



DSPP BULLETIN

Dallas Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology

Exploring and promoting the psychoanalytic perspective

4516 Lovers Lane #446 Dallas, Texas 75225-6993 * Phone: 214-890-3351 * www.dspp.com

Volume XVII Number 9

May 2001

MAY MEETING PREVIEW

Hope in Hopeless Places: The Analytic Professional Advocates for the Defense on Death Row

Presented by Rycke Marshall, Ph.D.

In May, Rycke Marshall, Ph.D. will present her forensic work with people who have been accused or convicted of murder. Dr. Marshall has long maintained an analytically-oriented psychotherapy practice in Dallas. In recent years, she has increasingly participated as an expert witness in murder trials on the side of the defense. Now, instead of strictly maintaining the time-honored therapist's stance of neutrality and anonymity, she instead is a strong advocate for the position of the defense. She will discuss her application of analytic thinking in this intense setting.

Reading:

Herman, Judith. (1997). Captivity. In *Trauma and recovery: The aftermath of violence—from domestic abuse to political terror*. (pp 74-95). New York: Basic Books.



MAY MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Wednesday, May 16, 2001
Social Time: 7:00 PM
Presentation: 7:30 PM
Location: Pecan Creek Office Park
8340 Meadow Road Dallas, Texas

Speaker: Rycke Marshall, Ph.D.

Topic: Hope in Hopeless Places: The Analytic Professional Advocates for the Defense on Death Row

EDITOR'S NOTE

Last month I invited DSPP members to comment on the recent controversies surrounding the article, "Saving Masud Khan," by Wynne Godley (*London Review of Books*, February 22, 2001). Sadly, there was only one serious response to the invitation. In discussion with the editors of other Division 39 Local Chapter newsletters, I often hear how difficult it seems to be to encourage members to contribute items for their organizational publications. So I suppose I could attribute the lack of response to a general ambivalence about submitting items to print publication. However, we *have* had a few thoughtful contributions to the *Bulletin* this year so my inclination is to consider what it is about *this* article that left our members speechless. The invitation to comment on the controversy did not even generate a discussion of the issues between members in our online mailing list. So I am left to ponder the reasons for this apparent apathy. Certainly we all have commitments outside of DSPP that vie for our time, so perhaps that is a factor. Yet, I find myself still puzzled and curious. Where is the passion that our work generates? The passion must be there for people to work effectively and creatively in their consulting rooms, so where is it in our organization? Is the issue the ambivalence of writing our thoughts, or is it related to the sensitive nature of the topic? Is it safe in our community to discuss these issues? In her response, Jane Walvoord encourages us to speak openly and compassionately. I would echo that suggestion in terms of the complex and multifaceted issues of boundaries and ethics, but also in respect to giving voice to our opinions in general.

Please consider submitting any comments you have regarding this *Bulletin* issue or the year in general for our final issue next month for this program year of "Hope and Despair." All items are due by May 30th.

--Cheryl Martin RN, LPC--

In this Issue...

Meeting Preview	1
Comments (Jane Walvoord, LMSW-ACP).....	2
Spring Workshop Review (Craig Field, Ph.D.).....	3
Announcements	4
Celebrating Freud's Birthday.....	5

Comments on “Is There A Balance?”
By Jane E. Walvoord, LMSW-ACP

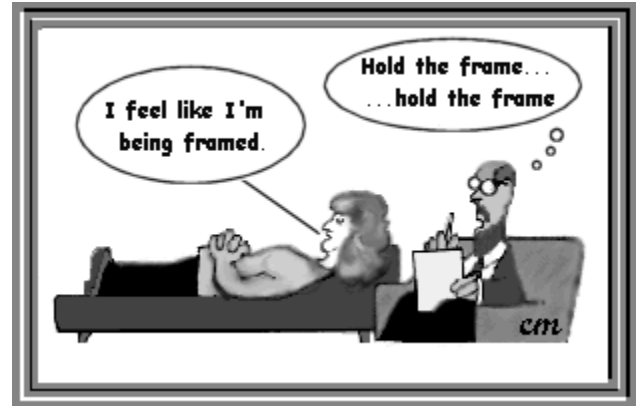
The recent controversial article, “Saving Masud Khan,” has captured the attention of psychoanalytically oriented psychotherapists and psychoanalysts. In our own community we are once again reminded that serious boundary violations, including sexual boundary violations, are not as uncommon as many of us have believed. In discussions about this prevalent problem, I have been surprised to learn that psychotherapists and psychoanalysts in our various institutions have little knowledge about managing the consequences of the breach of boundaries once these violations have occurred.

There are many causes for this failure to develop helpful and adequate responses to these harmful situations. One of these causes is a failure to talk to each other about the problem. This has resulted in both an insufficient knowledge about the frequency of these situations and a failure to recognize the signs of the first steps toward this kind of damaging mistake. While there are those psychotherapists who are unable or unwilling to see such activity as a mistake, many therapists who violate the rules of ethics are people who got into trouble one step at a time. Overly harsh pronouncements about this problem can lead to an atmosphere in which a therapist struggling with the various degrees of the slippery slope are not able or willing to ask for help for fear of acrimonious judgment.

The value of rules of ethics is clear. These are rules with a reason and are vital to the integrity of our difficult profession. It is a tragic loss to those of us who practice psychotherapy and psychoanalysis, our patients and our profession, when boundaries are violated in a psychotherapeutic situation. The more profound the violation, the greater is the loss. The fact that healing can occur for both therapist and patient does not mean that it will take place in every case and does not alter the fact that loss is an inevitable outcome of boundary violations. Failure to apply the rules of ethics is a breach of responsibility to the public. The application of these rules is not a punishment of the offending psychotherapist, but rather an attempt to protect the patient, the therapist and the profession as a whole.

Concern for the welfare of the analyst who has violated the rules of ethics and encouragement of his or her recovery or rehabilitation are important elements in a response to any individual case. In addition, the patient’s right to privacy must be observed when the

patient is unwilling to be identified. But I believe that dealing with these situations in secrecy contributes to the prevalence of boundary violations in psychoanalysis and psychotherapy. Attempts to understand the problem and concern for the parties involved are not opposing needs. It is possible to take care to avoid further unnecessary injury to those involved at the same time we search together for knowledge. The details of any given case are not as important as our willingness to talk openly about our feelings and our ability to look within ourselves for answers to these troubling questions. Our obligation in this endeavor is not only to promote our own healing, but also to try to understand what goes wrong when one of us transgresses. I hope these comments will be a part of an ongoing, open discussion that will contribute to the acknowledgment that we are all human beings and subject to temptation and will help us remember to seek help from each other when help is needed. I feel confident that if we talk more openly and with compassion, we will be able to reduce the number of such tragedies in the future.



THE FRAME

“... the metaphor for the implicit and explicit ground rules of psychotherapy or psychoanalysis. The image implies that the ground rules create a basic hold for the therapeutic interaction, for both the patient and the therapist, and that they create a distinctive set of conditions within the frame that differentiate it, in actuality and functionally, from the conditions outside the frame. The metaphor requires, however, an appreciation for the human qualities of the frame and should not be used to develop an inanimate or overly rigid conception.” (Langs, 1978, *The Listening Process*, p. 632).

SPRING WORKSHOP REVIEW

By
Craig Field, Ph.D.

And in this corner...

On March 24th the Dallas Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology welcomed Dr Drew Westen from Boston University for the Spring Workshop. The workshop brought to light the limitations of Empirically Validated Therapies and challenged our own assumptions in psychoanalytic thinking. Dr Westen presented a critique of “Empirically Validated Therapies” (EVT’s) and the language of psychoanalytic discourse during the morning and afternoon sessions of the workshop. Rather than pitting the two approaches against one another, Dr Westen critically evaluated the current trends in each area and recommended means of overcoming the current limitations of each approach. Hence, the title of this review: “And in this corner...” The following is a brief review of Dr Westen’s morning and afternoon presentations.

MORNING SESSION: A Critical Evaluation of Empirically Validated Therapies (EVT’s)

During the morning session Dr Westen provided a critique of empirically validated therapies (EVT’s), highlighting results from a recent meta-analytic study he completed of research involving EVT’s. Dr Westen began the morning session by providing common characteristics of EVT’s. First, EVT’s include homogenous patient groups. Second, the treatment provided in EVT’s are short term and of fixed duration. Third, the interventions focus on a single Axis I disorder and are standardized through the use of manuals. Finally, the outcomes of interest in EVT’s are limited to a single symptom. He noted that EVT’s have common core assumptions including 1) psychological processes are assumed to be highly malleable (that is, long term psychiatric problems have short term solutions); 2) patients have only one disorder or can be treated as though they do; 3) psychological symptoms can be understood and treated in isolation from personality; 4) patients’ initial response to treatment can be equated with the long-term efficacy of treatments; and, 5) the experimental method is the gold standard for differentiating effective treatments from ineffective ones. After laying the groundwork, Dr Westen presented findings from a recent meta-analytic study he completed of EVT’s for depression, panic disorder, and generalized anxiety disorder. The findings suggested that the percentage of patients that EVT’s have been effectively applied to are relatively small because of low inclusion rates, there is a paucity of information regarding their

long-term effectiveness (beyond 12 to 18 months), patients often continue to experience significant symptomatology and frequently seek additional treatment, and improved outcome is correlated with higher exclusion rates. In conclusion, while scientifically rigorous, the generalizability of EVT’s to the population of patients seen in the typical consulting room is dubious, largely because of the strict adherence to the randomized controlled trial design.

AFTERNOON SESSION: The Language of Psychoanalytic Discourse

During the afternoon session Dr Westen encouraged us to take a step back and evaluate the implicit grammar of psychoanalytic dialogue. He began the session by reading a recent abstract from a psychoanalytic journal and pointing out numerous problematic aspects common in psychoanalytic literature and discussions, that actually obscure, rather than clarify, our communications. Dr Westen argued that the implicit grammar of psychoanalytic discourse needs to be critically scrutinized in order to further develop and refine theoretical principles and their clinical applications. During his presentation Dr Westen outlined five problematic aspects of psychoanalytic dialogue and five corresponding means of refining it. First, Dr Westen advised articulating conceptual multiplicity where we often use unitary concepts. He referred to this tendency to use a single term to describe a multiplicity of phenomena as ‘The-ism’ and gave examples such as *the* unconscious, *the* transference or *the* therapeutic action. At times, this may be convenient shorthand while at others it may obscure or oversimplify the subtlety and complexity of clinical interactions. Second, Dr Westen recommended specifying causal mechanisms and activating conditions rather than providing causally ambiguous descriptions. In addition, he recommended the use of conditional as opposed to blanket statements regarding clinical phenomenon. He further argued that the description of psychological processes and patient phenomenology often lack an explanation of the circumstances under which these processes or dynamics occur. Third, Dr Westen suggested avoiding the use of terms in over-determined ways that lead to theoretical imprecision and confusion of theory and metaphor. He pointed out the increasing tendency to confuse metaphor with theory, and to confuse obscurity with complexity, so that the measure of a theorist is the amount of interpretation his work requires. Rich metaphor may be an invaluable starting place for a theoretical concept, but metaphor in place of clear definitions may ultimately be detrimental because it distracts us from the task of understanding people. Fourth, Dr Westen recommended

exercising greater caution in the use of developmental constructs and analogies. While a major strength of psychoanalysis is its assumption that understanding adult phenomenon requires understanding of its development, recent theoretical developments point to the limitations of such reconstructions. Nevertheless, extrapolation and overgeneralization from clinical observations to developmental experiences and vice versa is commonplace in psychoanalytic discussion. Finally, Dr Westen suggested rethinking the nature and presentation of evidence in psychoanalytic discourse. More specifically, he claims that the continued use of case material as the primary evidence for long-standing psychoanalytic theories has inherent limitations that cannot be overcome without the use of other methods for hypothesis testing. Among the limitations of the single case method are lack of replicability, lack of reliability of inference, lack of control over variables that would allow causal inference, and unknown generalizability. Dr Westen suggested several methods of overcoming these limitations including expanding the base of knowledge from which psychoanalysts draw their data (i.e, social psychology and cognitive neuroscience) and by engaging in more rigorous empirical research themselves.

CLOSING:

Dr Westen closed the workshop with an invitation to local clinicians to become involved with practice research networks in which a team of researchers enlists the collaboration of thousands of clinicians who can provide expert data on personality, psychopathology and treatment as it is actually practiced in the community. The advantage of such a network is that it gives us the best of both worlds-expert clinical observation, and rigorous psychometric and statistical methods for bringing together observations of hundreds or thousands of clinicians. By quantifying clinical judgment, we may learn things about therapeutic action that none of us alone could know from our limited clinical experience, influenced as it is by our biases and single-case designs.

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE IN PLANO

Psychotherapist office for lease in West Plano at the corner of Preston Rd. and Plano Parkway. Just off the tollway. Very nice building and office has a beautiful courtyard view. Office is currently furnished but could use your own furniture if desired. Very cooperative group of one psychologist and four social workers all in independent practice. Common waiting room. Phone sharing is a possibility. Office is available as a partial lease for days used. Available immediately. Contact Mark Hokamp, LMSW-ACP at 972-931-1875 (Plano) or 940-387-3093 (Denton).

**Dallas Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology
Arts Committee
presents**



**"Billy Strayhorn: Portrait of a Jazz Composer"
Sunday
May 20, 4:00-6:00 p.m.**

DSPP Arts Committee is delighted to present bassist James Gilyard and pianist Kelly Durbin in a lecture/concert, "Billy Strayhorn: Portrait of a Jazz Composer." The presentation will take place on Sunday, May 20, 4:00-6:00 p.m., at the home of Sarah and Robert Aberg.

Billy Strayhorn was one of the world's finest and most influential jazz composers. He wrote or co-wrote many of Duke Ellington's most noted hits--including, "Take the A Train," and "Lush Life." A great artist and composer, Strayhorn is a very interesting but under-appreciated figure in the jazz world of his time, choosing to live his life always a bit outside the pop spotlight. Strayhorn was one of the first openly gay public figures in jazz history and is an interesting psychological study of the life of an artist amidst pop culture.

James Gilyard and Kelly Durbin have long been in the top rank of jazz musicians in the North Texas area. Gilyard is artistic director of the Sammons Center for the Arts' Jazz Concert Series and Sammons Jazz Festival. Durbin, a faculty member at the University of Texas at Dallas, teaches an ongoing course in the history of jazz.

Dr. Aberg, a distinguished past-president of DSPP, is a clinical psychologist in private practice and clinical faculty member at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. He and his wife, Sarah, a musician/singer and psychotherapist, are original and ongoing members of DSPP's Arts Committee.

The jazz afternoon at the Aberg's will be followed by a cocktail buffet reception.

Reservations must be made by May 14, 2001
(please include a contact telephone number).

Contact Judith Samson for additional information.
(214) 691-7434 or E-mail:jgsamson@swbell.net

Celebrating the Birth of Sigmund Freud



May 6, 1856

Some Birthday Notes

On Freud's 35th birthday, his father presented him with a newly rebound bible with a Hebraic inscription encouraging Freud to draw upon its well of "wisdom, knowledge and understanding."

For his 50th birthday, Freud's admirers presented him with a medallion. The medallion included Freud's portrait on one side and Oedipus solving the riddle of the Sphinx on the other.

May 6th, 1911 in a letter to Carl Jung, Freud wrote "I am fifty-two today, supposing I have another ten working years ahead of me, I shall still be able to make quite a contribution to our work."

In 1926, on his 70th Birthday, Freud was finally recognized and honored by the medical community.

Anna Freud presented her father with the gift of the first edition of her book, *Ego and the Mechanisms of Defense*, on his eightieth birthday.

In 1936, Freud's 80th birthday was honored by the Royal Society in Britain and he was made a corresponding fellow.

The SIGMUND FREUD SOCIETY, located in Freud's home (from 1891-1938) at Berggasse 19, Vienna, presents the Freud lecture in the Grand Celebration Hall of Vienna University, every year on May 6.