

Rapaport-Klein Study Group

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Dear *Rapaport-Klein Study Group* Members,

We are pleased to invite you to the 55th Annual Meeting of the *Rapaport-Klein Study Group* which will be held on **June 2-4, 2017**, at the *Austen Riggs Center* in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. We think you will be very pleased with this year's program. Below are our speakers' descriptions of their presentations and biographical statements.

Friday night, June 2, 2017

8:00-10:00 pm:

Everett Waters, "The secure base script in attachment theory and research"

Constructs such as attachment representations and internal working model played a central role in Bowlby's attachment theory. They played a role in understanding the coherence of early attachment behavior and responses to separation. Most importantly, they suggested a mechanism through which early experience could affect later affect, cognition, and behavior and underpin attachment assessment beyond infancy and early childhood. Despite their demonstrated value, critics have argued that current notions of attachment representation and internal working model are too ill-defined to guide further work. In particular, they point out that such concepts seem to expand to address any problem, explain any observation. This is not a direction Bowlby would have encouraged. Rather his initial formulations of representational concepts were intended as placeholders marking gaps that would eventually be filled by advances in cognitive science. Attachment relationships engage multiple modes of representation from sensory impressions, to imagery, associative networks, and various kinds of event representations. The presentation for this meeting will focus on script-like representations of the temporal-causal structure of early secure base interactions. Although scripts are only one mode of attachment-related representation, and rather simple ones at that, recent work illustrates the advantages of associating the notion of attachment representation to specific, empirically accessible models. The range of work opened up by such a simple idea should encourage new work on attachment assessment and further Bowlby's goal of interpreting attachment theory in terms of cognitive science.

Everett Waters, Ph.D., is Professor of Psychology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. As an undergraduate at Johns Hopkins he worked with Mary Ainsworth and Mary Main on the Baltimore Longitudinal Study and on Main's early studies of attachment representation. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota's Institute of Child Development, working with Alan Sroufe. He is a co-author of Mary Ainsworth's classic book, Patterns of Attachment, which summarized her Baltimore study and serves as the authoritative handbook for the Strange Situation assessment. His theoretical papers with Sroufe helped establish attachment research beyond psychoanalysis and beyond Ainsworth's tightly knit research group. In addition, his work demonstrating the stability of attachment behavior in infancy and from infancy to adulthood addressed criticisms of attachment study and helped recruit a small army of young investigators to attachment study. Prof. Waters is a recipient of the American Psychological Association's (APA) Boyd McCandless Early Career Award, The Bowlby-Ainsworth Award for Attachment Study, and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society for Emotion and Attachment Studies.

Saturday, June 3, 2017

9:00-10:15 am: Informal go-around

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:

Jane G. Tillman and Jennifer L. Stevens,

"States of Mind Preceding a Near Lethal Suicide Attempt"

In this talk we will report on the findings of a mixed methods study with the primary aim of identifying states of mind preceding a near lethal suicide attempt. As part of a larger study of psychiatric patients with and without a history of a suicide attempts (n=131), we conducted psychodynamic research interviews with a subgroup of near lethal suicide attempt survivors (n=11), the nearest surrogates we have for completed suicide. Our objective was to discover proximal warning signs of suicide at the level of the individual, analyzing our data using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) (Smith, Flowers, & Larkin, 2009). Understanding the ideation-to-action framework (Klonsky & May, 2014) is an important step in appreciating the subjective pathways to suicide, adding to our knowledge of population based risk and protective factors.

References

Klonsky E.D. & May A.M. (2014). Differentiating suicide attempters from suicide ideators: A critical frontier for suicidology research. *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*, 44 (1): 1-5. DOI: 10.1111/sltb.12068.

Smith J., Flowers P. & Larkin M. (2009). *Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis: Theory, Method and Research*. London: Sage.

Jane G. Tillman, Ph.D., ABPP, is the Evelyn Stefansson Nef Director of the Erikson Institute for Education and Research at the Austen Riggs Center (Stockbridge, MA). A clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst, she has a research interest in suicide postvention, and understanding the psychological processes associated with suicide.

Jennifer L. Stevens, Ph.D., ABPP, is the Director of Training at the Austen Riggs Center (Stockbridge, MA). A clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst she is a co-investigator on the "States of mind preceding a near lethal suicide attempt" study.

Saturday, June 3, 2017

2:30-5:00 pm:

Peter R. Blake, "The development of cooperation and the uses of culture" (with an brief introduction by Mauricio Cortina on cooperation from a evolutionary-developmental perspective)

A recent shift in psychology has drawn attention to the wide variation in cooperative behaviors across societies. Such differences suggest that cultural learning plays an important role in shaping cooperation during childhood. However, understanding the level at which cultural influence operates and how culture interacts with a basic psychology of cooperation remain difficult problems. I will present data from three experimental studies that examine different levels of influence on the development of cooperative behavior – specifically, fairness and altruism. First, I will describe a large-scale cross-cultural study that identified both similarities and differences in children's fairness behavior. Second, I describe research using "experimental cultures" to examine the influence of neighborhood norms of cooperation on children's altruistic behavior. A third study shows different patterns of learning altruistic behavior from parents in the US and rural India. Combined these studies show that multiple levels of culture influence children's cooperative behavior and that these levels can be investigated systematically using experimental methods.

Peter R. Blake, Ed.D., is an Assistant Professor of Psychological & Brain Sciences at Boston University. He received his doctorate in developmental psychology and then studied game theory and behavioral economics as a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard's Program for Evolutionary Dynamics. Peter's research focuses on children's social cognition generally and the development of cooperation more specifically. His work has been published in Nature, Nature Human Behavior, Cognition and the Journal of Experimental Child Psychology. He is an advisor for the national Living Lab project at Boston's Museum of Science, a research-education partnership. He directs the Social Development and Learning Lab at Boston University (www.bu.edu/sdll).

Sunday, June 4, 2017

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

10:00 am-12:30 pm:

Dagmar Herzog, "Freud's 'Cold Wars': Christianization and Desexualization of Psychoanalysis in the Postwar United States"

In no other time and place was Freudian psychoanalysis more successful, and psychiatry more psychoanalytic, than in the first two Cold War decades in the U.S. This was also a time and place when psychoanalysis was intensely conservative – especially sexually conservative. This was not merely a product of generalized Cold War trends, but rather a major side-effect of massive, widely broadcast battles over the relationship between religion and psychoanalysis that marked the years 1947-1953 in particular. The "Jewish science" of psychoanalysis underwent a process of "Christianization" in the post-war U.S. – even as religion became "psychologised". In addition, the paper shows how deep ambivalence about the status and the very meaning of the concept of "libido" was at the heart of a succession of fierce controversies and rivalries that helped determine the directions taken by post-war psychoanalysis and psychiatry. (This presentation is a summary of chapter 1 of the book *Cold War Freud: Psychoanalysis in an Age of Catastrophes*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2016)

Dagmar Herzog, Ph.D., is a historian of sexuality and Distinguished Professor of History and Daniel Rose Faculty Scholar at the Graduate Center, City University of New York (CUNY). She is the author of five books, including Sex after Fascism: Memory and Morality in Twentieth-Century Germany (&&, 2005) and Sexuality in Europe: A Twentieth-Century History (&&, 2011) as well as, most recently, Cold War Freud: Psychoanalysis in an Age of Catastrophes (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2016). She is currently beginning a new project in the history of disability, entitled Unlearning Eugenics in Post-Nazi Europe.

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 at our meetings (this year program's web page is www.psychomedia.it/rapaport-klein/june2017.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 (\$150) 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: 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*