

## *Rapaport-Klein Study Group*

www.psychomedia.it/rapaport-klein

c/o Nadine Desautels

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Dear *Rapaport-Klein Study Group* Members,

We are pleased to invite you to the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the *Rapaport-Klein Study Group* which will be held on **June 17-19, 2016**, at the *Austen Riggs Center* in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. We think you will be very pleased with this year's program. Below are our speakers' biographical statements and descriptions of their presentations.

### ***Friday night, June 17, 2016***

**8:00-10:00 pm:**

**György Gergely, "The communicative instinct: Origins of trust-based mentalization and it's disorders"**

One of the foundational insights of Freudian theory was the recognition that early dysfunctional patterns of caregiver-child interactions may play a central role in the development of maladaptive object relationships and related deficits in mentalization and social mind-reading. According to currently popular psychodynamic developmental accounts, the unfolding capacity to infer and attribute intentional mental states to others is inherently related to the development of the human attachment instinct (Bowlby, 1969). In this view, the establishment attachment security and trust in early relationships provides a crucial developmental precondition for the child to construct a fully functional representational "theory of mind" by about four years of age, while mentalization deficits characteristic of Borderline Personality Disorder are the consequences of attachment trauma and dysfunctional attachment relationships (e.g., Fonagy *et al.*, 2011).

In my talk I shall review recent evidence from cognitive developmental neuroscience and evolutionary psychology to contrast this attachment theoretical perspective with an alternative account that relates the developmental origins of adaptive – as well as pathological forms of – mentalization to the species-unique social cooperative instinct for ostensive-inferential communication and communicative mindreading, which ensure the transmission of new and relevant cultural knowledge among conspecifics. In closing I shall explore how various early forms of communicative abuse that involve violations of epistemic trust and social relevance can lead to the kinds of mind-reading deficiencies and distorted patterns of mentalization that characterize patients with Borderline Personality Disorder.

**György Gergely Ph.D., D.Sc.**, is a Professor in the Department of Cognitive Science and Co-Director of the Cognitive Developmental Center, Central European University, Budapest. He completed his graduate studies in psychology at University College London (UCL) and Columbia University where he received his Ph.D. in experimental psycholinguistics. He has also earned a second Ph.D. in Clinical Child Psychology from the Imre Haynal University of Health Sciences (HIETE) University, Budapest. His main research interests are: social and cognitive development and cultural learning in infancy and early childhood, action understanding, theory of mind, and developmental psychopathology. He has published books and papers in three broad areas of research and theory: a) cognitive science, b) cognitive and socio-emotional development, and c) clinical and psychoanalytic developmental theory, and developmental psychopathology.

**Saturday, June 13, 2016**

**9:00-10:15 am:**

Saturday morning will open with our traditional informal go-around to discuss members' current work and introduce guests. This will be followed by our two Saturday speakers.

**10:30 am-1:00 pm:**

**Valeda Dent and Geoff Goodman, "One story at a time: Studying the effectiveness of a storytelling/story-acting intervention on preschool children's school readiness skills in two rural Ugandan community libraries"**

This presentation describes a Fulbright-funded research project aimed at exploring the impact of two rural village libraries in Uganda on preschool children's school readiness skills (emergent literacy, receptive vocabulary, and theory of mind). Using two rural village libraries in Uganda (Mpigi Community Library in Mpigi and Kabubbu Community Library in Kabubbu) as a backdrop, this study explored the effectiveness of a six-month play-based intervention known as the Storytelling/Story-Acting (STSA) activity. Children ages 3 to 5 at each library were randomly assigned to participate in either the STSA intervention ( $n = 63$ ) or a story-reading activity ( $n = 60$ ) for one hour twice per week for six months. With the aid of translators, all children were administered an emergent literacy measure (knowledge of colors, letters, numbers-counting, sizes and comparisons, and shapes), a receptive vocabulary measure, and a theory of mind measure (along with other instruments) before and after the six-month intervention. These tasks were selected because they are easy to administer and do not depend heavily on expressive vocabulary skills. Children who participated in the STSA intervention had higher scores on the colors subtest of the emergent literacy measure than children who did not participate in this activity. When examining both groups together ( $N = 121$  post-intervention), only girls who scored low on a baseline measure of receptive vocabulary ability showed improvement at post-intervention. Boys who initially scored low showed no improvement. We argue that preschool girls with poor receptive vocabulary skills might show more improvement with the STSA activity than preschool boys with similarly poor skills because preschool boys might have lower emotional investment in an activity that includes telling and acting out stories than preschool girls do. We will also present results of the theory of mind task as well as a preview of two other projects emerging from this large data set: 1) a study of participants' twice-weekly drawings as markers of self-representational change over time and 2) a study of gender roles looking through the lens of the translated stories told by the STSA participants.

*Valeda Dent, Ph.D., is Dean and Chief Operating Officer for the Long Island University Libraries and the Interim Director of the Palmer School of Library and Information Science in New York. She holds an M.S.W. and M.I.L.S. from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. from the Palmer School at Long Island University. Her research interests include the impact of chronic poverty on development, rural libraries in Africa and related literacy and reading habits, ethnographic approaches to understanding the user experience, and information and techno-literacy. She has published a number of books, including Qualitative Research and the Modern Library (Oxford: Chandos, 2011) and Rural Community Libraries in Africa: Challenges and Impacts (Hershey, PA: IGI Global, 2014) with co-authors Dr. Geoff Goodman and Dr. Michael Kevane. Dr. Dent's longitudinal research on rural village libraries in Uganda and elsewhere in Africa has spanned twelve years. Her work has been published in a wide variety of peer-reviewed journals and presented internationally at conferences in South Africa, China, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and Swaziland. In 2013, Dr. Dent and her husband, Dr. Geoff Goodman, were both awarded the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship and spent eight months in 2014 working in two rural village libraries in Uganda establishing an intervention program to facilitate the development of school readiness skills in preschool children. Dr. Dent and her husband live in New York with their 3 year old daughter Carlyn (who attended her first Rapaport-Klein Study Group meeting in 2013 at 12 days old!)*

**Geoff Goodman, Ph.D.**, is a graduate of the Adult and Child Psychoanalysis Programs of the Psychoanalytic Training Institute of the Contemporary Freudian Society, and Associate Professor of Psychology in the Long Island University Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program. Dr. Goodman is the author of many articles on the development of psychopathology and psychotherapy process in high-risk infants, children, and adults, and has presented internationally at conferences in Brazil, Canada, Chile, England, France, and Uganda. He published *The Internal World and Attachment* (Hillsdale, NJ: Analytic Press, 2002), and three more books in 2010: *Transforming the Internal World and Attachment* (Vols. 1 and 2; Lanham, MD: Aronson) and *Therapeutic Attachment Relationships* (Lanham, MD: Aronson). In 2006, Long Island University awarded Dr. Goodman the Trustees Award for Scholarly Achievement for his first book, and in 2016 he received the Phi Delta Kappa Lifetime Research Award. In 2013 and 2014, Dr. Goodman published two more books: *Rural Community Libraries in Africa: Challenges and Impacts* (with wife Valeda F. Dent & Michael Kevane; Hershey, PA: IGI Global) and his first children's book, *Daddy's Secret Cedar Chest* (London: Tate Publishing). In 2013, Dr. Goodman was awarded the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship by the US Department of State and spent eight months in 2014 establishing and evaluating an intervention program to facilitate the development of school readiness skills in preschool children in two rural village libraries in Uganda. He has taken four students to Uganda, two of whom completed doctoral dissertations based on data they collected there. Dr. Goodman is Director of the Long Island University Children's Institute for Play Therapy and Research, Coordinator of the Long Island University Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program's Applied Child Research Team, and Faculty Advisor of The Participant-Observer, the doctoral student newsletter. He is also Director of the Norbert Freedman Center for Psychoanalytic Research at the Institute for Psychoanalytic Training and Research (IPTAR), and serves on the IPTAR Board of Directors. Dr. Goodman lives in Forest Hills with his wife Valeda and daughter Carlyn.

**Saturday, June 13, 2016**

**2:30-5:00 pm:**

**J.A. Scott Kelso, "On the self-organizing origins of agency"**

The question of agency and directedness in living systems has puzzled philosophers and scientists for centuries. But what principles and mechanisms underlie the emergence of agency? In the last 30 years or so the discovery of emergent phenomena regulated by higher order principles has profoundly influenced how we understand the organization of matter and its behavior. Might such self-organization somehow give rise to agency? Here, using the concepts, methods and tools of evolutionarily constrained self-organizing dynamical systems (coordination dynamics), a theoretical account of the emergence of agency will be presented. The test field for the theory is experiments and observations on human infants. The birth of agency and its causative powers ("I do", "I can do") is shown to correspond to a eureka-like phase transition in a (nonlinearly) coupled dynamical system whose key variables span the interaction between the organism and its environment. The main mechanism underlying the origin of agency is autocatalytic and involves positive feedback: when the baby's initially spontaneous movements cause the world to change, their perceived consequences have a sudden and sustained amplifying effect on the baby's further actions. Some implications of this theory will be discussed.

**J. A. Scott Kelso, Ph.D.**, holds the Glenwood and Martha Creech Eminent Scholar Chair in Science at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton where he is also Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience, Biological Sciences and Biomedical Sciences. From 1985-2005 he served as the Founding Director of Florida Atlantic's Center for Complex Systems and Brain Sciences where he also led the NIH's National Training Program in this new interdisciplinary field. Prior to his current position, Kelso was Senior Research Scientist at Yale University's Haskins Laboratories and Professor of Psychology and Biobehavioral Sciences at the University of Connecticut. Since 2009, Kelso has been Visiting Professor at the Intelligent Systems Research Centre in Ulster University's Magee Campus in Derry, North Ireland, the place where he was born. Kelso and colleagues' research has been published in *Science and Nature* as well as other prominent journals in the fields of neuroscience, physics, biology and psychology. His books include *Dynamic Patterns: the Self-Organization of Brain and Behavior* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1995), *Coordination Dynamics* (New York: Springer, 2004) and *The Complementary Nature* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2006). Kelso is an elected Fellow of APA, APS, SEP and AAAS and has received a number of honors and awards for his work, including the MERIT, Senior Scientist and Director's Innovations Awards from the U.S. National Institute of Health, the Distinguished Alumni Research Achievement Award from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and the Docteur Honoris Causa

degree from the Republic of France and the University of Toulouse (est. 1228). In 2007 he was named Pierre de Fermat Laureate and in 2011 he was the recipient of the Bernstein Prize for his fundamental work on how the brain controls movement. Trained in a specifically interdisciplinary setting, Kelso's Ph.D. students and Postdoctoral fellows have gone on to careers in some of the top academic and research institutions in the world.

**Sunday, June 14, 2016**

**10:00 am-12:30 pm**

**Arnold D. Richards and Arthur A. Lynch, "The Rapaport-Holt correspondence: The Menninger connection and the history of the IPBooks project"  
(Bob Holt will attend via Skype)**

Arnold Richards and Arthur Lynch will talk about the correspondence that occurred in the years 1948-1960 between David Rapaport and Robert R. Holt (Robert Holt will follow the discussion with Skype). This correspondence was published on-line in the journal *International Psychoanalysis*, which is edited by Arnold Richards and is at the web site <http://internationalpsychoanalysis.net/category/rh-letters>, and will appear also as a book. Dr. Richards will present on the Menninger connection and the history of the *IPBbook* project (*International Psychoanalytic Books*, [www.ipbooks.net](http://www.ipbooks.net)), while Dr. Lynch will discuss the historical context and their enduring value the correspondence has to psychoanalysis.

*Arnold D. Richards, M.D., was the Editor of the Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association (JAPA) from 1994 to 2003. Before that he was the Editor of The American Psychoanalyst (TAP). He is a Training and Supervising Analyst at the New York Psychoanalytic Institute, a member of the New York Freudian Society, and an honorary member of the American Institute for Psychoanalysis and the New Jersey Psychoanalytic Society. He is currently on the faculty at Tongji Medical College of Huazhong University of Science and Technology at Wuhan, China. He has co-edited four books, and is currently the Editor-in-Chief of the website internationalpsychoanalysis.net and of the publisher, IPBooks. His book, Critical Conversations, Selected Papers of Arnold D. Richards, edited by Arthur Lynch, was published in 2015 (IPBooks). He also maintains a private practice in New York City.*

*Arthur A. Lynch, Ph.D., is Past President of the Board of Directors, Senior Faculty member, Training and Supervising Analyst at the American Institute for Psychoanalysis. He is an Adjunct Professor at Columbia University School of Social Work (since 1983) and a Visiting Professor and head of training for the Chinese American Psychoanalysis continuous training program at the Wuhan Hospital for Psychotherapy affiliated with Tongji Medical School, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, China (since 2011). Dr. Lynch has authored and co-authored numerous articles on psychoanalysis. He is editor of Psychoanalysis: Critical Conversations, the Selected Papers of Arnold D. Richards, Volume 1 (IPBooks, 2015). He is also co-editor of Encounters with Loneliness, Only the Lonely with Arlene K. Richards and Lucille Spira (IPBooks, 2013), winner of the Gradiva Award for Anthologies in 2014. Dr. Lynch is in private practice in New York City.*

### **Website, Guests, and Dues**

Our website remains [www.psychomedia.it/rapaport-klein](http://www.psychomedia.it/rapaport-klein) to review the history of every meeting since the beginning of our group including many of the papers presented at our meetings (this year program's web page is [www.psychomedia.it/rapaport-klein/june2016.htm](http://www.psychomedia.it/rapaport-klein/june2016.htm)). If there are any changes in your e-mail address, please notify Paolo at <[migone@unipr.it](mailto:migone@unipr.it)>. Again we expect that some of the papers presented this year will be posted. Any suggestions for improving our website are welcome and should be directed to Paolo.

We need to remind you that dues (\$100) and fees for guests (\$50) need to be paid as soon as possible. Space is limited and we request no more than one guest per member. Kindly email Craig (<[craig.piers@williams.edu](mailto:craig.piers@williams.edu)>) as soon as possible to let us know if you are inviting a guest. Overnight accommodations should be made soon since, as you know, it is busy time of the year in the Berkshires. Members who wish to stay at the *Red Lion Inn* should call 413-298-5545 before May 1 and refer to "Group Reservation: Austen Riggs Rapaport-Klein Rooms."

We look forward to seeing you once again and enjoying the weekend together.

Warm regards,

Craig Piers, Andrew Gerber, and Paolo Migone, *Co-Chairs*