

Rapaport-Klein Study Group

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c/o Nadine Desautels

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Dear *Rapaport-Klein Study Group* Members,

We are pleased to invite you to the 62nd Annual Meeting of the *Rapaport-Klein Study Group*, which will be held on **June 14-16, 2024**. The option of attending via Zoom will also be available for those who are unable to come to Stockbridge. *Austen Riggs* has offered to host us at Prospect House, a venue we formally used in the 1990s, and also last year. And we welcome Nadine back with us for another year! Thank you, Nadine!

As you will see, we have put together an excellent program. Below is a list of speakers, including a description of their presentations and biographical statements.

Friday night, June 14, 2024

8:00-10:00 pm:

Ageliki Nicolopoulou, Ph.D., “The Narrative Construction of Reality and Identity in Children’s Narrative Play-acting” [this presentation will be introduced by Geoff Goodman]

In this talk, I will report on my long-term interpretive analyses of spontaneous stories composed by young children in a regular preschool story-telling and story-dramatization practice; the stories are (voluntarily) dictated to a teacher, who later reads each one to the class while the storyteller and some classmates act it out. The stories are thus shared with all children in the class, and this practice is embedded in the classroom peer culture. I will discuss the various images of the social world and of the self constructed and presented in these stories, and the ways in which they display gendered differences in both form and content. I will also discuss the factors contributing to these developments, emphasizing the performative features of the activity and its connection to the dynamics of peer group culture.

Ageliki Nicolopolou, Ph.D., is Professor Emerita of Psychology at Lehigh University. She was born and raised in Greece and came to the US for her undergraduate and graduate education, receiving her Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from the University of California/Berkeley. She then taught at UC/San Diego, Smith College, and from 1996 to 2023 at Lehigh University. She is a sociocultural developmental psychologist whose research interests include the role of play and narrative in young children’s construction of reality and identity (including gender identity); the significance of the peer group and peer culture as social contexts for children’s development, socialization, and education; and the foundations of emergent literacy. In addition to studying a storytelling and story-acting practice that was already used in a range of preschool classrooms mostly serving children from middle-class backgrounds, she also introduced this activity to preschool classrooms serving children from disadvantaged backgrounds and evaluated its effectiveness in helping promote school readiness (including language, literacy, and social competence abilities). (See ORCID for a list of her publications). She is currently participating in research and community efforts to promote Playful Learning Landscapes

(<https://playfullearninglandscapes.com>) (together with Kathy Hirsh-Pasek and her research team). She is also participating in the Developing Beliefs Network (www.developingbelief.com) with Greek faculty collecting data in Greece from children 4 to 12 years. This is part of an international, cross-cultural collaborative research network with 19 research sites spanning 4 continents that explores the ways that children acquire knowledge about phenomena that are not directly visible—especially related to religion and science. This research project has potential implications for scientific learning, global health, and international relations.

Saturday, June 15, 2024

9.00-10:15 am: Informal go-around and introduction of guests

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:

Pehr Granqvist, Ph.D., “Thy Rod and Thy Staff, They Comfort Me: Religion and Spirituality from an Attachment Theory Perspective” [this presentation will be introduced by Geoff Goodman and will take place on Zoom]

I will describe how concepts from attachment theory are relevant for understanding relational aspects of religion and spirituality. I will focus on both normative (species-typical) attachment processes and individual differences in attachment, as related to religion and spirituality. More specifically, I will show that many religious individuals experience God as a noncorporeal attachment figure (e.g., a safe haven and secure base). I will also describe attachment-related developmental pathways to religion and spirituality. Finally, I will discuss the clinical potential of psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy from an attachment-religion viewpoint.

Pehr Granqvist, Ph.D., is Professor of Developmental Psychology from Stockholm University, Sweden. He has published a large body of international peer-review journal articles and chapters on attachment, religion, spirituality, and secularism. He is also the author of a recent international book on these matters, Attachment in Religion and Spirituality: A Wider View, published by Guilford in 2020. His research has received three international awards, including the prestigious William James Award from the American Psychological Association (Div. 36).

Saturday, June 15, 2024

2:30-5:00 pm:

Katie Lewis, Ph.D., “Psychoanalytic Research and Ecological Momentary Assessment (EMA): Expanding Opportunities for Studying Psychodynamic Concepts and Principles Through Ambulatory Methods” [this presentation will be introduced by Craig Piers]

Ecological momentary assessment (EMA, also sometimes referred to as experience sampling or daily diary methods) involves the repeated short-term assessment of individuals over a specified length of time, usually ranging from several days up to multiple weeks or months. These methods have been frequently used in personality research to understand how different traits or dynamic relational processes manifest differently over time and across situations. Despite the clear utility and burgeoning use of these

methods across different areas of the field, EMA approaches have thus far had limited application and use in psychoanalytic research, with a few notable exceptions (e.g., Cain *et al.*, 2023). In this presentation, contemporary clinical frameworks drawn from personality science and attachment theory will be used as a foundation for exploring the ways that EMA methods might support the evaluation of psychoanalytically informed hypotheses about clinical phenomena. The presentation will summarize recent findings by the presenter, which illustrate how psychoanalytic concepts and principles can be effectively studied using EMA methods. The presentation will end with a discussion of pilot findings and preliminary planning for a new multi-site, multi-method EMA study focusing on adult attachment dynamics, social disconnection, and suicide risk.

Katie Lewis, Ph.D., serves as the Director of Research at the Austen Riggs Center. Her research examines interpersonal behaviors, personality processes, and suicidal ideation in adult psychiatric patients using experience sampling methodology. Dr. Lewis received a doctorate in clinical psychology from the Brooklyn campus of Long Island University. In the past, she has served as the graduate student representative on the Ethics Board of American Psychological Association's Division 39 and as an Associate Editor for the Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association. Her research has been supported by the Robert Wallerstein Fellowship in Psychoanalytic Research, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), and the Division 39 Marsha McCary Fund for Psychoanalysis. She has published and presented on a wide range of topics, including suicide and self-harming behaviors, personality psychopathology and assessment, and the ethics of confidentiality in clinical writing. She currently serves as a Representative-at-Large and Co-Chair of the CE Committee for the Society for Personality Assessment, and as a Consulting Editor and Section Editor for the Journal of Personality Assessment.

Sunday, June 16, 2024

9:00-10:00 am: Members' Business Meeting

10:00 am-12:30 pm:

Dionne R. Powell, M.D., "The Imperative of Race: Psychoanalytic Perspectives" [this presentation will be introduced by Valeda Dent]

Race, including racism, racial trauma and racial anxieties, continues as a topic of contention for psychoanalysts to consider as a psychic phenomenon. Unlike aggression and sexuality where the analyst is keenly focused, despite inherent complexities and anxieties, racism continues to be held in silence and resistance, inhibiting this aspect of mind from further exploration. This paper's intent is to draw our attention to the racial: racial anxieties, racial trauma, racial privilege, bias and discrimination that lead to enactments; how concepts of whiteness, blackness, and the racial other are convenient yet superficial and nondynamic signifiers with the potential to interfere with the recognition and working through of racial trauma regardless of the racial pair. By allowing a closer examination including how and where analysts locate themselves racially, as well as by working through experientially our resistance to this type of exploration, this paper serves as an invitation to include these aspects of mind for our analytic use. The use of examples from the creative arts, and clinical vignettes to demonstrate how race is embodied and symbolized in mind opens this therapeutic aperture for further theoretical and clinical study.

Dionne R. Powell, M.D., is a Training and Supervising Psychoanalyst at Columbia University Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research (New York), and the Psychoanalytic Association of New York (PANY, NYU affiliated). She is an Adjunct Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Columbia University in New York, and Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Assistant Attending Psychiatrist at the New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Weill Cornell Medical College

in New York. Dr. Powell most recently (July 29, 2023) chaired a panel at the International Psychoanalytic Association 53rd Congress in Cartagena, Colombia, entitled “Into the Fire: The Psychic Consequences of Slavery in the Western Hemisphere”. Fellow panelists included: Liliana Mera Abadia (civil rights lawyer, Colombia), Victor Donas (analyst, Chile), Daniel Gaztambide (analyst, Puerto Rico, USA), and Victor Donas (analyst, Chile). Dr. Powell is a founding member of Black Psychoanalysts Speak, is Co-Chair of the Holmes Commission of Racial Equality in Psychoanalysis (CO-REAP), and is Vice-President of the American Association for Psychoanalytic Education (AAPE). Dr. Powell is in full-time private practice in New York City. Dr. Powell has written and presented extensively on race, racism, gender, and ambition, with recent contributions including:

Race, African Americans and Psychoanalysis: Collective Silence in the Therapeutic Conversation (Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association, 2018, 66, 6: 1021-1049, new author prize recipient)

Chapter contributor “A Case Analysis of an Academic Scientist in Her Early Thirties: Authorship and Stolen Ambitions”, in *Psychoanalytic Perspectives on Women and Their Experience of Desire, Ambition and Leadership*, edited By Stephanie Brody & Frances Arnold (London: Routledge, 2019).

From the Sunken Place to the Shitty Place: The Film Get Out, Psychic Emancipation and Modern Race Relations from a Psychodynamic Clinical Perspective, *The Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 2020, 89, 3: 415-445.

Do Black Lives Matter: The Psychic Resistance to Change. *Jahrbuch der Psychoanalyse*, 2021, 83: 63-77.

Race Matters in Psychoanalytic Education. *Psychoanalysis Today, Issue 14: Race, Caste, Class, Faith*, July 16, 2021 (www.psychanalysis.today/en-GB/PT-Articles/Powell139922/Race-Matters-in-Psychoanalytic-Education.aspx).

Section editor and Chapter contributor on racial and ethnic diversity for the 2nd edition of Glen Gabbard’s *Textbook of Psychotherapeutic Treatments*, Washington, D.C.: American Psychiatric Association, 2022.

Holmes Commission on Racial Equity in American Psychoanalysis, *Final Report released on June 19th 2023*: <https://tinyurl.com/HolmesCommissionFinalReport> or at https://apsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Holmes-Report-Press-Release_Final2.pdf?ver.

Website, Guests, and Dues

Our website remains www.psychomedia.it/rapaport-klein to review the history of every meeting since the beginning of our group, including many of the papers presented (this year’s program web page is www.psychomedia.it/rapaport-klein/june2024.htm). If there are any changes in your e-mail address, please notify Paolo at <migone@unipr.it>. We will post on our website the documents that speakers would like to pre-circulate. We will also post the video and audio recordings of all sessions. Any suggestions for improving our website are welcome and should be directed to Paolo.

In the near future, Craig will be emailing dues statements. Dues for this year are \$150 for members, and \$50 per guest. Kindly let Craig know if you plan to bring a guest.

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

Warm regards,

Geoff Goodman, Valeda Dent, and John Auerbach, *Co-Chairs*