

American Association for
Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work
AAPCSW



R e a c h i n g **Across the Divide**

Bringing a Psychoanalytic Sensibility to Culture and Practice

●
Plenary Preview

November 9–12, 2023

Palmer House Hilton
17 East Monroe Street, Chicago

www.aapcsw.org/events/conference

Sponsored by National Institute for Psychoanalytic Education and Research, Inc. (NIPER), 501c3 educational arm of AAPCSW



Reaching Across the Divide

Bringing a Psychoanalytic Sensibility to Culture and Practice

At this conference, we will explore what we are experiencing inside and outside our consulting rooms. “Divisiveness” seems more prominent today than at other times in history. Is it no greater but rather less hidden today? How are we to hear the other and bridge the gaps that we encounter? From its focus on internal conflict to the ways in which we understand and face difference, psychoanalytic thinking has much to say about the topic of divisiveness. Join us as we discuss the theory and therapeutic stance of responding to divisions, as they relate to the issues that are presented to us in our practices, in our communities, and in the world.



Friday, November 10, 2023

PLENARY I(A)

Loss and Mourning: A Passage Through the Faraway, Nearby

Kerry L. Malawista, MSW, PhD
Janice Berry Edwards, PhD, LICSW,
LCSW, LCSW-C, BCD, *Moderator*

How do we mourn the loss of someone essential to our identity? How do we find a bridge between the *nearby* of overwhelming grief and the dreaded *faraway*, of feeling our loved one is lost to us forever? In her work with patients and her own personal loss of her daughter, the presenter will suggest that a *middle distance* is necessary, a space that bridges the faraway and the nearby. In the *middle distance*—a liminal space—a death can be slowly integrated. The bereaved can shift between moments of excruciating pain, and moments of ordinary-living, ultimately able to summon loving memories without the daily ache and pain of loss, transforming suffering and surviving into healthy thriving.

After attending the presentation, participants will be able to

- Identify the complex dynamics that arise when a parent loses a child.
- Describe an understanding of identification, taking a loved one inside, as a means of healthy mourning and resilience.

PLENARY I(B)

A Mourning Walk: An Autoethnographic Reflection of Intergenerational Trauma

Lisa L. Moore, PhD, LICSW
Janice Berry Edwards, PhD, LICSW,
LCSW, LCSW-C, BCD, *Moderator*

This talk addresses the intricacies of understanding how a traumatic event and the accompanying divisiveness of race and class shapes a family narrative of resilience and the persistence of mourning across two generations. Drawing on the mysterious death/murder of her paternal uncle in the 1950's in Red Springs, North Carolina, Moore will highlight the impact of his death on her paternal family. Psychodynamic theory, Fanon's theory of phobogenesis (fear of the Black body), Black feminist theories, and Relational Cultural Theory will inform this presentation which will interrogate the ways race, racism, and gender are navigated by a family when considering its past and present.

After attending the presentation, participants will be able to

- Describe how Fanon's concept of phobogenesis offers a framework for understanding the operationalization of fear and its contributions to divisiveness and dehumanization of Black and Brown people.
- Identify the ways that multiple theoretical lenses are applied when exploring intersectional dynamics of race, class, gender, and mental health.

PLENARY II • Film Presentation (2.5 CE hours)

Close

Karen Redding, PhD, LCSW,
Moderator/Discussant; and *Chair*,
William Meyer, MSW, *Film Series*
Benjamin H. Nguyen, MSW, LCSW, *Discussant*

Directed by Lukas Dhont; Produced by Dirk Impens and Michiel Dhont; Winner of multiple international film awards including the Grand Prix at Cannes, Sydney Film Prize, Sydney Film Festival. Co-production between Belgium, France, and the Netherlands.

This 2022 coming-of-age film depicts a tender bond and unselfconscious friendship between two 13-year-old boys, Leo and Remi. Their relationship is blown apart, when in entering middle-school their schoolmates question if the two are a couple. Over the school year, the boys become progressively distant, and each grapples separately with conflictual and painful feelings. In writing the film, the Director, Dhont, was inspired by psychologist Niobe Way's book, *Deep Secrets: Boys' Friendships and the Crisis of Connection*, which documents her study of intimacy among teenage boys. Dhont suggests that the story in *Close* touches on his own early adolescent experience. "The film is a . . . powerfully acted look at childhood innocence lost" (*Rotten Tomatoes*, 2023). It has been praised for capturing the theme of expectations of masculinity and coming-out.

After attending the presentation, participants will be able to

- Identify intervention strategies aimed at lessening risky behavior of adolescents who do not meet the expectations of gender-normative masculinity.
- Discuss ways of working with grief when complications are present.

Saturday, November 11, 2023

PLENARY III • Panel

Race, Racism and Rage: Are Group Racial Enactments a Cultural Phenomenon?

Beverly J. Stoute, MD
Teresa Méndez, LCSW-C, LICSW, *Moderator*

Culture and history are constitutive elements of the unconscious. Cultural propositions about race are internalized and shape our intrapsychic perception of self and Other. From this perspective, race is a cultural construct and racism is a cultural process that structures the object relationship with the racial Other in predetermined ways. We internalize the culturally defined propositions about race and inclinations to discriminate as we grow up that reflect our psychosocial history of slavery and its legacy of racial discrimination and terror. The resistance to thinking critically about this history is culturally syntonetic and culturally sanctioned and this influences how our subjectivity, as individuals, evolves and is racialized. In this radical re-interpretation of Freud's *Totem and Taboo* (1913) Freud's theory of aggression is expanded. It is posited that a dynamic structure exists in the social unconscious. Over generations, a cultural template of destructive sadism, through a repetition compulsion, results in learned silence and group enactments of racism. The template formulated here elaborates a framework for the psychodynamic understanding of racial enactments that goes beyond typical explanations of group psychology. Case examples including data from the recently published 2023 Final report of the Holmes Commission on Racial Equality in American Psychoanalysis will be integrated and discussed.

After attending the presentation, participants will be able to

- Identify the developmental trajectory in childhood of how cultural propositions about race are internalized in the socialization process and how that impacts the awareness of racial attitudes in adulthood.
- Identify the cultural history of sadism proposed that serves as the template for group racial enactments.
- Discuss in psychoanalytic terms the differential ways that people experience racial enactments based on their ethnic racial identification.

Saturday Plenaries continued on page 4 . . .

Hatred of Sex

Tim Dean, PhD

Marco Posadas, PhD

Brian Ngo-Smith, LCSW, BCD-P, FABP, Moderator

PLENARY IV • Panel

Influential and provocative queer and psychoanalytic theorist, Dean, will discuss his most recent book (with Oliver Davis), *Hatred of Sex*. Drawing on the work of Jean Laplanche, Dean will explore how psychoanalysis has come to hate sex and how this conflicted dynamic has been exploited by neoliberal turns in attachment theory, traumatology, and queer studies. In discussion, Posadas will seek to reintegrate cultural, gender and sexual diversity, and anti-oppressive practices into psychoanalysis.

After attending the presentation, participants will be able to

- Explain the difference between sexuality and sexual identity.
- Identify signs of sex-hating in clinical and social settings.
- Discuss the contemporary usefulness of classic psychoanalytic concepts, such as neutrality, the phallus, and the rule of abstinence, when working clinically with LGBTQ+ and racialised clients.
- Discuss the signs of sex-hating as a form of prejudice experienced in the countertransference that can push the clinician to participate unconsciously in an iatrogenic enactment.



Biographies of Participants

Presenters

Tim Dean, PhD James M. Benson Professor in English, Univ of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Research interests include—queer theory, psychoanalysis, poetry and poetics, and modern and contemporary literature. Author, *Homosexuality and Psychoanalysis, Unlimited Intimacy: Reflections on the Subculture of Barebacking, and Beyond Sexuality*.

Kerry L. Malawista, MSW, PhD Training psychoanalyst. Co-chair, New Directions in Writing. Founder, The Things They Carry Project. Author, Essays in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Baltimore Sun*, the *Boston Globe*, and *Delmarva Review*. Book Author: *When the Garden Isn't Eden, Wearing My Tutu to Analysis and Other Stories, The Therapist in Mourning: From the Faraway Nearby* and *Who's Behind the Couch*, a novel *Meet the Moon*, and a memoir, *The Faraway, Nearby* (to be released). Associate Editor, *JAPA*. Nominee, the Pushcart Prize by *Delmarva Review*. Private Practice, McLean, VA.

Lisa L. Moore, PhD, LICSW Senior Lecturer and Director, A.M. Program in Social Work, Social Policy, and Social Administration at Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice, Univ of Chicago. Author and Presenter, on race, racism, gender, intergenerational trauma. Clinical licensure in MA, pending in IL.

Marco Posadas, PhD, MSW, RSW, FIPA Chief Clinical Officer, The House of Purpose (a consulting firm that develops psychoanalytically informed programs and interventions to support organizations' emotional and mental health). Graduate, Toronto Psychoanalytic Society and Inst. Member, Canadian Psychoanalytic Society, the Mexican Psychoanalytic Assoc, and the International Psychoanalytical Association (IPA). Inaugural Chair, Gender and Sexual Diversity Studies Committee, IPA. Recipient, 2013 Ontario Assoc of Social Worker Inspirational Leader Award, and the Social Worker of the year for Toronto (2022).

Beverly J. Stoute, MD, FABP, DFAPA, DFAACAP Co-Chair, Holmes Commission on Racial Equality in American Psychoanalysis. Board Member, American Psychoanalytic Assoc Board of Directors. Training and Supervising Analyst, Emory Univ Psychoanalytic Inst. Child and Adolescent Supervising Analyst, NY Psychoanalytic Society & Inst. Faculty, multiple training programs. Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Emory Univ School of Medicine, and the Morehouse School of Medicine. Speaker, author, educator, clinician and organizational consultant on psychoanalytic training and education; leadership consulting on diversity issues and curricula innovation. Private Practice, Atlanta, GA.

Film Moderator & Discussant

Benjamin H. Nguyen, MSW, LCSW, CPH Senior Operations and Programs Manager, Westside Pacific Villages. Adjunct Asst Prof of SW, Western New Mexico Univ. Private Practice, Los Angeles, CA, and FL (telehealth).

Karen K. Redding, PhD, LCSW Area Chair, AAPCSW. LA Inst and Society for Psychoanalytic Studies. Former USC School of SW, Irvine Campus. Author, *Ten Ways to Awaken the Wise Heart: A Photographic Journey*. Fine art photographer; mindfulness meditation practitioner. Private Practice, Laguna Beach, CA.

Moderators

Janice Berry Edwards, MSW, PhD, LICSW, LCSW-C, BCD President Elect, AAPCSW. Prof, Howard Univ School of SW. Principal Investigator, HRSA 2-million-dollar workforce development grant for servicing medically underserved communities. Graduate, MSW, Howard Univ School of SW; PhD, National Catholic School of SW, Catholic Univ. Board, Washington School of Psychiatry. Co-Editor, *Empowering Clinical Social Work Practice in a Time of Global Economic Distress*. Author, papers on education, policy, and race. Editorial Board, *Clinical Social Work Journal* and *Psychoanalytic Social Work Journal*. Private Practice, Washington, DC.

Teresa Méndez, LCSW-C, LICSW Past Co-President, AAPCSW. Candidate, Washington Baltimore Center for Psa. Author, articles on the mixed-race experience. Guest Editor, issue on race and psychoanalysis, *Psychoanalytic Social Work (PSW)*. Editorial Board, *PSW*. Private Practice, Baltimore, MD.

Brian Ngo-Smith, LCSW, BCD-P, FABP President, AAPCSW. Faculty, Denver Inst for Psychoanalysis. Author, articles on homelessness from a psychoanalytic perspective, psychoanalytic care, hate in the countertransference, therapy for therapists, and social work values. Private Practice, Denver, CO.