

Rapaport-Klein Study Group

<http://www.psychomedia.it/rapaport-klein>
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Dear *Rapaport-Klein Study Group* Members,

We are pleased to invite you to the 53rd Annual Meeting of the *Rapaport-Klein Study Group* which will be held on June 12-14, 2015, 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 12, 2015

8:00-10:00 pm

Rick Shweder, "Understanding the Genital Wars"

Should there be gender equity in genital modifications? In Germany, Holland, Sweden (and much of Europe these days), the native inhabitants tend to argue, often passionately, that there is moral equivalence between customary male genital modifications (for example, Jewish and Muslim childhood "circumcisions") and customary female genital modifications (for example, as performed in West African "Bondo" ceremonies) and both should be proscribed.

In Sierra Leone, Mali, Gambia (and several other countries in West and East Africa), the native inhabitants tend to argue, often passionately, that there is moral equivalence between customary male genital modifications and customary female modifications and both should be permitted.

In the United States, the native inhabitants tend to argue, often passionately, against moral equivalence, permitting customary genital modifications for boys while proscribing them for girls.

Who has the better of the argument? And what is the passion really about?

The lecture will begin with a short clip of an interview with the famous mythologist Joseph Campbell dispassionately explaining the cultural meaning of male and female genital modifications and will feature a short documentary of female initiation in Sierra Leone. All sides of the story (including local meanings associated with gender identity, genital aesthetics, and the expressive symbolism of a libidinous zone of the human body, claims about harms, real and imagined, and arguments about universal human rights, strong and weak) will be taken into account and analyzed (and psychoanalyzed) in the light of critical reason and with an eye on the implications of the argument for Jews and other circumcising ethnic groups living in Europe, Africa, and North America.

Richard A. Shweder is a cultural anthropologist and the Harold Higgins Swift Distinguished Service Professor of Human Development in the Department of Comparative Human Development at the University of Chicago. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, has served as President of the Society for Psychological Anthropology, co-chaired a joint Social Science Research Council/Russell Sage Foundation Working Group on "Law and Culture" and

participated for a decade as a member of the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Successful Midlife Development (MICMAC). He has been a recipient of a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship (1985-86) and selected as a Carnegie Scholar (2002). He has been a Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Palo Alto (1985-86 and 1995-96), a Visiting Scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation (1990-91), a Fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (1999-2000) and a Member of the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey (2008-09). He is the recipient of the American Association for the Advancement of Science Socio-Psychological Prize for his essay "Does the Concept of the Person Vary Cross-Culturally?"; author of Thinking Through Cultures: Expeditions in Cultural Psychology and Why Do Men Barbecue? Recipes for Cultural Psychology; and editor or co-editor of many books in the areas cultural psychology, psychological anthropology and comparative human development including The Child: An Encyclopedic Companion.

Saturday, June 13, 2015

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

Susan Carey, "The Infant Mind: The View from Cognitive Science"

Classic psychoanalytic theory (the last time I looked) made many assumptions about the young infants' mind, such as the assumption that the infant begins with no representation of self differentiated from a representation of other. Of course, whether this assumption is true or not depends upon what one means by "representation," (a theoretical matter) as well as ultimately being an empirical question (we must bring data to bear on such claims). I will characterize one dominant view of mental representation, closely interrelated with the construct "mental computation" that articulates modern cognitive science, and sketch the evidence for rich abstract representations in infancy, even in neonates. I will illustrate with representations with implications for understanding infant socio-emotional development (infants' representations of other agents, the schemas that underlie and result from processes of attachment, and infants' representations of social relations).

Susan E. Carey is an American psychologist, Professor of Psychology at Harvard University. She is an expert in language acquisition and children's development of biological concepts and is known for introducing the concept of fast mapping, whereby children learn the meanings of words after a single exposure. Carey received a B.A. from Radcliffe College in 1964, a Fulbright scholarship to study in University of London in 1965, and a Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1971. She was employed at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) from 1972-1996 and New York University from 1996-2001 before joining the faculty at Harvard University in 2001. She was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2001. Carey is a fellow of the National Academy of Sciences and has received many academic awards and distinctions, including the Jean Nicod Prize for philosophy of mind in 1998, and she was the first woman to receive the Rumelhart Prize in 2009, which has been given annually since 2001 for significant contributions to the theoretical foundation of human cognition. Carey is the author of Conceptual Change in Childhood, which reconciles Piaget's work on animism with later work on children's knowledge of biological concepts.

Saturday, June 13, 2015

2:30-5:00 pm

Jerry Wakefield, “Concept Representation in the Child: What Did Little Hans Mean by ‘Widdler’?”

In the case of Little Hans, Freud claims that Hans’s assertion that his baby sister Hanna has a tiny widdler (his word for his penis) is so manifestly false that it must be a defense against anxiety at recognizing that Hanna does not have a widdler. This provides Freud with his strongest evidence in the case for the castration-anxiety component of the Oedipal developmental theory that he claims the case confirms. However, the entire argument depends on an inference about how Hans mentally represents the concept attached to his term “widdler”. Jonathan Lear has reinterpreted Hans’s assertion through a Wittgensteinian philosophical lens and come to a different conclusion from Freud’s about what Hans meant by “widdler”, but in the end supports Freud’s overall interpretation.

The nature of concept representation in the child has been strikingly illuminated in the past few decades by the novel empirical child studies of Susan Carey and other pathbreaking cognitive developmental psychologists who have examined how children actually think rather than imposing prior theoretical ideas on the child. The resulting picture of the child’s mind portrays child concept representation as much more sophisticated and subtle than earlier views of the child as blank slate anticipated. Combining this fresh understanding of child conceptual development with an emphasis on the phenomenology of the child’s body, I place Hans’s statements within a contemporary concept-representation grid and reconsider the likely meaning that Little Hans attached to “widdler”, disagreeing with both Freud and Lear – and revealing the fallacy underlying Freud’s imputation of castration anxiety to Hans.

Jerome C. Wakefield is University Professor, Professor of Social Work, and Professor of the Conceptual Foundations of Psychiatry at New York University (NYU). He is also Affiliate Faculty in Bioethics and in the Center for Ancient Studies, and Honorary Faculty in the Institute for Psychoanalytic Education. Before coming to NYU, he held faculty positions at University of Chicago, Columbia University, and Rutgers University. With doctorates in both philosophy and clinical social work, Wakefield writes about issues at the intersection of philosophy and the mental health professions, especially the concept of mental disorder and the boundary between normal distress and psychopathology. Wakefield is the co-author (with Allan Horwitz) of The Loss of Sadness: How Psychiatry Transformed Normal Sorrow into Depressive Disorder (Oxford University Press, 2007), named the best psychology book of 2007 by the Association of Professional and Scholarly Publishers, and All We Have to Fear: How Psychiatry Transforms Natural Fear into Mental Disorder (Oxford University Press, 2012), named best book of the year by the American Sociology Association Section on Evolution and Society. He is currently completing a book on Freud’s case history of Little Hans and its significance in the history of psychoanalysis, to be published by Routledge in Psychological Issues book series.

Sunday, June 14, 2015

10:00 am-12:00 pm

Don Stern, “Unformulated Experience Revisited: Review and Update”

I was asked to present the concept of unformulated experience, which I have been writing about in one way or another for almost 35 years. As a means of situating my thinking in its original context, I begin by describing some of the intellectual and clinical sources that shaped the theory. I then offer a review of the idea and some of its clinical uses, and end by discussing some current thinking – i.e., recent modifications and elaborations of the concept of unformulated experience that have not yet been published.

Donnel B. Stern is Training and Supervising Analyst, Fellow, Member of the Faculty and the Council of Fellows at the William Alanson White Institute in New York City, and Adjunct Clinical Professor and Clinical Consultant at the New York University (NYU) Postdoctoral Program in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy. He is the Editor of a book series at Routledge, “Psychoanalysis in a New Key,” which has 25 volumes in print and another 16 in various stages of preparation. He is the former Editor-in-Chief of Contemporary Psychoanalysis, and is the author of Unformulated Experience: From Dissociation to Imagination in Psychoanalysis, published by The Analytic Press in 1997, and Partners in Thought: Working with Unformulated Experience, Dissociation, and Enactment, published by Routledge in 2010. A new book, Relational Freedom: Emergent Properties of the Interpersonal Field, also from Routledge, has just been released. Dr. Stern is the co-editor of The Handbook of Interpersonal Psychoanalysis (1995) and Pioneers of Interpersonal Psychoanalysis (1995), both published by Routledge. He serves on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Relational Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy (IARPP). He is Associate Editor of Psychoanalytic Dialogues and serves, or has served, on the Editorial Boards of Psychoanalytic Inquiry, Psychoanalytic Psychology, The Psychoanalytic Quarterly, and The Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association. He is in private practice in New York City.

Website, Guests, and Dues

Our website remains <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 <http://www.psychomedia.it/rapaport-klein/june2015.htm>). If there are any changes in your e-mail address, please notify Paolo at <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) 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 # 278866: 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*