Partial Bibliography


* Available on the GEI Web site at www.intersubjectivite.com for GEI members only.

Organizing Committee

• Sonia Boudreault, psychologist
• Sylvie Chênevert, psychologist
• Marie Noël, psychologist
• Annette Richard, psychologist, president of the GEI

For more information:

Phone (Annette Richard): 514.277.6408
E-mail: intersubjectivite@hotmail.com
Web site: www.intersubjectivite.com
Adresse: GEI, c/o Marie Noël
832, Bloomfield Ave, Outremont (Québec) H2V 3S6

Groupe d’étude sur l’intersubjectivité (GEI)

The GEI is a professional association of psychotherapists who are practicing from an intersubjective perspective inspired by self psychology. It offers an affiliative opportunity to therapists who would like to learn this particular approach. Our objectives include the advancement of continuing education for our members, and the sharing of clinical experiences and reflections. This presentation by Dr. Richard A. Geist, our guest speaker of the year, is a peak moment in our activities. We are very happy to offer simultaneous translation from English to French and from French to English again this year.

Available on the GEI Web site at www.intersubjectivite.com for GEI members only.
The conference

Self psychology, since its first formulations by Heinz Kohut in the seventies, has taken its place among the major psychoanalytic relational paradigms now dominant in the American field of psychoanalysis and even worldwide. This presentation will discuss major clinical concepts from self psychology and study their implications for conducting psychotherapy. Even though many new ideas and theories have broadened and refined the self psychological practice and theory, three essential contributions by Kohut remain as foundational constructs. They are: 1) the sustained application of the empathic-introspective stance of inquiry in the clinical situation as well as in the formulation of theories; 2) the central emphasis on the primacy of self-experience, and 3) the concepts of selfobject function and selfobject transference. The intersubjective systems theory has furthered the paradigm change in psychoanalysis by recognizing the profound contextual and relational nature of human subjectivity both in its development, in its unconscious organization and in its therapeutic transformation. For psychoanalysts and psychotherapists of a self-psychological sensibility, it has transformed the attitudes they take in being and relating with their patients. The guest speaker in this Conference, Dr. Geist, is a living testimonial of this sensibility.

Through the use of verbatim clinical dialogue, the presenter will study the clinical implications of what he considers the main aspects of self psychology theory. Emphasizing patient centered rather than theory centered treatment, Dr. Geist will focus on implementing an empathic listening stance, responding to resistance and rage, the use of selfobject transfersences, working with boundaries, understanding frustrations and gratifications, and he will study the meaning and importance of interpretation. Throughout this clinically oriented conference, in keeping with the intersubjective systems contextualizing approach, the impact of the therapist on the treatment process will be emphasized.

Learning objectives

- To understand the clinical underpinnings of self psychology.
- To deep a sense of how the theory alters our clinical perspective and interaction with patients.
- To begin to become comfortable integrating the clinical self psychological perspective into therapeutic work.

The Speaker

Richard A. Geist received his undergraduate degree and his doctorate in Psychology from Harvard University and for 30 years was Clinical Instructor, Department of Psychiatry (Psychology), Harvard Medical School. He is a Founding Member, Faculty, Supervising analyst, and former member of the Board of Directors of The Massachusetts Institute for Psychoanalysis. He has been a senior supervising psychologist at Children’s Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital, and Mass Mental Health Center in Boston. Dr. Geist maintains a private practice in psychoanalysis and psychotherapy in Newton, Massachusetts where he sees children, adolescents, adults, and couples.

Dr. Geist was one of the first psychologists in Boston to embrace self psychology and intersubjectivity theory and practice, and he has been teaching and supervising it for over 25 years. Dr. Geist has also applied self psychology to understanding how investors make decisions under conditions of risk and has published a recent book on the topic—Investor Therapy (Crown Press). Currently he is working on a book on the clinical use of relational self psychology in psychoanalytic work.

Dr. Geist is married with four children and, when not doing clinical work, enjoys running, tennis, hiking in the White Mountains, designing and building furniture, and coaching his daughter’s basketball team. He is a prodigious reader of poetry.

To become a member of the GEI

Any psychotherapist who belongs to a professional Order can become a member of the GEI. If this is what you want, you can include a check to the amount of $20 payable to the GEI. The fee will be applicable to membership for the year 2008-2009. Activities are held in French, except the yearly Conference with an outside guest.

Conference Registration Form

Name: ____________________________
Adress: ____________________________
City: ____________________________
Province: ___________________ Postal Code: __________
Phone number: (________) ______________________
E-mail: ____________________________

Member of the GEI [ ] Non-member of the GEI [ ]
Student [ ] Membership Fee to the GEI Enclosed [ ]

Do you intend to use the French to English translation service (Question period)? [ ] Yes [ ] No

How have you been informed of this conference?

FEES (meal included)

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Students please include ID card copy.

Please send this form along with your check payable to the GEI to:
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832 Bloomfield Ave
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Refund Policy

If you must cancel your registration, please do it in writing and a refund less an administrative fee of $25 will be allowed up to April 11th 2009. We regret that refunds cannot be allowed after April 11th.

Upon reception of your check and your form, your registration will be completed. A receipt will be given to you at the Conference site.