

Rapaport-Klein Study Group

www.psychomedia.it/rapaport-klein

c/o Nadine Desautels

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60th Anniversary Meeting (1963-2022)

**Please note: due to the COVID-19 pandemic
this meeting will be held in video-conference with Zoom**

January 2022

Dear *Rapaport-Klein Study Group* Members,

We are pleased to invite you to the 60th Annual Meeting of the *Rapaport-Klein Study Group*, which will be held on **June 10-12, 2022**. Like the last two years, unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic we will not be able to meet in person at the *Austen Riggs Center*, but we'll meet in video-conference (the program we'll use is *Zoom*, and all members will receive information on how to connect). Since we'll not have the traditional dinner at the *Red Lion Inn*, **Friday evening we'll begin at 7 pm rather than 8 pm**. Below are our speakers' descriptions of their presentations and biographical statements

Friday night, June 10, 2022

7:00-9:00 pm:

Christopher Christian, Ph.D., “Intersubjectivity and Modern Conflict Theory: Points of Convergence and Divergence” [this presentation will be introduced by Paolo Migone]

The author explores intersubjectivity from the perspective of modern conflict theory and makes the case that there is much in common between Brenner's and Arlow's ideas about how the analyst's mind works and contemporary discussions about subjectivity and intersubjectivity. The author then examines points of divergence between both approaches – especially as they relate to claims the analyst can make about ever knowing the analysand's mind as a separate entity from their own.

Chris Christian, Ph.D., is the Editor of the journal Psychoanalytic Psychology; Co-Editor with Patricia Gherovici of Psychoanalysis in the Barrios (London: Routledge, 2019), recipient of the Gradiva Award; with Morris Eagle and David Wolitzky of Psychoanalytic Perspectives on Conflict (London: Routledge, 2017); and with Michael J. Diamond of The Second Century of Psychoanalysis: Evolving Perspectives on Therapeutic Action (London: Karnac, 2011). He conducts research in collaboration with the Referential Process Group directed by Wilma Bucci exploring linguistic measures of the psychotherapy process. Chris is a Training and Supervising Analyst at the Institute for Psychoanalytic Training and Research (IPTAR), where he is past Dean. He is a clinical supervisor at the Yale Doctoral Internship in Clinical & Community Psychology, and has a private practice in New Haven.

Saturday, June 11, 2022

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:

Gaia Vince, "How Did Humans Transcend the Normal Rules of Evolution?" [this presentation will be introduced by Mauricio Cortina]

The astonishing story of how culture enabled us to become the most successful species on Earth. Humans are a planet-altering force of nature. Meanwhile, our closest living relatives, the now-endangered chimpanzees, continue to live as they have for millions of years. Yet we evolved through the same process. What are we then? What enabled us to go from simple stone tools to smartphones? How did bands of hunter-gatherers evolve into multinational empires? Some will say a cognitive revolution – a dramatic evolutionary change that altered our brains, turning primitive humans into modern ones – caused a cultural explosion. Gaia Vince argues instead that modern humans are the product of a nuanced coevolution of our genes, environment, and culture that goes back into deep time. Now we have remade the world, what are we becoming?

Gaia Vince is a science writer and broadcaster interested in the interplay between humans and the planetary environment. She is a Senior Honorary Research Fellow at University College London (UCL) in their Anthropocene Institute. She has held senior editorial posts at Nature and New Scientist, and her writing has featured in newspapers and magazines including The Guardian, The Times and Scientific American. She also writes and presents science programs for radio and television. Her research takes her across the world: she has visited more than 60 countries, lived in three and is currently based in London. In 2015, she became the first woman to win the Royal Society Science Book of the Year Prize solo for her debut, Adventures in the Anthropocene: A Journey to the Heart of the Planet We Made (Minneapolis, MN: Milkweed Editions, 2014).

Saturday, June 11, 2022

2:00 to 2:30 pm: Remembering Paul Lippmann (1934-2022)

2:30-5:00 pm:

Nathan Kravis, "Charisma" [this presentation will be introduced by Larry Friedman]

Charisma is best understood as an intersubjective phenomenon irreducible to individual psychology, though to some extent the phenomena of charisma and narcissism overlap. From its earliest stipulation by St. Paul as a gift of grace to Weber's seminal work on charismatic authority and its inevitable routinization, the concept has evolved into a more nuanced construct that can be useful in formulating leadership/followership dynamics. Via a case vignette, the author illustrates how charismatic organization functions in the clinical situation. Linking Weber's work on enthusiasm to Bion's stipulation of arrogance and stupidity, he shows how the concept of charismatic organization bridges recent social science research and psychoanalytic understanding and provides a way of relating certain clinical phenomena to events on the larger sociopolitical stage.

Nathan Kravis, M.D., is Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medical College, Associate Director of the DeWitt Wallace Institute of Psychiatry at Cornell, Training and Supervising Analyst at the Columbia University Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research, and a former Associate Editor of the Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association. He is the author of On the Couch: A Repressed History of the Analytic Couch from Plato to Freud (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2017; Gradiva Award, 2018; German and Turkish editions, 2018; Russian edition, 2019). Other recent publications include “The Analyst’s Hatred of Analysis” (Psychoanalytic Quarterly, 2013, 1), “The Googled and Googling Analyst” (Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association, 2017, 5), and “Charisma” (Psychoanalytic Quarterly, 2021, 4). He is the recipient of teaching awards from the psychiatry residents at Cornell and psychoanalytic candidates at Columbia, the George E. Daniels Merit Award of the Association for Psychoanalytic Medicine (2011), the George S. Goldman Award of the Columbia University Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research (2015), and the Arnold M. Cooper M.D. Memorial Award from the Weill Cornell Department of Psychiatry for contributions to psychodynamic psychiatry, psychoanalysis, and historical scholarship (2020). He has been in private practice in New York since 1987.

Sunday, June 12, 2022

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

10:00 am-12:30 pm:

Lawrence Friedman, “Ego psychology: The mind as an object” [this presentation will be introduced by Morris Eagle]

By his language and approach, Heinz Hartmann indicates that he is portraying the mind as an empirical object. Unfortunately, most of the features we are accustomed to in an object are hard to find in the mind, but we can find an inside and an outside. We are asked to somehow imagine many parts stuffed into one un-extended object. Inside the object we see only meaning and purpose but it has to deal with an outside world of brute fact and efficient cause. Evolutionary survival shows that the mind’s perimeter has an objective (“neutral”) lens on the outside world, which somehow manages to translate its findings into the flow of internal meanings. In Hartmann’s work, this is the beginning of a blending that will blur the outlines of internal parts of mind. Pure efficient causality is hard to find in the mind. In its place are the slippery, phenomenological exchanges that Hartmann had earlier scorned. But he had realized to begin with that for human beings, reality is chiefly social, and ultimately he acknowledged that humans mix (by alternation) physical and human reality in their perceptions. Here Hans Loewald joins the discussion. I suggest that Loewald supplies the missing dimension of the object, which makes up for the vagueness of its shape and the fuzziness of its parts, and helps to bridge the difference between inside (meaning) and outside (fact). That dimension is the mind’s theater of voluntary time travel. With this voluntary command of temporal sequences supplementing Hartmann’s and Freud’s stop-motion picture of mind, the theory acknowledges both the momentary slings and arrows of the moment, and also the uninterrupted continuum of life that erases the separateness of the mind’s parts, smoothens objective

facts into a meaningful, dramatic shape, and homogenizes the outside and inside. For the moment, the mind/body problem has been suspended, and for once a persuasive theory of therapeutic action is possible. As a bonus, the peculiar preoccupation of psychoanalysis with the patient's life story is seen to be more than a cultural habit. Time travel also offers a hook for theories of lesser generality. Those are the ones most analysts refer to as "our competing theories." They are more arbitrary, do not answer to the logical demands of highly abstract theory, have a more dramatic, value-laden content and serve as usable stencils for the flow of a patient's productions. I will discuss some of the implications of a highly abstractive theory like the Freud-Hartmann-Loewald project for the nature and future of psychoanalysis, recruitment, neutrality in practice, competition among schools of psychoanalysis, etc.

Lawrence Friedman, M.D., is a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Weill-Cornell Medical College, and member of the Faculty at the Psychoanalytic Association of New York (PANY) affiliated with the New York University (NYU) Medical Center. He has a private practice in New York City. Among his many publications there are the books The Anatomy of Psychotherapy (Hillsdale, NJ: Analytic Press, 1988; Italian translation: Anatomia della psicoterapia. Preface by Pier Francesco Galli. Turin: Bollati Boringhieri, 1993) and Freud's Papers on Technique and Contemporary Clinical Practice (London: Routledge, 2018).

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 program's web page is <www.psychomedia.it/rapaport-klein/june2022.htm>). If there are any changes in your e-mail address, please notify Paolo at <migone@unipr.it>. We will post on our web site the documents that speakers would like to pre-circulate. We will post also the video and audio recordings of all sessions. Any suggestions for improving our website are welcome and should be directed to Paolo.

Given that this year's meeting will again be remote, dues for Members and Guests is reduced to \$50.00. This is intended to cover the cost of the \$500.00 honorarium we are giving guest speakers and other miscellaneous expenses. If we were meeting in person this year we would follow our normal practice of not offering an honorarium, opting instead to cover the cost of a stay at the *Red Lion Inn*, travel, and food for guest speakers. But alas, this is not a typical year. For members who paid full dues for last year's meeting (several of you did for 2021), Craig will apply that amount to your 2023 dues – we do have a record of your payment, so no worries. If you have any questions, feel free to ask Craig. We request no more than one guest per member. Kindly email Craig (<cpiers@williams.edu>) to let us know if you are inviting a guest

We look forward to seeing you once again and enjoying the weekend together, this time, for the second time, in video-conference.

Warm regards,

Paolo Migone and Craig Piers, *Co-Chairs*