities and differences to personality disorders. This was attended by about 50 partici-

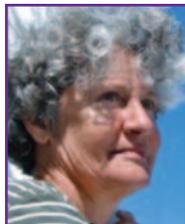
pants and included a great supper, according to Tony. There were then two group therapy demonstrations for the master's of counseling students at ECTA during which Tony and Jessica worked as cotherapists. Tony writes, "I was impressed by the quality of the participants' questions, which showed that they were well trained and conversant in the practice of psychotherapy." Tony's final Singapore workshop was on suicide to coincide with the release of his new book on the transactional analysis approach to suicide and the suicidal client.



*Tony White (seated second row, second from right) with Serbia group.*



*Tony White (seated third from right) with Singapore group*

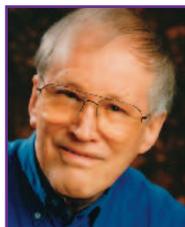


## **Martine Walter**

**From Christine Chevalier:** Our French TA community is in

mourning again. Martine Walter, TSTA (O), left us on 17 February after several months of a courageous battle against cancer. Martine was an excellent professional who had cocreated the TA School for Professionals in Organizations (ATORG). She was also invested, with her finesse and intelligence, in the national and international TA organizations, had contributed to intercultural reflections about the exam processes, and had cooperated for several years in the Turkish TA programs. With her big heart and bubbly personality, Martine was easy to feel close to because of her laughter, humor, creativity, and Free Child. When she worked with people, she combined gentleness and high demands, firmness and playfulness. Learning with her meant learning with pleasure. Her constant generosity was felt in her every actions, be it with her trainees or in charities, where she kept long-term engagements. Martine also had a passion for creativity, which led her to blend practices and theories for her clients' benefit. Her death came so suddenly that we did not have time to say goodbye, to tell her how much we loved her and appreciated her charm and energy, to say how much we—her colleagues, friends, students—will miss her, and especially I as her

business partner. There is so much more we would have wanted to do with you, Martine!



## **Tony Tilney**

**From Gwyn Phelps:** Tony Tilney, TSTA, passed away

peacefully in his sleep on 18 February 2011. Tony was 83 years old and had been in ill health for some years with Alzheimer's, spending the last year of his life in a nursing home in Solihull, UK. Tony's life spanned three careers: He began as a scientist, which he was passionate about, and then worked as a teacher. However, it was his final years as a psychotherapist and trainer that he enjoyed the most. Tony had a plethora of skills and expertise, but his scientific mind was evident throughout his life and often brought him into conflict with TA. He could be challenging yet stimulating, which was of particular benefit to his trainees and colleagues. He wanted TA to encourage dialogue outside of himself and not to be so insular, something he particularly encouraged in his years as editor of the *Transactional Analysis Journal*. Tony was a man of amazing intellect, an accomplished scientist, editor, and author as well as a stimulating trainer, supportive colleague, and great friend. He also excelled in the field of art and culture, was an extraordinary cook long before world foods were fashionable, and an accomplished pianist and sculptor. One of his most

lasting contributions to the TA community is his *Dictionary of Transactional Analysis*, through which he "lives on."

**From Mo Felton:** I remember Tony with deep affection and respect, a man of few words and great intellect. Tony, Gwyn Phelps, and I were students together in one of the first TA training programs in the United Kingdom (taught by Adrienne Lee and Ian Stewart). Later Tony invited me to teach in his training program at The Thanet Centre near Birmingham. I remember his delight at completing his *Dictionary of Transactional Analysis* and his quiet enjoyment of the success and strokes he received as a result. We shared many celebrations and losses together over 25 years of connectedness, but, sadly, in recent years his illness took him away from us. In the words of colleagues, Tony was an engaging and humorous teacher and a wonderfully witty man with a wry sense of humor and the attitude of a scientist. We will miss him and continue to celebrate his life.

## **TAJ Theme Issue**

**"Learning from Our Mistakes"**

Guest Editor: Charlotte Sills

Deadline for Manuscripts: July 2011

Please follow the instructions to authors on the inside front cover of any recent issue of the *TAJ* and email manuscripts to *TAJ* Managing Editor Robin Fryer, MSW, at [robinfryer@aol.com](mailto:robinfryer@aol.com).