

Rapaport-Klein Study Group

www.psychomedia.it/rapaport-klein

c/o Nadine Desautels

P.O. Box 962, Stockbridge, MA 01262

Tel. 413-931-5236, E-Mail <nadine.desautels@austenriggs.net>

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Dear *Rapaport-Klein Study Group* Members,

We are pleased to invite you to the 56th Annual Meeting of the *Rapaport-Klein Study Group* which will be held on **June 8-10, 2018**, 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 8, 2018

8:00-10:00 pm:

Anne Erreich, "Unconscious Fantasy, Mental Representation, and Priming: A Possible Solution to the Problem of Theoretical Pluralism"

In the history of Freud's thinking, the nature of the patient's fantasy life became the central interest of psychoanalytic work; thus, psychoanalysis was, by definition, embedded in a model of the mind. In our current era, many psychoanalysts, from Kleinians to Relational analysts, have declared that a science of mind is irrelevant to the psychoanalytic enterprise; both the hermeneutic and post-modern traditions hold that science itself has little or nothing to offer psychoanalysis. Nevertheless, since the 1960's, questions regarding mental structure and functioning have been successfully pursued in academic developmental and cognitive psychology, which has for some time now, offered support and elaboration for psychoanalytic speculations. Given the virtual absence or irrelevance of psychoanalytic thinking in institutions of higher learning and treatment facilities, there is reason to believe that the future of the psychoanalytic project depends on progress toward a scientific discipline. This paper seeks to promote that effort. It offers 1) a re-definition of the unconscious fantasy construct, 2) a proposal about where such a construct would fit into an overall model of the mind, one which parenthetically offers a possible solution to the problem of theoretical pluralism, and 3) a proposal about how unconscious fantasy operates in the mind of an individual via a robust psychological phenomenon called priming. Taken together, the proposal offers an updated psychoanalytic metapsychology, one that takes into account decades of recent research in developmental and cognitive psychology, and philosophy of mind.

Anne Erreich, Ph.D., is a Training and Supervising analyst at the Institute for Psychoanalytic Education (IPE) affiliated with NYU School of Medicine, and a Clinical Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at NYU Child Study Center, NYU Langone Medical Center. She was also Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at the New School for Social Research from 1986-1989. Dr. Erreich has lectured and supervised in Seoul (Korea) in 2010 and 2015, and in April, 2017, she was an IPA-CAPSA Visiting Scholar at The International Psychoanalytic University (IPU) in Berlin, and the Alexander Mitscherlich Institut in Kassel, Germany. Dr. Erreich currently serves as Associate Editor of the Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association, and she has published papers in that journal as well as other psychoanalytic publications: Psychoanalytic Psychology, The Psychoanalytic Quarterly, The Psychoanalytic Study of the Child, and Psychoanalysis and Contemporary Thought. In the past, she has also published work in academic journals such as Cognition, Child Development, and The Journal of Child Language, as well as several book articles on clinical, theoretical, and research topics. Her writing is often an attempt to integrate academic research related to models of mind and development with the unique data offered by psychoanalysis.

Saturday, June 9, 2018

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:

Danielle Knafo, "Guys and Dolls: Relational Life In The High Tech Era"

What would make a doll the ideal woman in a man's eyes? Why prefer a doll to a real woman? The Pygmalion myth, in which a man creates, and falls in love with, the woman of his dreams has roots in antiquity. Now, with unprecedented technological advances, the ancient dream may soon be fully realized. Technology is changing what it means to be human, especially in how we relate to each other and to our machines. This presentation discusses the subculture of men whose erotic desire is directed at high-end love dolls. Jack, who called himself an "iDollator," lived happily with his doll Maya for 2 years before eventually seeking psychodynamic therapy with me. I will discuss my treatment with Jack with the aim of revealing his motives for living with and loving a doll. Additional discussion will focus on my own research into the subculture of iDollatry involving interviews with 15 men who claim to be engaged in intimate relationships with their doll(s). Questions will be raised regarding the future of relational life as new technological breakthroughs will further soften the boundaries between self and machine.

Danielle Knafo, Ph.D., is a clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst. She is a professor in the clinical psychology doctoral program at LIU Post, where she has chaired a specialty concentration on serious mental illness for the past 18 years. Last year, she was the recipient of the Abraham Krasnoff Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest honor given to LIU professors. She is also faculty and supervisor at NYU's Postdoctoral Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis, where she teaches a clinical seminar on working with the unconscious. She also teaches a course on perversion at the Adelphi University psychoanalytic training program. Dr. Knafo has published 7 books, with an eighth in press, and dozens of journal articles on subjects as varied as unconscious fantasies, creativity in art and psychoanalysis, terror related trauma, psychoanalytic treatment with psychosis, female self-representation in art, and the effects of technology on relational life. Her most recent books are Dancing with the Unconscious: The Art of Psychoanalysis and the Psychoanalysis of Art (New York: Routledge, 2012), and The Age of Perversion: Desire and Technology in Psychoanalysis and Culture (New York: Routledge, 2016). She maintains a private practice in NYC and in Great Neck, Long Island.

Saturday, June 9, 2018

2:30-5:00 pm:

Catherine Monk, “Pregnant Women’s Mental Health Matters: For Them, and their Future Children”

Dr. Catherine Monk directs the Perinatal Pathways lab at *Columbia University Medical Center* where she and her colleagues conduct research with pregnant women and their babies to improve their well-being and their future children’s lives. For over 20 years, this lab has contributed to the scientific evidence showing that when pregnant women experience stress, anxiety, and depression, it affects them as well as their offspring *in utero*, with long-term effects on the child’s neurobehavioral development. There is a “third pathway” for the familial inheritance of risk for psychiatric illness beyond shared genes and the quality of parental care: the impact of pregnant women’s distress on fetal and infant brain-behavior development. Dr. Monk will describe this research that involves fetal assessment, newborn neuroimaging, genetics, epigenetics, psychoneuroimmunology, mother-child interaction, and supportive interventions aimed at (1) characterizing maternal pregnancy and post-partum experiences and the effects on children’s development and (2) promoting maternal psychobiological health for the mother–child dyad.

Catherine Monk, Ph.D., is Professor of Medical Psychology in the Departments of Psychiatry, and Obstetrics & Gynecology, Director of Research at the Women’s Program, Co-Director of the Domestic Violence Initiative at Columbia University Medical Center, and Research Scientist VI at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. Originally trained as a clinical psychologist treating children and adults in a program that emphasized the developmental origins of psychopathology, in 2000 Dr. Monk completed her postdoctoral research studies in the Psychobiological Sciences at Columbia University via a NIH fellowship, joining the faculty there a year later. Dr. Monk’s research brings together the fields of perinatal psychiatry, developmental psychobiology, and neuroscience to focus on the earliest influences on children’s developmental trajectories – those that happen in utero and how to intervene early to prevent risk for mental health disorders in the future children. With over sixty publications, she is internationally recognized for her contributions to the Developmental Origins of Health and Disease Research model, which increasingly is gaining traction in demonstrating that there is a third pathway for the familial inheritance of mental illness: in addition to shared genes and the postnatal environment, factors in the prenatal environment play a role as well. Specifically, her studies have identified maternal prenatal depression effects on child outcomes, including variation in fetal behavior, placental DNA methylation, and altered newborn brain connectivity via MRI. Most recently, Dr. Monk has been awarded key roles on the NIH-wide ECHO project (Environmental influences on Children’s Health Outcomes) – a seven year, nationwide effort to study early factors, including women’s prenatal psychiatric illness and trauma histories, on children’s health outcomes across 50,000 participants. She is a PI on one ECHO award, Investigator on another, and elected by her peers to a two-year term to the ECHO Executive Committee. She also recently commenced a 5-year NICHD-funded intervention study based on a novel protocol she and colleagues developed harnessing the child focus of the peripartum period, parenting skills, and CBT, to help women at risk for depression, titled “Preventing Postpartum Depression: A Dyadic Approach Adjunctive to Obstetric Care”. Dr. Monk’s research has been continuously supported by NIH since her fellowship, as well as by several foundations, including: The March of Dimes, the Brain Behavior Research Foundation, the Robin Hood Foundation, and Johnson & Johnson.

Sunday, June 10, 2018

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

10:00 am-12:30 pm:

Tiziano Colibazzi, "Psychotic states"

Psychotic states involves abnormalities in functional connectivity (FC) across distributed neural networks, which are thought to antedate the emergence of psychosis. In a cohort of adolescents and young adults at clinical high risk (CHR) for psychosis, we applied data-driven approaches to resting-state functional magnetic resonance imaging data in order to systematically characterize FC abnormalities during this period and to determine whether these abnormalities are associated with psychosis risk. We demonstrate that the well-established FC abnormalities of the thalamus and temporal areas observed in chronic psychotic illness are also present in the CHR period, with aberrant connectivity of the temporal cortex most associated with psychosis risk. By using this same methodology, we now propose to test whether different or similar patterns of functional dysconnectivity are associated with the paranoid states typical of borderline personality pathology and to explore whether this trait "paranoid position" is associated to splitting defenses and to their severity.

Tiziano Colibazzi, M.D., is Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Columbia University and a member of the faculty at the NYU Sex Therapy training program. He is also the research co-chair for the Columbia University Psychoanalytic Center for Training and Research and Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. His research has focused on neuroimaging of psychosis-risk states, in particular functional dysconnectivity. More recently, he has focused his research on splitting in severe character pathology which he investigates with a combination of neuroimaging and automated speech processing techniques.

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/june2018.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*