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Psychoanalytic
Association

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Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

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Timothy H. Rayner 11-08-2023 16:55

I've heard from quite a few colleagues that they are concerned that we are moving to far a from our ...

- 
Elisa Cheng 11-08-2023 22:04
Bravo, and thank you, Tim, for speaking out with such conviction and clarity on this matter. While ...
- 
Henry J. Friedman 11-09-2023 19:30
I honestly can report that my life lived as a psychoanalyst has offered me a profession that has allowed ...
- 
Judith S. Schachter 11-10-2023 10:24
Henry Friedman has enlarged the compass of our discussion of racism in psychoanalysis and within our ...
- 
Brooke Finley 11-10-2023 10:53
Hello, I wanted to share and discuss how my personal experience with discrimination is alive ...
- 
Mehmet Kayatekin 11-10-2023 11:12
That is a great question Brooke So that I understand it, when you say "psychoanalytic training" ...
- 
Brooke Finley 11-10-2023 11:15
Dear Sagman, Thank you for asking. This was for full, 4+ year psychoanalytic training, so the ...
- 
Jane Hall 11-10-2023 17:11
Dear Brooke, What a horrible story! ApsA does have a long history of exclusionary practices but ...
- 
Brooke Finley 11-10-2023 19:30
Dear Jane, Thank you for your support. Ironically, your leadership and inclusive precedence ...
- 
Timothy H. Rayner 11-10-2023 19:58
It is thanks to the work of Brooke Finley that I have become aware of the glaring omission of ...
- 
Himanshu Agrawal 11-10-2023 20:57
Dear Dr. Finley, and any and all nurse candidates that may be reading this, I write this note ...
- 
Jane Hall 11-10-2023 21:26
Dear Brooke, What a wonderful coincidence that you chose CFS!! Indeed we are a welcoming place ...
- 
Alice Lombardo Maher 11-11-2023 08:34
As many of you know, I believe that we need to develop a theory of difference and a methodology ...



Mehmet Kayatekin 11-11-2023 08:43

Very well said Alice ..Not a 'melting pot" Thanks Sagman M Sagman ...



Jane Hall 11-11-2023 19:35

Alice, In my experience spanning 50 years as an analysand, student, analyst, teacher, consultant, ...



Timothy H. Rayner 11-10-2023 19:27

In response to Andrew Klafter, I am not aware of any influential members of APsA advocating that we ...



Henry J. Friedman 11-12-2023 17:39

It is important that we as members of the APsaA have a clear understanding of where we agree ...



Sydney Pulver 11-13-2023 09:55

I think Henry has said it just right! Syd -- Sydney E. Pulver, M.D. Office: 1512 ...



Thomas M. Brod 11-13-2023 11:11

"...That we should be anti-racist in our public facing organizational self is axiomatic but where ...



Kelly Shanks Lippman 11-13-2023 12:38

Hello Thomas - I'm confused by your endorsement of Henry's sentence, "It is unwise as well ...



Amy Glick 11-13-2023 13:29

Dear Kelly, Your concerns, so eloquently stated, resonate deeply with me. I would add that ...



Elaine Zickler 11-13-2023 15:58

I would just add that Jean Laplanche was also a physician, which makes all the more compelling ...



Elaine Zickler 12-27-2023 10:55

With all respect to you, Steven, I have to say that the Oedipal explanation does not encapsulate ...



Elaine Zickler 12-27-2023 11:10

Forgive me for re-posting this, but it got put under the wrong heading the first time: ...















Leslie Schweitzer-Miller 12-27-2023 13:20

Elaine, Who are you referring to when you say: "My sense is that Kerry counted on ...



































Leslie Schweitzer-Miller 12-27-2023 13:44

And an addendum: Elaine: you reveal yourself. Equating the APaA's "challenge and attempt ...

- ✓  **Lucas Klein 12-28-2023 12:11**
Dr. Schweitzer-Miller: thank you for taking up the mantle of pointing out these glaring issues ...
-  **Himanshu Agrawal 12-28-2023 12:48**
Hi Dr. Klein, First things first- it seems you and I might differ on many opinions about ...
-  **Tim Brady 12-28-2023 20:00**
No ----- Original Message: Sent: 12/27/2023 1:44:00 ...
- ✓  **Elaine Zickler 12-28-2023 20:19**
Colleagues are asking me to correct my post about the class schedule at our institute. We do ...
-  **Henry M. Bachrach 12-28-2023 20:42**
Elaine, I graduated from the same Institute as you, albeit a bit earlier. I was the only ...
-  **Deana Schuplin 11-13-2023 18:18**
Hello Kelly, I really appreciate your clarification. I think it is important that we continue ...
- ✓  **Omar Khan 11-14-2023 15:00**
Dear Kelly, I appreciate what you've written here and yet I find myself, as has become the norm ...
- ✓  **Mark Poster 11-14-2023 16:27**
Omar, You have again demonstrated a gift for understanding a complex matter and suggesting ...
- ✓  **Mehmet Kayatekin 11-14-2023 18:57**
I stated my thinking in my October 9 statement, which is at the elections webpage. I still have ...
-  **Bonnie Buchele 11-15-2023 14:24**
The Holmes Commission has increased our awareness of racism and bias in psychoanalysis. We ...
- ✓  **Timothy H. Rayner 11-15-2023 16:45**
Mark, thanks for the opportunity to clarify what I do and don't support. I have long believed ...
- ✓  **Henry J. Friedman 11-16-2023 08:29**

The implication of establishing an ombudsman to adjudicate instances of perceived racism is ...

- ✓  **Tamarind Knutson** 11-16-2023 09:54
Dear Dr. Friedman, I haven't kept up on the thread so am only responding to one ...
- ✓  **Henry M. Bachrach** 11-16-2023 10:48
When I read Tim Rayner's post last night I found his recommendations so frightening I was ...
-  **Henry M. Bachrach** 11-16-2023 11:07
I meant to add I would strongly encourage everyone to read Tim Rayner and Henry Friedman's ...
- ✓  **Veronica Abney** 11-16-2023 13:06
Dr. Friedman there was not de jure exclusion of BIPOC in psychoanalysis but de facto exclusion ...
- ✓  **Brooke Finley** 11-16-2023 13:30
One of the things that is missing from this conversation is how we can collectively grieve ...
- ✓  **David P. Gordon** 11-16-2023 15:57
Dear Colleagues, There is a central point that needs, in my opinion, emphasis. The entirety ...
- ✓  **David E. Cooper** 11-16-2023 16:08
While we encounter the hazards of the listserv in responding quickly in between appointments ...
- ✓  **Elisa Cheng** 11-16-2023 17:01
Dear all, I find myself perturbed and confused that the suggestion of an ombudsperson ...
- ✓  **Omar Khan** 11-16-2023 21:57
Hi Elisa, As the earlier conflict involving Lara Sheehi and the EC has demonstrated, ...
-  **Henry J. Friedman** 11-16-2023 22:48
Clear and terrific response. Much appreciated by me. Henry F. -----
----- ...
- ✓  **Elisa Cheng** 11-16-2023 23:48
Dear Omar, I think we're still wrestling somehow with the fantasy that an all-powerful ...
- ✓  **Mehmet Kayatekin** 11-17-2023 08:26
I think Elisa asked a key question - " how would you ensure that you're engaging ...

- 

Thomas M. Brod 11-17-2023 12:26
I ask myself whether that word " ENSURE " < " how would you ensure that you're ...
- 
Elisa Cheng 11-17-2023 15:00
Hi Dr. Brod, I know we haven't met personally, but I'm pretty sure that most people ...
- 
Judith S. Schachter 11-17-2023 21:07
It appears to me that posts conflate institutional, situational racism, built into our ...
- 
Henry J. Friedman 11-18-2023 15:52
I find it necessary to address some of the assertions or impressions expressed by Elisa ...
- 

Ralph E. Fishkin 11-16-2023 18:45
I too was startled to read of the suspicion about ombudspersons. I recall that Mark Poster ...
- 

Mark Poster 11-16-2023 23:10
"The problem with authority-based legislation of anti-racist change notwithstanding, ...
- 

Ralph E. Fishkin 11-17-2023 19:14
Mark, Members, I do NOT endorse an ombudsman. I don't oppose it, either. I merely ...
- 

Lucas Klein 11-18-2023 13:42
I would like to weigh in here on the issue of the Holmes report and the ideas that ...
- 

Himanshu Agrawal 11-18-2023 14:16
While I await the results of the double blinded randomized control trials that Freud ...
- 

Lucas Klein 11-18-2023 14:45
While these sections are labeled "methods" and "results", they do not even minimally ...
- 
C. Martin Bullard 11-18-2023 15:31
Addressing the sincere concerns of ANY subset of an organization is of course ...
- 
Sydney Pulver 11-18-2023 14:27
Lucas reflects my own reaction to the Holmes Commission report. I just didn't know ...
- 
Leslie Schweitzer-Miller 11-18-2023 17:46

Dear Dr. Klein, Bravo and thank you! I've heard these ideas expressed privately, but ...



Arnold D. Richards 11-16-2023 17:11

i have scheduled several webinars to discuss my memoir unorthodox my life in an outside ...



Arnold D. Richards 11-16-2023 17:15

corrected Sent from my iPhone > On Nov 16, 2023, at 5:10 PM, Arnold Richards <arniedr14@gmail.com> ...



Andrew B. Klafter 11-08-2023 22:11

I believe that Timothy Rayner has mischaracterized the issues that are being debated on our listserv, ...



Tamarind Knutson 11-09-2023 09:10

I am concerned that this promotes a narrative that does not represent me or what I perceive the debates ...



Veronica Abney 11-10-2023 22:53

Thank you for a thoughtful, truthful and important message. Veronica D. Abney, Ph.D. 111 Hekili ...



Michael Langlois 11-18-2023 18:14

Hello Colleagues, I am hesitant as always to wade into the fray of the listserv, and will try to ...



Henry M. Bachrach 11-18-2023 22:44

Michael, Lucas Klein just presented a penetrating critique of the Holmes Commission study and its ...



Karim Dajani 11-19-2023 07:54

I am compelled to respond to Dr. Lucas' post with a brief comment only as I have elected to no longer ...



Hattie Myers 11-19-2023 09:13

Glad you felt compelled to write Karim. Your voice has been missed. (I've missed it.) In answer ...



Elisa Cheng 11-19-2023 10:01

Dear Dr. Dajani, Thank you for taking the time to chime in and respond to Lucas Klein's post, ...
















Henry M. Bachrach 11-19-2023 10:32














Elisa, I'm not aware I have offered any opinion about an ombudsman.. Would you be so kind to ...




Henry M. Bachrach 11-19-2023 11:01


Elisa, My error. I just recalled I did mention the idea of an ombudsman frightened me in another ...


- ✓  **Sherwood Waldron 11-19-2023 12:00**
I would like, as a person as senior as Henry Friedman (and a longstanding friend), to share my ...
- ✓  **Deana Schuplin 11-19-2023 12:14**
Dr. Klein, I find myself wanting to respond to your post in a manner that feels in ...
- ✓  **Lucas Klein 11-19-2023 13:15**
Here are a few ideas for a study on race as a causal or correlative factor in training. This ...
- ✓  **Adele Tutter 11-19-2023 13:48**
Dr Klein, All of your ideas are very interesting, and lend themselves to the sort of "statistical ...
- ✓  **C. Martin Bullard 11-19-2023 15:11**
If the question was "is addressing sexism" or "is addressing homophobia an appropriate priority" ...
- ✓  **Irene Cairo 11-19-2023 15:36**
 Irene Cairo MD (212) 787-1855 (631) 324-5170 ...
-  **Aurelio Ogilvie 11-19-2023 16:17**
Like Dr. Tutter, Dr. Cheng and many others, (and as a person of color), I am also ...
- ✓  **Kelly Shanks Lippman 11-19-2023 15:32**
Adele Tutter's response here (with which I wholeheartedly concur) has me in mind of the article ...
- ✓  **Bobbie Davis 11-19-2023 15:34**
I have hesitated throughout, watching this discussion in my response. I think it's very troubling ...
-  **Emily Frank 11-22-2023 07:43**
Bobbi, Thank you for pointing out how hurtful it is to pair the words "blind" and "stupid." ...
- ✓  **Tamarind Knutson 11-22-2023 08:55**
Dear Bobbie, Thank you for bringing this to our attention. Language matters! Your email ...
-  **Himanshu Agrawal 11-22-2023 10:04**
Thank you, Dr. Davis, for adding food for thought to this banquet that some are appreciating, ...


-  **Maritza Rodriguez 11-22-2023 06:38**
Bobbie, I wanted to cheer for your fierce and indignant message to those who have been insulting ...
- ✓  **Deana Schuplin 11-19-2023 16:42**
Dr. Klein, In agreement, at least in part with Henry Friedman, I find your response to be ...
- ✓  **Robert M. Galatzer-Levy 11-19-2023 17:54**
Could those who want to engage in general discussions of these issues rather than learning ...
- ✓  **Nancy Ann Lawroski 11-19-2023 22:07**
This has been a rich and important discussion, also at times very painful to read. However, ...
- ✓  **Robert M. Galatzer-Levy 11-19-2023 23:01**
Hi Nancy, I apologize for not being clear. I would hope the Election List could ...
-  **Himanshu Agrawal 11-20-2023 10:04**
As someone who has contributed to the thread, Thank you, dear colleagues, for the gentle ...
-  **Coral Harriman 11-21-2023 00:06**
Dr Klein, Thank you for your valuable input regarding research methodology. It's a nice reminder ...
-  **Coral Harriman 19 days ago**
<https://merionwest.com/2024/01/17/what-happened-to-the-american-psychological-association/> ...
- ✓  **Adele Tutter 11-19-2023 09:56**
Like Karim, I have avoided joining in-I was about to say "joining the dialogue," but I hesitated, ...
- ✓  **Siamak Movahedi 11-20-2023 15:07**
Perhaps we did not appreciate Dr. Lucas Klein's profound methodological analysis of Holmes' commission ...
- ✓  **Ralph E. Fishkin 11-20-2023 19:11**
Hi, Siamak, Since I am methodologically challenged, I could not tell whether you were speaking ...
-  **Siamak Movahedi 11-20-2023 19:38**
Dear Ralph, Beginning with Freud's interpretation of dreams, we should listen to analytic ...
- ✓  **Henry J. Friedman 11-19-2023 10:59**


It is easy to establish something as a pressing "truth" that requires no proof simply because it ...


 **Katrin Haller** 11-19-2023 11:20
Reading about questioning the validity and the calling out of "facts" related to the HCR, I find ...


✓  **Arsalan Malik** 11-20-2023 03:34
I think everyone can see what you mean, Karim. I believe it is important to acknowledge that, ...


✓  **Umi Chong** 11-20-2023 04:18
In addressing Dr. Lucas Klein's post questioning the validity of the Holmes Report, and to move ...


✓  **Mehmet Kayatekin** 11-20-2023 08:57
Thank you Umi This is a powerful, sophisticated, informative articulation of what sounds like ...


 **Lynne Zeavin** 11-20-2023 09:29
I am emerging from my listserv silence because Umi Chong has given such clear voice to a terrible ...


 **Stanley J. Coen** 11-20-2023 09:41
I feel pained that Umi needed to explain to so many older white male colleagues that their attacks ...


 **Tamarind Knutson** 11-19-2023 10:41
The idea that qualitative research is subpar went out of favor decades ago. If people need a primer ...

✓  **Michael Langlois** 11-19-2023 15:13
Hi Henry, please call me Mike. I decline your invitation to enlighten you or others about the ...

 **Henry M. Bachrach** 11-19-2023 16:22
Mike, I understand what you are saying. These are matters so clear to you, so axiomatic, they ...

✓  **April Crofut** 11-19-2023 14:26
I want to belatedly join in thanking Tim Rayner for making such a compassionate, specific, and unequivocal ...

✓  **Nancy Ann Lawroski** 11-21-2023 17:23
I believe all three candidates for President have responded on this thread, although Mehmet Kayatetkin's ...

✓  **Mehmet Kayatekin** 11-21-2023 18:26

Thank you Dr Lawroski I appreciate your attention to the discussions. That is a major accomplishment ...



Nancy Ann Lawroski 11-21-2023 23:48

Thank you, Dr. Kayatekin. I certainly didn't mean to imply that you or any of the other candidates ...

1. Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Timothy H. Rayner

Posted 11-08-2023 16:55

Reply



I've heard from quite a few colleagues that they are concerned that we are moving to far away from our primary concern: psychoanalysis. My belief is that to preserve and grow psychoanalysis, we simply must address racial inequality and underrepresentation. We have discovered our edifice has been built on a flawed foundation, threatening to bring down the entire structure if we don't invest in its repair.

The Final Report of the Holmes Commission outlines through comprehensive survey data how every step in the journey of a psychoanalytic career, from recruitment to admission, to progression, to graduation, to promotion, is inherently, structurally protective of the status quo, and therefore keeps the profession of psychoanalysis overwhelmingly white.

Some of the skepticism of this effort may stem from the perception, which unfortunately may have been true in some instances, that we were going to chip away at racism by catching colleagues being "racists," and through public shaming, reform or expel the offenders.

It may destigmatize this impression to accept that all human beings, without exception, have internalized the racial messages that pervade every society. Analysts tend to accept unquestioningly that we all have sexual and aggressive impulses and fantasies with varying access to consciousness, but there is such unmetabolized shame around seeing ourselves as "racist," that it can be very difficult to acknowledge, especially publicly, that we have unwittingly exposed to our society's many racial attitudes, even as we make efforts to reject those we recognize as racial. These upwellings are most likely to occur in the context of a "racial enactment," implying that two or more people, in their unconscious interactions, have manifested a dynamic that was pressing upward but could not put into thoughts and words.

Many of us consider this to be inevitable in our clinical work. Whether it is when we are confronted by a patient or by our own ego-alien sense of things, we are open to the possibility that we are participating in something out of our conscious awareness. In that scenario, there is more space to

become aware of the enactment, tolerating the shame it may bring, and move toward putting into words what had been put into actions. The fact that this most commonly occurs in groups has led the Holmes Commission to recommend that we include more training in group process.

Another finding of the Holmes Commission is that by and large, very little attention is paid to matters of race in personal analyses. Some have argued that we shouldn't introduce topics that our patients don't raise, as we could be intruding with our own "activist" agenda. Given that feelings and attitudes on race can be largely unconscious, they might not be "introduced" by the patient, per se, but they might readily bubble up to within detection of analysts who are attuned to their own as well as the patient's associations, rather than blinded to them. Furthermore, it is an essential feature of the individual human mind how each person has internalized messages from the family and the culture.

I believe Laplanche's concept of "failure of translation of an enigmatic message" applies here. He focused primarily on a "message" to the child that was contaminated by the sexual unconscious of the adult, leading to failure to translate it to the child's conscious mind relegating it to the "unconscious enclave." To Laplanche, infantile sexuality is not a de novo defensive fantasy of the frustrated Oedipal child but has been put there by the adult. To my thinking, this is where and how racism is propagated and lives, often becoming enacted, relationally, in a dissociative cocoon with one or more other minds, including the mind of the analyst. This is true in every analysis and if we are open to it, we will see and hear it, in every analysis even if we aren't listening "for" it, and I believe it is squarely in the purview of attending to the individual mind.

Some skepticism has also been rightfully expressed about failed and counterproductive efforts in other organizations toward combatting racism through mandatory workshops and DEI training. I agree that you can't "teach" antiracism didactically alone. While necessary, we also can't make sufficient progress through "teachable moments." The structural impediments to racial equality require structural change.

The preliminary summary of the Holmes Commission cited President Lyndon Johnson as exercising leadership that advanced the rights of Black people. He didn't do this primarily through "winning hearts and minds," including his own, but through passing laws that enfranchised the disenfranchised. Our usual word-of-mouth process of recruitment and mentorship tends to bring in and lift people who are already in proximity to our existing members, perpetuating a predominately white membership. One suggestion of the Holmes Commission that seems imminently feasible and effective is to actively recruit candidates of color, rather than waiting for them to find and seek what we offer.

As inadequate as our existing practices are of bringing in BIPOC candidates, we lose entirely too many of what few we have through inadequately handled racial microaggressions in the context of training. Fully two thirds of faculty and candidates witnessed racial microaggressions, candidate status and BIPOC status both made it more likely to see them, and more likely to see them as handled inadequately. It's easier to ignore the rock you're on than the rock you're under. We can put structures in place, such as ombudspersons trained and skilled in addressing these matters, with repair as the goal, rather than punishment.

If we don't continue this difficult and painful work, not only are we doomed to remain overwhelmingly white, but I believe we may shrink toward extinction. The younger generation is increasingly concerned about diversity and equality, and less willing to belong to an organization that does not reflect their values.

 Timothy H. Rayner
 M.D.
 San Diego Psychoanalytic Center
 San Diego CA

2. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0 Recommend



Elisa Cheng

Posted 11-08-2023 22:04

Reply

Bravo, and thank you, Tim, for speaking out with such conviction and clarity on this matter. While I worry that you may incur some loss of support from those who think that addressing racism is somehow outside the appropriate purview or concern of psychoanalysis and APsA, I deeply appreciate your taking the risk of using your platform to argue why that isn't true, and to amplify the findings and recommendations of the Holmes Commission Report.

Your opening paragraph's reference to the flawed foundation that our field is built upon made me think of the following passage from Isabel Wilkerson's eye-opening 2020 NY Times Magazine piece, "America's Enduring Caste System," an excerpt from her book titled *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*:

We in this country are like homeowners who inherited a house on a piece of land that is beautiful on the outside but whose soil is unstable loam and rock, heaving and contracting over generations, cracks patched but the deeper ruptures waved away for decades, centuries even. Many people may rightly say: "I had nothing to do with how this all started. I have nothing to do with the sins of the past. My ancestors never attacked Indigenous people, never owned slaves." And yes. Not one of us was here when this house was built. Our immediate ancestors may have had nothing to do with it, but here we are, the current occupants of a property with stress cracks and bowed walls and fissures in the foundation. We are the heirs to whatever is right or wrong with it. We did not erect the uneven pillars or joists, but they are ours to deal with now.

And any further deterioration is, in fact, on our hands.

I share your concern that psychoanalysis and the American Psychoanalytic Association risk heading toward extinction (or irrelevance) if its members are not willing to take a sobering look at what's under the edifice/rock, the fissures in our foundation, and the structural changes -- the repair -- that may be needed for this field, this community, to flourish.

► Original Message

3. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Henry J. Friedman

Posted 11-09-2023 19:30

Reply



I honestly can report that my life lived as a psychoanalyst has offered me a profession that has allowed a multitude of satisfactions not the least of which has been to help many individuals improve the quality of their lives as well as those who surround them. Psychoanalysis with its ability to deepen our understanding of our patients characters and their goals both conscious and unconscious has provided me with therapeutic capacities that never would have been mine without the addition of psychoanalytic training to my medical and psychiatric trainings. However, I can also honestly report that the training in psychoanalysis always seemed based upon an assumption, around the paranoid assumption, that those seeking to become psychoanalysts were under suspicion of lacking the fundamental capacities that were required to be a psychoanalyst. I am stressing this point because the assertions that racism has been a fundamental aspect of the psychoanalytic world I have lived in seems to confuse the basic hostility of psychoanalytic training to those candidates it trains (educates).

Tim Rayner would have us believe that those of us choosing to become psychoanalysts were uniformly exposed to the racism of American society and hence to have internalized that racism. It should be obvious many of us were raised in homes by parents who were

fundamentally anti-racist in their orientations to life in the United States. It is naïve to assume that the historical racism has not persistently, from the time of the abolitionists up to the present, always inspired intense antiracism and that this antiracism was incorporated by so many of us who were drawn to psychoanalysis. What I think is more important than internalized racism that Tim and many others believe should be introduced by some method into all psychoanalytic treatments is the need for us as a profession to recognize the fundamental hostility that the training system has brought to our institutional existence. We can begin with, at least at the time when I applied for training, that the atmosphere was one of fear, fear of being rejected by the institute on the grounds of not being suitable, despite having trained in medicine and psychiatry, to meet the standards required to enter the arduous profession of psychoanalysis. So many talented individuals never gained entry into the profession because of the variety of assumptions about what was wrong with them that made them not likely to be admitted. Some of these will clearly be reflections of prejudices. For instance any openly gay or lesbian psychiatrist knew that their application was doomed unless they concealed their sexual object choice. Furthermore, potential candidates of either sex certainly could assume they would be rejected if they had an active sexual life that was not tied to an intention to marry and live a conventional life preferably including children. Women who were too ambitious were suspected of lacking the capacity to be adequate mothers. There did seem to be a certain preference for unmarried men or women who could report little or no sexual life as significant to them.

The hierarchy inherent to the training analyst system introduced the idea that even if you were accepted for training ultimately you might fail to become a training analyst. While this was not as severe a blow as being turned down for training it did imply that you were not in the top rank of psychoanalysts. A complete turn down meant you have been judged as not sufficiently stable mentally to carry the burden of being a psychoanalyst. To become a psychoanalyst who failed to be elevated to the training analysis status meant a tacit acceptance of being somewhat inferior to those who made it to the top status the field bestowed on its members (a kind of anointment). . Where did race fit into this system of potential humiliation of stratification of analysts into layers of diminishing purity and importance. And what I am describing here is what I would call systemic devaluation of some analysts accompanied by the unexplainable elevation of others. And it is certainly possible that the system of training and the future that it offered Black qualified psychiatrists was particularly offputting to individuals who had suffered discrimination not only in life but in attempting to gain entrance to predominantly white Christian medical schools. As a Jew when I was applying to American medical schools I was told my chances of being accepted were minimal and that I should think of going the route of medical training in Europe and then returning to the United States. The situation was even worse for individuals who were of color. My own medical training was at Johns Hopkins a medical school with excellent training that had a quota of three Jews per class and no Blacks despite a scholarship having been established for African American students by Lawrence Kubie that was never utilized until a decade after I graduated.

All of this is an attempt to link deficiencies in how psychoanalytic training or education has been framed from the outset of its beginnings. A dominant group of psychoanalysts felt their judgment of who would be a good analyst or even a sufficiently safe person to train in psychoanalysis was perfectly correct. There has always been a gatekeeping function to who our institutes would accept as suitable for inclusion. It has in the experience of many like myself been anything but welcoming and accepting of candidates; the training analysis can

be rationalized as a necessary requirement for any candidate to learn about the unconscious but it also can be seen as a method of shaping and controlling the way in which candidates were homogenized or indoctrinated to a standard of professionalism that in itself had never been objectively examined. Any attempt to introduce a particular political or ideological stance on those we educate should be viewed with suspicion. When the Holmes Commission focuses on the experience of racism reported by members it gives us first hand accounts of experiences that cannot be denied or minimized; being treated badly in conferences or classes by teachers and co students who are insensitive to racism is definitely a problem that needs to be the focus of increased sensitivity about race. However, we shouldn't lose sight of or deny the degree to which the system itself tends to injure candidates regardless of race or religion. One might assert that psychoanalytic training is an attenuated version of thought control that is surprisingly egalitarian in who it injures while imposing its version of standards on all those who enter training.

What I am proposing in response to Tim's emphasis on the need to examine our unconscious racism is the more important need to examine the form in which we educate psychoanalysts whatever the racial or religious background of our candidates. There is much in our traditional approach to psychoanalytic education that should be examined closely and in many cases result in significant change starting with abolishing the training analyst system and insuring that independent thinking isn't seen as a form of heresy. We should aim at producing psychoanalysts who can think independently and contribute to our literature without the fear of censorship or of being marginalized for what they write or say. The goal of educational reform shouldn't be lost as fundamentally what is needed by the profession even as it strives to be more diverse and more inclusive of all those who seek to become psychoanalysts. Psychoanalytic education shouldn't be an ordeal or a painful rite of passage that demands conformity of thinking. We are all living thru a period of polarities where issues like racism and anti-semitism can divide us but concentrating on improving both our understanding of patients and our training of candidates will insure the future of psychoanalysis as a therapeutic method and an approach for understanding the art of living.

Henry J. Friedman, M.D.

[▶ Original Message](#)

4. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Judith S. Schachter

Posted 11-10-2023 10:24

Reply



Henry Friedman has enlarged the compass of our discussion of racism in psychoanalysis and within our organization, both in the past and present, to further encompass the realm of past limits on diversity in our educational structures; he also highlights the cultural diversity of our present membership and its individual histories of discrimination. His previous writings about education and the training analyst system have focussed on the pressures for conformity and compliance implicit in certification and the training analyst system. This post is a more specific, nuanced and individualized psychoanalytic view that points us

beyond our past recognition of obvious bias against gay and lesbian, women, as well as nonmedical applicants, to the underlying and prejudicial arbitrariness of admission qualification standards and our past substrate of medical school admission constraints. Not only, of course, were Jews limited to a few openings per school but Black applicants were pointedly told that African Americans died early of tuberculosis and therefore wasted the efforts to educate them (personal communication) while I was taken out to lunch by a lovely, married professor of pediatrics to sound out whether I was aware of contraceptive options. My own educational experience at two very different APsA institutes was illuminating and impactful. Columbia in the 1950's was regarded as a barely

acceptable innovative fringe enterprise. New York City at that time provided several choices of psychoanalytic institute structures that provided for a specific sorting out of applicants; the impact of choice has been unrecognized in our histories. Because of its research orientation, applicants were given psychological tests to be held secretly until some period after graduation for research scrutiny. Further research on the fate of rejectees who applied to, and graduated from other institutes, found many flourishing as valued colleagues. Meanwhile, the public psychotic episode of a first year classmate convinced many that our teachers were not all knowing evaluators. It was not, however, until I moved on to an institute in a small city and became

a child analytic candidate that I saw, as a student, the demand for adherence to a specific model and as a practitioner, the further effects of monopoly that Henry Friedman describes; untainted by history, many past rejectees became my analytic patients. Subsequently, as an administrator I saw that my graduated colleagues, who were rejected as training analysts for unknown reasons, became a burden on the institute. Henry delineates the biased gatekeeping functions of graduate facilities but does not even touch on the economic substrate inherent in the system. Even the GI Bill of Rights, which helped to diversify post-graduate education and medicine, had a racist substrate, and enhanced by prejudice and stereotypes did not

sweep in diversity. This brings us back to his specific plea that, once admitted, "the system itself tends to injure candidates regardless of race or religion" and that "The goal of educational reform shouldn't be lost....even as (we) strive to be more diverse and more inclusive of all those who seek to become psychoanalysts" I hope that by further opening up these aspects of our discussion of racism we can continue a dialogue that provides for more depth and less defensiveness.

Judith S. Schachter

▶ Original Message

5. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Brooke Finley

Posted 11-10-2023 10:53

Reply



Hello,

I wanted to share and discuss how my personal experience with discrimination is alive and well in psychoanalytic spaces.

As a nurse practitioner (with two doctorates in nursing- PhD and DNP), not even two years ago, I was told not to apply for psychoanalytic training housed at an APsA-accredited, NY institute housed within a medical school (I won't name them here as not to embarrass them publically) because of my licensure and status as a nurse practitioner (even though I have independent practice without a physician). There was no consideration of my ample clinical experience, five-year personal analysis with a training analyst, consistent weekly clinical supervision with an analyst, clinical status in private practice, or psychotherapy training. I was flat-out rejected to even apply on grounds exclusively based on licensure. Furthermore, I didn't even get invited to speak with the admissions committee to get a waiver when I asked as 'this was a policy' though it wasn't written when I reviewed applicant qualifications.

This situation truly made me sad as this is not what Freud envisioned with the lay analyst. Needless to say, I am training elsewhere.

Please do not be fooled that the issues around discrimination around training background have been resolved, though some institutes are very friendly to nurse practitioners. Prolific discrimination is an autoimmune disease in our field and surely is killing it from the inside out. In fact, I bet most reading this haven't even considered that nurse practitioners could train as analysts or even know a nurse-analyst.

Respectively, as the chair of the Advanced Practice in Nursing committee newly formed within APsA this year (and my great thanks to all the leadership support within APsA for making this happen), I would like to query how our presidential candidates will address expanding psychoanalytic training to advanced practice psychiatric nurses (e.g. clinical nurse specialists, nurse practitioners). The nursing field is very diverse, with 20% belonging to a minority group, the majority being female sex, and would be an excellent group of humans to include in the analytic space.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Brooke

--

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➤ Original Message

6. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Mehmet Kayatekin

Posted 11-10-2023 11:12

Reply



That is a great question Brooke

So that I understand it, when you say "psychoanalytic training" are you using the narrow definition - ie the Eitingon training or the broader definition ie the "psychoanalytic psychotherapy" model and the "Eitingon model" combined

Regards

Sagman

M Sagman Kayatekin MD

Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry

Menninger Department of Psychiatry and

Behavioral Sciences

Baylor College of Medicine

Houston, Texas USA

Faculty

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Houston/Texas, USA*

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➤ Original Message

7. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Brooke Finley

Posted 11-10-2023 11:15

Reply ▼

Dear Sagman,

Thank you for asking. This was for full, 4+ year psychoanalytic training, so the Eitingon model.

Best,
Brooke

--

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➤ Original Message

8. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Jane Hall

Posted 11-10-2023 17:11

Reply



Dear Brooke,

What a horrible story! ApsA does have a long history of exclusionary practices but I thought things were improving. I hope you relayed this experience to our President.

Happily there are many fine non-Apsa institutes in NY that offer excellent education and if I can be of help, please contact me personally.

I wish you the best of luck and thanks for your letter.

Sincerely,

Jane

Jane Hall

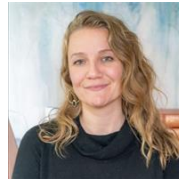
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9. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

[Recommend](#)

Brooke Finley

Posted 11-10-2023 19:30

[Reply](#)

Dear Jane,

Thank you for your support. Ironically, your leadership and inclusive precedence may have impacted where I currently train and will continue to train, the Contemporary Freudian Society in NY, as I have found this society warm, inclusive, and open (this is not an advertisement for CFS but I'm just sharing my experience). Here, my background in nursing was not focused on, but when it came up, it was seen as interesting, respected, and an interprofessional contribution. I have never felt disrespected in my time there and am delighted to be a part of this society. The training and supervision I received there have been exceptional and supportive.

To follow your suggestion to speak with the president about this issue, please know that at the Feb. 2023 APsA meeting, I spoke with Dan Prezant about my experiences and concerns, and he took them seriously. Therefore, I would like to acknowledge the sincere support of Dan Prezant, Tom Newman, Peter Rudnytsky, and Tim Rayner in helping me and our committee members establish the Advanced Practice in Nursing Committee this year along with APsA sponsoring a new tuition award for nurses training at APsA-accredited institutes (applications due Dec. 1 for those interested). It is my belief that APsA is changing and trying to be more inclusive, as evidenced by the decision to open up membership and the creation of this committee.

To focus back to the issue at hand, my experience begs the question of why analytic applicant criteria are inconsistent across professions, considering I am independently licensed and have a terminal degree in my field whose scope of practice includes psychotherapy. Am I not mistaken that this is the same qualification for anyone else who is not a physician or psychologist to apply to analytic training, such as social workers and LMFTs? So why is there another standard for nurse practitioners? What is actually going on here consciously and unconsciously? I welcome ideas about this as I'm in the process of writing a paper about this topic and hope to have it published to add more depth to this new frontier of understanding systemic nursing psychoanalytic exclusion and opting out on the nursing side.

I should add that in addition to my flat-out administrative rejection to apply for analytic training detailed prior, it may be helpful to add that I was offered a 'waiver' to apply to two

medically-housed psychoanalytic institutes in NY where I inquired, merely due to my status as a nurse practitioner. Among medically-housed institutes, I recall speaking with the very few nurse practitioner-analysts I know who were trained at medically-housed institutes in the past 10 years and they had to get waivers to train there. Other advanced practice nurses I know who did not train at medical institutes had no such experiences at free-standing, IPA-accredited institutes.

Given what I heard and experienced, there seems to be an undercurrent of nurse practitioners being second-class citizens in some medically oriented institutions. This type of gatekeeping flies in the face of Freud's wishes to expand psychoanalysis and is detailed with vivid historical and contextual detail in Bettelheim's book, *Freud and Man's Soul*. Currently, I lead a post-graduate psychodynamic psychotherapy program to nurse practitioners and most are lost on how to apply for further psychoanalytic training for many reasons but, from what I gather, primarily because they have no context, connection, or experience with psychoanalytic society and institutes. Instead of a gate, there is a wall here.

When I was in my undergraduate bachelor of nursing program, my instructors wearily recalled a time not too long ago when they would have to stand up and offer their chairs to physicians when they entered the nurses' station or they would get reprimanded by the administration and the physician themselves. Doctors asked for my chair or computer multiple times while I was actively working with patients years ago. This dynamic echos today in the current climate we practice in.

While I am deeply aware of the mutually agreed-upon sadomasochistic dynamics at play among physicians and nurses, this is a pervasive climate that cannot be ignored. The longstanding paternalistic medical system and those who perpetuate this have gatekept American psychoanalysis, and is a sad history indeed that is alive today with nursing exclusion. The present-day situation with nursing reminds me of the 1980s situation with psychologists. I hope we can learn from history and heed this call to awareness that can inspire change.

Therefore, in addition to querying our presidential candidates about their position on this inclusion issue, I ask institutes, those in psychoanalytic leadership positions, and psychoanalysts in general to reflect on the following:

1. Why do you not list advanced practice registered nurses as suitable candidates on application training information and/or make them obtain waivers to apply?
2. Why do you not offer continuing education units to nurses in your programs and seminars? (There are over 18,000 psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners licensed in the United States... you're missing a huge group and leaving money and potential candidates on the table)
3. What are your personal and organizational collective biases, along with fantasies/phantasies about nurse practitioners as analysts, that could influence exclusion?
4. Why are you not actively recruiting nurse practitioners and not having relationships with schools of nursing and nursing organizations?
5. Why is the history of American nurses in psychoanalysis erased from the canon? (The woman who created the first mental health advanced practice in nursing role at Columbia University, Hildegard Peplau, in the 1950s was a psychoanalyst trained at the William Alanson

White Institute, educated by Fromm at Bennington, trained with Menniger in WWII, and worked at the Chestnut Lodge with Sullivan, Horney, and Fromm-Reichmann.)

6. What type of sadomasochist dynamics are we all colluding in to perpetuate this dynamic?

7. What systematic social factors, like misogyny, medical hierarchy, and class differences (most nurses are middle-class), are at play here?

8. Why do I always have to check "Other" as a professional category when I'm registering for any psychoanalytic seminar?

--

I appreciate your taking the time to read this and hope for change in the future so I can stop being the only nurse in the psychoanalytic room.

Best,
Brooke

--

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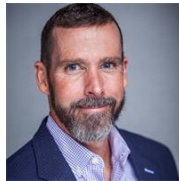
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➤ Original Message

10. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

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Recommend



Timothy H. Rayner

Posted 11-10-2023 19:58

Reply ▼

It is thanks to the work of Brooke Finley that I have become aware of the glaring omission of Advance Practice Nurse Practitioners from our training programs and membership. Whether I win the election and become President-Elect and President, or don't, and remain chair of APsA's Membership Department and Membership Committee, it is a top priority for me to fully welcome APNP's into our

fold, raising awareness in every training program that their classes could be enhanced by the admission of APNP's, and developing an active outreach network to encourage them to apply. They should constitute one of the named degrees for registrants at all psychoanalytic events and be offered CE's for attending. I am happy to say that Brooke has joined our Membership Committee, and has already been instrumental in preparing for this outreach.

As for the historical biases that have specifically excluded Nurse Practitioners, I believe a starting point is the disavowal and projection of vulnerability described by Lew Aron, beginning with Freud's defenses against his experience with antisemitism. There is a long list of dichotomies that covers many of our exclusionary and derogatory practices: phallic-castrated, white-black, straight-gay, psychoanalyst-psychotherapist, etc. This is an excellent book, and a particularly excellent chapter. I strongly recommend it.

Aron, L. (2016). «**Mutual vulnerability**»: An ethic of clinical practice. In D. M. Goodman & E. R. Severson (Eds.), *The ethical turn*. London, UK: Routledge.

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[▶ Original Message](#)

11. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

[Recommend](#)



[Himanshu Agrawal](#)

Posted 11-10-2023 20:57

[Reply](#) ▼

Dear Dr. Finley, and any and all nurse candidates that may be reading this, I write this note in the capacity of the current president of the Candidates' Council. I pledge my full and unconditional support (should you decide you would like it) to my nurse colleagues who are my fellow candidates. Please guide me as to how I can help so that you may be empowered as equals, elevated from second class status , and abolished from the 'other' checkbox.

On a related notes, lest any APsA members are intending to attack, diminish, bully or embarrass Dr. Finley after her post (or ANY APsA candidates for that matter-ever) , please know that you will hear from me- first privately, then if need be- publicly. I am sure Dr. Finley can fight her own fight(see her posts above for direct proof) , but that doesn't mean you don't get to hear from me also.

Respectfully,
Himanshu Agrawal

➤ Original Message

12. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Jane Hall

Posted 11-10-2023 21:26

Reply ▼

Dear Brooke,

What a wonderful coincidence that you chose CFS!! Indeed we are a welcoming place with a unique plan of study approved by the IPA. Because we all start out in life as infants and fetuses before that, we have combined child and adult learning so that by graduation you are qualified to treat all ages.

And post graduation all kinds of doors open. Neuroscience and genetics have engrossed me but there are so many areas that are truly important - the chemistry of hormones; the biology of organs; physics; and what goes into connection which is like the sun without which we'd not be here.

There is so much to explore. A topic that I would call *Otherness*:an appreciation of unquity.(my word.) This course lasts forever and its only requirement is benevolent curiosity.

As I try putting these ideas into coherent sentences I must thank you for inspiring me to try. Your excellent 8 questions I shall grapple with over the weekend. I hope others join in.

In the meantime, CFS is lucky to have a new family member. There will be bumps along the road, breathtaking vistas, joys and frustrations, and some wonderful people.

Cheers and welcome!

Jane

Jane Hall
janehallpsychotherapy.com

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13. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Alice Lombardo Maher

Posted 11-11-2023 08:34

Reply



As many of you know, I believe that we need to develop a theory of difference and a methodology to address it at this point in our field's development. That's what came to my mind when I read Brooke's post about her struggle to enter as a nurse practitioner.

I was a young analyst when psychologists sued for entry into our entirely medical community. The questions posed at the time seemed to be about whether they were inferior to "real doctors," or the same. When they won and other disciplines entered the field, we melded together quickly. It seemed like a kind of "racism" to think, "Oh, you're a social worker? Tell me about your training."

Truth is, our professional trajectories were, and remain, different. We can learn a lot if we allow ourselves to voice these kinds of questions rather than pretend that these differences don't or shouldn't exist.

For example, at around the same time as the lawsuit, prozac was born and the medical model leaped to the top of my profession. When I was a resident, our senior pharmacology course was optional; I could substitute analytic work. I woke up in a different field, forced to learn neuroscience, medical diagnosis, med management, and documentation if I wanted to be a "real" psychiatrist. I envied colleagues from other disciplines who seemed less concerned about the medical tidal wave and the apparent conflict with the analytic model. This morning, as I figure out what to do with a medical record request from an insurance company, I still feel that way.

My point is simply this: As we think about our different genders, sexualities, cultures, races, ages, and religions, we should also keep in mind our different training, our different professions, and the different "languages" used by our different fields. It would be interesting to have some conversations, or panel discussions, about this topic.

Alice

[➤ Original Message](#)

14. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Mehmet Kayatekin

Posted 11-11-2023 08:43

Reply



Very well said Alice ..Not a 'melting pot'

Thanks

Sagman

*M Sagman Kayatekin MD
Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry
Menninger Department of Psychiatry and
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Wuhan Mental Health Center, Tongji Medical College
Huazhong University of Science and Technology
Hubei, People's Republic of China*

➤ Original Message

15. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Jane Hall

Posted 11-11-2023 19:35

Reply



Alice,

In my experience spanning 50 years as an analysand, student, analyst, teacher, consultant, supervisor, Social Work offers the best background for psychoanalytic work. From what I remember, the main lesson was to greet patients where they're at. The *psychosocial* approach as opposed to the focus on symptom and diagnosis is based on genuine, non-judgmental curiosity. Passing on this curiosity to our patients levels the playing field and builds self-esteem often so lacking. The dyad becomes a partnership so that when the various transferences emerge in full force they do not cause roadblocks; instead the dyad learns the history of the hate, lust, envy, rage, and inhibition, how these affects were logical at one time, and why they are no longer necessary. Meanwhile the analyst gradually serves as a new object.

But whatever one's background, it is their open-minded, non-judgmental attitude that matters most. I quote Ella Freeman Sharpe:

"The urgency to reform, correct, or make different motivates the task of a reformer or educator; the urgency to cure motivates the physician, but the deep seated interest in people's lives and thoughts must be transformed in the clinician, into an insatiable curiosity, free to range over every field of human experience and activity, free to recognize every unconscious impulse, with only one urgency, namely, a desire to know more, and still more. When we react to something that causes us to think "I cannot understand how a person can think or behave like that" curiosity has ceased to be benevolent."

Thanks again Brooke for opening this door for discussion. And welcome to this ever enriching field.

Jane

Jane Hall

janehallpsychotherapy.com

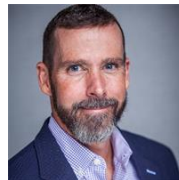
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› Original Message

16. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Timothy H. Rayner

Posted 11-10-2023 19:27

Reply



In response to Andrew Klaffer, I am not aware of any influential members of APsA advocating that we embrace CRT or CSJT as a new psychoanalytic school. Neither the Report of the Holmes Commission nor any of those who have added to the psychoanalytic scholarly literature on racism has invoked CRT or CSJT to support their positions. Out of my confusion as to whom, exactly, Andrew was refuting, I took him to be criticizing the Holmes Commission. I am happy to hear that this is not the case, and I apologize for my misunderstanding. To answer his question, I do not see CRT or CSJT as a new school or branch of psychoanalytic thought.

His other question has to do with whether political causes should be a concern of APsA. I use three criteria to determine when APsA's leadership should speak up. If psychoanalytic understanding has anything to offer, as with the consequences of separating children from their parents at the border, then we may issue a statement. Second, if the issue affects our Association, as racism does, then this is of concern to us. The appointment of the Holmes Commission, and the promotion of its findings and recommendations is the prime example of this. Third, when world events shake the lives of many or all of us, such as the Pandemic, or yes, the war in Israel, a statement of condemnation of violence and acknowledgment of suffering is warranted. I believe that Dan's second statement beautifully captured this sentiment, and his willingness to listen to some members who did not feel represented by the first statement reflects the kind of leadership I espouse.

I would make a distinction between what the leadership of APsA says and what psychoanalytic thinkers and scholars disseminate through our organs of expression, JAPA, the Program Committee, and TAP. The former should represent the official policies of APsA, and the latter should allow scholarly expression which may not reflect our views but should remain within the purview of psychoanalytic thought, sometimes in communication with related disciplines.

Henry Friedman recognizes that there have always been analysts or potential analysts who have not felt welcome, or even allowed, to enter our ranks and advance freely within our power structure. As Henry rightly points out, race is only one of the factors that has hampered analytic careers, and that specific biases have been embedded in general exclusivity.

I would clarify that I see nothing uniform about how society's racial messages are internalized, and therefore, I make no assumptions, let alone interpretations, of what is in anyone's mind. I also don't advocate "introducing" race into analytic treatment. As I said in my

original post, if we are aware of it, as an aspect of unconscious mental life, it will present itself more often than if we are oblivious to it.

Finally, in agreement with Tamarind Knutson, I would stress the importance of creating safety to undergo this work, not only for those who have been alienated, but for those of us (all of us?) who have something to learn about ourselves. Rather than walking on eggshells, terrified that I will put my foot in my mouth in exposing my own unconscious biases, I try to speak freely, with as much conscious inclusivity as I can muster, standing ready to look at myself and make any necessary amends in the inevitable even that I do. In many instances, it is difficult to know what my unconscious motives were, but I can at least try to respect how various language and behavior affects others and be more sensitive moving forward.

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[➤ Original Message](#)

17. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

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[Recommend](#)



[Henry J. Friedman](#)

Posted 11-12-2023 17:39

[Reply](#) ▼

It is important that we as members of the APsA have a clear understanding of where we agree and where we disagree about how to approach the issues of race and racism that have been raised on the elections list. How central should they be for our organization and where do they fit in our clinical and educational practices. It is helpful when Tim Rayner states his position clearly and then adds the reasoning and theory behind his assertion that we are all inevitably racist because of the racism in the U.S. culture and history must be internalized by all or at least most of us. He turns to LaPlanche and his rather unique idea of the enigmatic message from the mother or parents that actually is what determines sexuality in the child to support his assertion that we all must carry a message of racism from this view of development. But here, and I think this is of great importance in our field, there is no reason for some of us to accept this hypothesis or theory. As a psychoanalyst with medical training I immediately find what LaPlanche proposes as simply incompatible with my medical knowledge. I realize that Tim is also medically trained but I can't agree with him when he equates the biology of sexuality with the importance of what LaPlanche calls the enigmatic message in determining the child's sexuality. Psychoanalytic theories abound but they remain just proposals for understanding arrived at by one prominent analytic theorist or another. Each of us should be free to decide on the usefulness of prominent and competing theories i.e. Lacan, Klein, Bion, Winnicott, Mitchell and Greenberg or decide to operate outside a theoretical framework, a kind of two person interactive approach that rejects the relevance of any particular theory to the work we do with patients.

I suppose that we all have our own thoughts about the developmental processes that result in the outcome that we encounter in the character of each new patient. There are many different and competing versions of pathways that compete in the effort to explain what goes right and what goes wrong in development but all roads bring us to a resultant adult personality; is that personality or character adaptive, is it functional, does it allow the individual to work and love with or without significant limitations. In Walter Isaacson's new biography of Elon Musk he fails to mention that Elon was developing in South Africa at a time of protests against apartheid that resulted in the deaths of thousands of black children. Isaacson fails to acknowledge how strange that omission and blindness to the culture around Musk is. Somehow I doubt that as psychoanalysts we would have patients in intensive therapy and manage to ignore the family and social environment that was surrounding them as they moved from childhood to adulthood. The experience of a child who grew up in a home filled with hatred of minority groups is simply different from somehow where the atmosphere was accepting of diversity, indeed even dedicated to the importance of diversity and equality.

While neither Tim or myself have any hard data that can confirm what the average psychoanalyst's background actually has consisted of I suspect that sadistic hate hasn't been the leading edge of what determines their character. While one could speculate that the desire to help patients is a defense against unconscious sadistic wishes this would be, for me, an example of misusing the concept of the unconscious as always relevant. Often the surface is what counts to a greater extent than speculation about what is been concealed in the unconscious. Psychoanalysis as a therapy requires that the analyst use his or her judgement with regard to all aspects of

the relationship with each patient. Race or religion or both may be important subjects for some patients but not for all or even most. That we should be anti-racist in our public facing organizational self is axiomatic but where that stance applies in our education of candidates or treatment of patients remains for me a different matter. Hence, while I agree with Tim that we all should be anti-racist I definitely disagree with his goal of keeping it as a central concern of psychoanalysis as a clinical discipline. It is unwise as well as questionable ethically to impose our views, political or religious in nature, on our patients. By extension it should be clear that our members can determine for themselves how central the issue of racism is when they are treating patients. The APsA exists within the broader social context prevalent in the United States. If we remain grounded in the political reality then, as an organization, we can continue to see our focus as the therapy of patients in emotional distress rather than getting lost in issues that while important in the broader society are really not the legitimate concern of our work as professional providers of mental health care.

Henry J. Friedman, M.D.

► Original Message

18. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Sydney Pulver

Posted 11-13-2023 09:55

Reply



I think Henry has said it just right! Syd

--

Sydney E. Pulver, M.D.

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[▶ Original Message](#)

19. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

[Recommend](#)

Thomas M. Brod

Posted 11-13-2023 11:11

[Reply](#)

"...That we should be anti-racist in our public facing organizational self is axiomatic but where that stance applies in our education of candidates or treatment of patients remains for me a different matter. Hence, while I agree with Tim that we all should be anti-racist I definitely disagree with his goal of keeping it as a central concern of psychoanalysis as a clinical discipline. It is unwise as well as questionable ethically to impose our views, political or religious in nature, on our patients."

Wise, well-reasoned, and balanced, Henry Friedman's note, time-stamped Nov 12, 2023 5:39 PM, is reminiscent of the final version of the Declaration of Independence. He comes from many drafts and much feedback (some furious) over many months. Balance is the issue, and our organization has been staggering this year. Thanks, Henry, for crafting a statement that a changed (and racially sensitive) APsaA can step ahead with...and assume our role as premier educators in a society ever-more ready to make good use of informed psychodynamic reflection.

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➤ Original Message

20. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Kelly Shanks Lippman

Posted 11-13-2023 12:38

Reply ▼

Hello Thomas -

I'm confused by your endorsement of Henry's sentence, "It is unwise as well as questionable ethically to impose our views, political or religious in nature, on our patients," not because I disagree with the statement, but because it seems to imply that you think some have endorsed this behavior.

I'm concerned about the continued conflation of *imposition of views* (which has been repudiated many times on this list serve as unethical and to my recollection never defended as an actual recommended practice) and *the need for psychoanalysts to understand how social context and unconscious bias operate in and on the psyche* (which seems essential in psychoanalytic education and practice).

Warm regards,

Kelly Lippman

[➤ Original Message](#)

21. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Amy Glick

Posted 11-13-2023 13:29

Reply ▼

Dear Kelly,

Your concerns, so eloquently stated, resonate deeply with me. I would add that as analysts, it is part of our ethical responsibility to wrestle with the emotional impact of social context and injustice as a necessary requirement for our work. One of the best ways that I have found to do this is to appreciate and understand my own vulnerabilities as they relate to my position in the world, including my sensitivity to bias and social injustice. If we are not emotionally engaged with the many ways our social surrounds harm, especially with regard to those who wield their power unjustly, how can we register and take up the resulting transferences, laden with wariness, which, if not registered, risk becoming iatrogenic sources of harm and impasse in our clinical work?

Sincerely,

Amy Glick

[➤ Original Message](#)

22. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Elaine Zickler

Posted 11-13-2023 15:58

Reply



I would just add that Jean Laplanche was also a physician, which makes all the more compelling his project of analyzing the 'biologism' that Freud had fallen into in his attempts to locate the source of the sexual drive. Laplanche, in locating the drive in the other, achieves the most radical re-formulation of Freudian theory in a hundred years, a reformulation that-when properly read and grappled with-goes far to put psychoanalysis back on track to continue the Freudian project instead of jettisoning it or simply trying to work around its internal contradictions by adding more and more to it, like the house that Jack built.

As to the role of racism in psychoanalysis, I find it interesting that we usually speak as if it is the patient or analysand who is the racist and the analyst who needs to refrain from somehow indoctrinating the patient into-what? less bigotry? What if it is the analyst who is harboring racist feelings in a disavowed manner? Freud made a great analogy about not conceding to the patient's wishes to keep certain things out of the analysis, that is, to collude in avoiding sensitive subjects, lest we provide 'asylum' for them and in consequence, a hiding place for all repressed material. It seems to me that in these discussions, some of us are looking for a way to make racism off-limits in analysis. I'm not aware of granting any other character flaw or anti-social proclivity the same protected status. Who are we protecting? Our patients or ourselves?

--

Elaine P. Zickler, PhD, LCSW
26 E. Oak Ave.
Moorestown NJ 08057
856-234-9117
Faculty, Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia

► Original Message

23. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend

Elaine Zickler

Posted 12-27-2023 10:55

Reply



With all respect to you, Steven, I have to say that the Oedipal explanation does not encapsulate our situation for me at all. If I had to choose a literary analog, I might rather land on King Lear, but I don't want to belabor it here.

I just want to point to a few things that seem to be forgotten as we move on in time from the events surrounding Kerry's resignation-the struggle with the PC and Lara Sheehi's ouster from the program, etc.

At the time, I was not completely convinced of the racist motivations at play, despite what were compelling arguments from colleagues, including people on the HC. Now, it seems to me that we cannot see what happened without seeing it through the lens of what subsequently happened in our group since the attacks on Israel on October 7.

It seems to me that the most salient and ugly divide in our group is over issues relating to Zionism and anti-Semitism. My sense is that Kerry counted on being understood by the same constituency that has spoken out most forcefully against any expression of sympathy or empathy with the Palestinian cause, even in the midst of a horrendous slaughter of innocents. When members pushed back against him, he betrayed himself by calling them (us) a "left-wing mob". This is not the language of a good leader, I'm sorry. And, his precipitous resignation only added fuel to the fire that continues to burn.

Kerry is not a martyr to the cause of traditional psychoanalysis. What happened in the Lara Sheehi case was a real test of his leadership and I think he failed it, unfortunately. This doesn't take away from all of the good qualities he undoubtedly possesses. Rather, it reveals a blind spot. We don't have to appeal to some deep levels of the unconscious here, but rather to an organizational style, a set of assumptions that have been deeply rooted in certain commonly held beliefs. We

have been challenged as an organization to shed misogyny, to shed homophobia, and now, to shed a kind of naturalized white and Jewish identity. I don't know if this can be done any time soon.

I wondered at the time why Lara had to resign from APSA, why she wasn't asked to leave on the basis of her social media posts and her troubles with her Jewish students. These were the *post hoc* reasons brought to bear on refusing to let her speak about a clinical case. For all the appeals we have heard to the rules of governance and the legitimacy of authority, it seems we need to really reflect on the unwritten rules of our organization, all that goes unsaid. Before we make claims of our inclusiveness, we need to acknowledge what our collective limits are and how we go about enforcing them.

--

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Faculty, Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia

➤ Original Message

24. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Elaine Zickler

Posted 12-27-2023 11:10

Reply ▼

Forgive me for re-posting this, but it got put under the wrong heading the first time:

With all respect to you, Steven, I have to say that the Oedipal explanation does not encapsulate our situation for me at all. If I had to choose a literary analog, I might rather land on King Lear, but I don't want to belabor it here.

I just want to point to a few things that seem to be forgotten as we move on in time from the events surrounding Kerry's resignation-the struggle with the PC and Lara Sheehi's ouster from the program, etc.

At the time, I was not completely convinced of the racist motivations at play, despite what were compelling arguments from colleagues, including people on the HC. Now, it seems to me that we cannot see what happened without seeing it through the lens of what subsequently happened in our group since the attacks on Israel on October 7.

It seems to me that the most salient and ugly divide in our group is over issues relating to Zionism and anti-Semitism. My sense is that Kerry counted on being understood by the same constituency that has spoken out most forcefully against any expression of sympathy or empathy with the Palestinian cause, even in the midst of a horrendous slaughter of innocents. When members pushed back against him, he betrayed himself by calling them (us) a "left-wing mob". This is not the language of a good leader, I'm sorry. And, his precipitous resignation only added fuel to the fire that continues to burn.

Kerry is not a martyr to the cause of traditional psychoanalysis. What happened in the Lara Sheehi case was a real test of his leadership and I think he failed it, unfortunately. This doesn't take away from all of the good qualities he undoubtedly possesses. Rather, it reveals a blind spot. We don't have to appeal to some deep levels of the unconscious here, but rather to an organizational style, a set of assumptions that have been deeply rooted in certain commonly held beliefs. We have been challenged as an organization to shed misogyny, to shed homophobia, and now, to shed a kind of naturalized white and Jewish identity. I don't know if this can be done any time soon.

I wondered at the time why Lara had to resign from APSA, why she wasn't asked to leave on the basis of her social media posts and her troubles with her Jewish students. These were the *post hoc* reasons brought to bear on refusing to let her speak about a clinical case. For all the appeals we have heard to the rules of governance and the legitimacy of authority, it seems we need to really reflect on the unwritten rules of our organization, all that goes unsaid. Before we make claims of our inclusiveness, we need to acknowledge what our collective limits are and how we go about enforcing them.

--

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Faculty, Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia

➤ Original Message

25. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0
Recommend



Leslie Schweitzer-Miller

Posted 12-27-2023 13:20

Reply ▼

Elaine,

Who are you referring to when you say:

"My sense is that Kerry counted on being understood by the same constituency that has spoken out most forcefully against any expression of sympathy or empathy with the Palestinian cause, even in the midst of a horrendous slaughter of innocents."

Not I, nor any of my Jewish friends or colleagues, nor my Israeli friends or colleagues, or those of other denominations and affiliations have spoken out against expressions of sympathy for the Palestinians. In fact I haven't seen ANYONE speaking out against an expression of sympathy or empathy with the Palestinians.

What is going on is horrible! The slaughter of the Israeli's, many of whom were people who spent lifetimes trying to make peace and help Palestinians, is also horrible.

If you have a solution the world would like to hear it.

If you are talking about the Palestinian cause, if that means supporting "from the river to the sea" ...wiping out the State of Israel, well, that's another story.

Leslie

[➤ Original Message](#)

26. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

[Recommend](#)



Leslie Schweitzer-Miller

Posted 12-27-2023 13:44

[Reply](#) ▼

And an addendum:

Elaine: you reveal yourself.

Equating the APaA's "challenge" and attempt to shed homophobia and misogyny with shedding "a naturalized white and Jewish identity" is ABHORRENT and, in your language, racist.

[➤ Original Message](#)

27. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

[Recommend](#)



Lucas Klein

Posted 12-28-2023 12:11

[Reply](#) ▼

Dr. Schweitzer-Miller: thank you for taking up the mantle of pointing out these glaring issues on this post and others like it. It is high time the "silent majority" unmuffles themselves. I hope others who are reading and watching step out of the illusion of safety in the shadows and make their voices heard. You all saw what happened when I pointed out the flaws in the HC report...the usual suspects reveal their absence of actual arguments via ad hominem attacks. *That does not sway me, nor any rational person observing from the side-lines.* You who are reading this, seeing the processes unfold in Apsaa, seeing who is running for president and what they are promoting, this is your time to stand up and fight for the profession that has changed your lives and for which you have trained. At the end of an era, you will want to know that you played your cards face up and stood strong.

In the meantime, you can rely on the vigor of those like Dr. Scheitzer-Miller.

Lucas

Lucas Klein, Ph.D.

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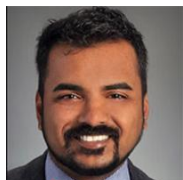
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▶ Original Message

28. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Himanshu Agrawal

Posted 12-28-2023 12:48

Reply ▼

Hi Dr. Klein,

First things first- it seems you and I might differ on many opinions about issues.

Having said that, this post is to show my staunch support in your beliefs, specifically when you write :

"You who are reading this, seeing the processes unfold in Apsaa, seeing who is running for president and what they are promoting, this is your time to stand up and fight for the profession that has changed your lives and for which you have trained. At the end of an era, you will want to know that you played your cards face up and stood strong."

Irrespective of what we stand for, it is important in any democratic process to stand up and fight for your beliefs, and ***for this profession that we all clearly love***, irrespective of our opinions. To quote one of my favorite sayings, let us all "fight for the things that you care about but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."

Let us all do it in a manner that helps all of us grow. Please wish me luck in this, for I falter sometimes.

Himanshu



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*Strike down stigma, invest in self Care & Get trained in **Mental Health First Aid** ([click here to learn more about Project 10,000 Strong](#))

*For a list of my various roles and responsibilities [please click here](#).

*To learn about my failures, including my dismal step 2 score, please click this link: [Failure Share Series with Dr. Himanshu Agrawal by Well, Well, Well... \(anchor.fm\)](#)

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➤ Original Message

29. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Tim Brady

Posted 12-28-2023 20:00

Reply

No

➤ Original Message

30. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Elaine Zickler

Posted 12-28-2023 20:19

Reply

Colleagues are asking me to correct my post about the class schedule at our institute. We do not have classes over Christmas, it is true.

My feeling about the Jewish holiday breaks was not that they were wrong but that I had never been at a school where they were observed to the same extent. This was in the 90's when, I think, Jewish and certainly Muslim holidays were not written into every school's schedule but were left to the individual.

Elaine P. Zickler, PhD, LCSW
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856-234-9117
Faculty, Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia

[▶ Original Message](#)

31. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

[Recommend](#)

Henry M. Bachrach

Posted 12-28-2023 20:42

[Reply](#)

Elaine,

I graduated from the same Institute as you, albeit a bit earlier. I was the only Jewish member of my class of four. My analyst was Catholic (referred by the Jewish director) and two of my four supervisors were Jewish as far as I know. Only national holidays were observed. One of my closest friends from the year behind was not Jewish and became a long standing director of the Institute. The Society was originally formed by four distinguished physicians who were not Jewish (Sidney Biddle, Spurgeon English, Leroy Maeder and George Smelz). One distinguished Jewish analyst (Robert Waelder), however, was imported to Europe as the Institute was forming.

I see what you are saying. I too would have felt uncomfortable in a situation where Yiddish and "Jewish" in-jokes were the norm. That's because I don't speak Yiddish and come from a different kind of Jewish background.

Henry

.

[▶ Original Message](#)

32. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Deana Schuplin

Posted 11-13-2023 18:18

Reply



Hello Kelly,

I really appreciate your clarification. I think it is important that we continue to work to make this kind of clarification in order to keep moving forward and not just back and forth.

Sincerely,

“

‘

‘

Deana Schuplin, LMHC, IADC, FABP1441 29th Street Suite 209 West Des Moines, IA 50266
515-418-7735

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Sent from my iPhone”

› Original Message

33. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Omar Khan

Posted 11-14-2023 15:00

Reply ▼

Dear Kelly,

I appreciate what you've written here and yet I find myself, as has become the norm for me, in between positions. I think there is some danger in creating this dichotomy between individual and social matters because we are of course immersed in our environments both micro and macro, past and present, containing in each of us a distillation of the massive intergenerational trauma and strength that comes with being human. I can't imagine a single psychoanalyst that would not be curious about an individual's experience of their own race within their families, communities and society at large. Our task after all is to be as curious as possible about peoples' interiorities.

As someone early in training, I have sometimes felt that the chronological evolution of psychoanalysis from Drive all the way to Relational ideas points to a liberalization of theory, and less dogmatic application of metapsychological theory on the individual patient. Conflict theory moving from one-person to two person psychology, and greater and greater emphasis on our unique subjectivities. Now as ideas about race and identity have been pushed/summoned to the fore in the setting of socio-political upheaval in our world, they occupy in my mind both progressiveness as well as a shift back to a time of overarching theories and dogma-- a search for Universally applicable truths to have in mind while treating patient and self. I fear that coupled with the profound stigma around racial "diagnoses" people are underestimating how hard it is to debate these ideas, and so it feels reminiscent of what I imagine early Freudian times to feel like in terms of stagnation of creativity. Except now the venerated ideas of abstinence, neutrality and centrality of oedipus have been replaced by ideas around power structures and whiteness.

And so this is where I differ both with what I understand of what you've said, and what I understand of what Henry is saying. I do believe that it is important for psychoanalysis as a field to grapple with race, and develop a deeper understanding of any unique features of a sort of racial transference (and reality) that we all live with. Where I struggle in the current trend is that I've experienced that there are many that view themselves as the authorities on race theory. There is a sense that there is some understanding already out there, held by the "authorities" on race that the field needs to catch up with, rather than ideas that need further development and further grounding in clinical material. Isn't that ultimately bringing us back to the initial issue with Kerry and Lara.

Kerry made a decision together with the EC and it was interpreted by a subsection of members as racial enactment. Because of the affect contained in feelings around race and discrimination, we witnessed a loss of humility about what we are able to know at any given moment about our own unconscious minds and those of others. To me that captures one of the tasks of APSA. Understanding race in as open a way as we can, both through existing theories and new ones to come while maintaining space for diversity of opinion, and individual subjectivity.

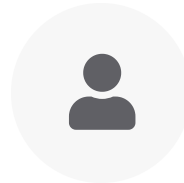
Omar Khan
M.D.
Columbia University Center for Psychoanalytic Training & Research
Astoria NY

➤ Original Message

34. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Mark Poster

Posted 11-14-2023 16:27

Reply



Omar,

You have again demonstrated a gift for understanding a complex matter and suggesting a path forward. We all need to struggle with understanding race, but authoritarianism is an occupational hazard for psychoanalysts in groups. In your words, "Because of the affect contained in feelings around race and discrimination, we witnessed a loss of humility about what we are able to know at any given moment about our own unconscious minds and those of others." My understanding of an enactment is that it involves more than one person.

Since this is the Elections List, I would like to ask the candidates for President their position about a recommendation of the Holmes Commission for "structural change ... (including) an ombudsperson...to investigate (alleged) racial enactments...(and) report to the community". One candidate has already supported this recommendation. Having witnessed how even a prohibition of "racial hate speech" (not just alleged unconscious thoughts) paralyzed my college alma mater in 1993 (see the "water buffalo incident") and having been drawn into litigation as a psychiatry resident by an ombudsman cutting his teeth on malpractice class action law (see Rogers v. Okun in MA case law), I am concerned that such investigatory structures would impair the atmosphere of humility and trust needed to explore such sensitive issues, re-enact "old containers" of authoritarianism, and trigger civil rights law suits.

Mark

Mark

 Mark F. Poster, MD
 West Newton, MA
mfpmd@comcast.net
 617 244 5772

➤ Original Message

35. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Mehmet Kayatekin

Posted 11-14-2023 18:57

Reply



I stated my thinking in my October 9 statement, which is at the elections webpage. I still have the same opinion.

Instead of a person , a candidates council like group that has internal electoral process, and representation in the Board is the best solution that I can think of, for keeping the ever present themes and dangers of racism alive in our minds and also probably the best protection from the creation of a locus of uncontrolled power/authority

Certain issues like racism against BIPOC , antisemitism will last for many more decades and we should meet their persistence with our stronger perseverance. And continually develop new ways of addressing it.

Regards to all

"We can facilitate this process in several ways. First is dialogue and education. The passionate owners of an idea should lead us in those venues. They are the experts on this. So, if we are going to learn about the most pressing issue, racism, people who felt it most painfully should lead the educative dialogues. This is at the root of the Holmes report. Dr Holmes is taking the lead and the leaders of the organization are working under her leadership. Please look at the hierarchy of the commission at page 8 of the report. That is the model. And APsA is clearly on that trajectory for education. I want to highlight this for us all.

The 'page 8 model,' which is powerfully finding its place in the education department, is applicable to the facilitation of the emerging identity and structure of APsA. If we want to learn racism in all its gradations, and integrate those lessons to our identity, then we need to modify the governance structure. Leadership can invite 'the experts,' fully into APsA as a differentiated group with official substructure and with voting power on the board. Like the Candidates Council. This is perhaps the only way of guaranteeing that what we are learning will lead to consolidation and change. This is genuine learning. This is the gist of the Johnson act of 1965 Dr. Holmes is referencing. Dialogue and sharing power. "

Sagman

*M Sagman Kayatekin MD
Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry
Menninger Department of Psychiatry and
Behavioral Sciences
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas USA*

*Faculty
Center for Psychoanalytic Studies
Houston/Texas, USA*

*Teaching and Supervising Faculty
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*Visiting Professor of Psychiatry
Wuhan Mental Health Center, Tongji Medical College
Huazhong University of Science and Technology
Hubei, People's Republic of China*

▶ Original Message

36. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Bonnie Buchele

Posted 11-15-2023 14:24

Reply



The Holmes Commission has increased our awareness of racism and bias in psychoanalysis. We are in the midst of a process of reflection, working through and change as discussion by a variety of groups takes place throughout the organization. The work is underway and we have more to do. I believe that APSA's role is also to lead and inspire local psychoanalytic communities to address race, diversity and biases. My position is that it is important for APSA to foster a psychoanalytic attitude of reflection and evolution rather than attempt a top-down regulatory or investigatory approach which I believe would be counterproductive.

Bonnie J. Buchele
Ph.D.
Greater Kansas City Psychoanalytic Institute
Kansas City MO

➤ Original Message

37. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Timothy H. Rayner

Posted 11-15-2023 16:45

Reply



Mark, thanks for the opportunity to clarify what I do and don't support. I have long believed that today's fresh and "progressive" idea can become tomorrow's rigid dogma, so it is important that we not impose and foreclose judgment about individual situations and overarching theories about race, power and othering.

I agree that "investigation" connotes a heavy-handed approach, which would neither be helpful nor necessary in most of the racial enactments and microaggressions described in the Holmes Commission Report. "Investigation" may simply entail speaking with those present at the time to gather their impressions and observations. "Reports" would not be in the service of "exposing culprits," but establishing if resolution was achieved, and not be circulated wider than necessary to internally keep track of trends. I envision the ombudspersons, locally and nationally be chosen for qualities of character that would promote safety, and therefore reflection and openness for all involved, someone who engenders trust.

This person would help everyone speak to and listen to each other, and try to arrive at a resolution at that level. In some cases in which it is there isn't agreement that an enactment or a micro aggression had occurred (no finding or admission of "guilt"), it still might be helpful to hear and acknowledge how someone felt in a given situation. I imagine that this level of validation and attention might bring enough satisfaction to reduce or eliminate the attrition of BIPOC Candidates who have left training following such incidents being handled inadequately, as evidenced by the survey, and reduce the disillusionment of the classmates they leave behind.

Timothy Rayner, M.D.
Psychiatrist and Psychoanalyst
1350 Columbia Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 255-1646

timothyraynermd.com

► Original Message

38. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Henry J. Friedman

Posted 11-16-2023 08:29

Reply



The implication of establishing an ombudsman to adjudicate instances of perceived racism is that an authoritarian and rather frightening turn has or is occurring in our organization. The idea that the APsaA would establish an individual or better still a tribunal to judge the presence of what is being called racial enactments strikes me with the sense of Joe McCarthy and the hunt for communists that terrorized American society in the 1950s. It seems like a very bad idea whether or not it is recommended by the Holmes Commission. The very suggestion of such a position and procedure, even when Tim Rayner attempts to sell it by softening the possibility or inevitability of individuals being shamed and labeled racist about interactions that are highly subjective seems like an invitation to a disaster for the APsaA.

We need to remember that the decision by Kerry Sulkowicz to delay an invitation to Lara Sheehi resulted in a blow up on the members list. Kerry was condemned as a racist, that a woman of color (clearly at that time advocating and justifying violence as a political tool) was being silenced. The Board, failing to see the need to support the President in his decision, voted (incredibly) to issue an apology to Lara Sheehi (an insult to Kerry and a vote of no confidence in his leadership) with the result that Kerry took the step of resigning both because the board had turned against him and the impact of being called a racist (he is the son of Holocaust survivors). The thunderous accusations and resignations from the program committee and the APsaA as well has disturbed our equilibrium as an organization. The program committee had become the center for mounting social justice programs that emphasized less and less about psychoanalysis as theory, technique or clinical practice for several years before the Lara Sheehi debacle. It should be remembered that Lara was on the program committee as were many other radical individuals with very ambivalent feelings about psychoanalysis accusing it of being the product of white (Jewish) colonialists.

Somehow this turn to the issues of social justice within the PC combined forces with the Holmes Commission with its assigned task of discovering conscious and unconscious aspects of racism in the APsaA. Perhaps unwittingly the emphasis on the unconscious aspect opened the flood gates of hurt and pain experienced by poc in the course of becoming psychoanalysts. The micro-aggressions that they have encountered and enumerated in their report make it clear that insensitivity to race or the failure to acknowledge that we all weren't the same, that white experience dominated seminars and presentations where black candidates felt othered. While undoubtedly true as personal data it hardly proves that the organization discriminated against poc in either their training or as graduate colleagues. Elsewhere I have elucidated the way in which our intensely hierarchical organizational structure is virtually guaranteed to deliver micro-aggression and even just plain damaging experience for all who enter our training programs, Unlike the case with homosexual professionals who were barred from training at our Institutes no

such overt exclusion of poc has ever been part of our sad and negative history of discrimination.

The current context should remind us that the invasion of Israel by Hamas with the slaughter of 1400 Israelis seen on film has resulted in many quarters including the members list in more sympathy for the Palestinians than for the Israelis. A false narrative insisting on the oppression of the Palestinians by Israel has been used to justify the slaughter of Jews done for no purpose other than the joy of sadism. I call attention to this phenomenon because it illustrates how quickly establishing a system like Tim advocates can and will become destructive. I can imagine it creating a heightened attention to all interactions between black and white analysts and candidates with a resultant slew of cases being brought to the ombudsman or tribunal. Supposedly quiet and private negotiations and decisions about the enactment in question would most likely become known, one way or another, and many will be injured. I can foresee turmoil and fragmentation in our future should Tim Rayner convince the organization of the merits of his plan. I can only hope that the majority of our members will understand the real danger that I am describing in what Tim is proposing and that it will be dropped as a possible path to follow.

Henry J. Friedman, M.D.

➤ Original Message

39. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Tamarind Knutson

Posted 11-16-2023 09:54

Reply ▼

Dear Dr. Friedman,
I haven't kept up on the thread so am only responding to one aspect of your email. You state, "Unlike the case with homosexual professionals who were barred from training at our Institutes no such overt exclusion of poc has ever been part of our sad and negative history

of discrimination." Using "overt exclusion" as a criterion of our history is problematic at best. Didn't APSA have meetings at the Waldorf Astoria in the 60's? Complicit segregation is still segregation. In order to move forward, we need to understand our history of racism in the same way we understand our history of sexism and homophobia.

Candidates,

Has APSA made a public apology to the BIPOC community? If not, what is your view on the matter?

Kind Regards,

Tamarind

Tamarind P. Knutson, PsyD

Licensed Psychologist

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▶ Original Message

40. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Henry M. Bachrach

Posted 11-16-2023 10:48

Reply



When I read Tim Rayner's post last night I found his recommendations so frightening I was unable to muster a response. I was relieved this morning to see that Henry Friedman was able to muster a response more in line with the values and spirit of psychoanalysis.

Henry Bachrach

[▶ Original Message](#)

41. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Henry M. Bachrach

Posted 11-16-2023 11:07

Reply



I meant to add I would strongly encourage everyone to read Tim Rayner and Henry Friedman's posts.

Henry B.

[▶ Original Message](#)

42. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Veronica Abney

Posted 11-16-2023 13:06

Reply

Dr. Friedman there was not de jure exclusion of BIPOC in psychoanalysis but de facto exclusion was present. No Blacks were trained until the late forties and they endured gross racial enactments such as a white analyst opening a window when they entered a room. In Los Angeles there were about 40 years between the first and second Black analysts completing training. This says something about how accessible psychoanalysis is to BIPOC.

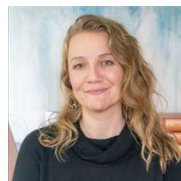
Respectfully,
Veronica D. Abney, Ph.D.
Sent from my iPhone
(323) 770-6279
vabney@gmail.com

➤ Original Message

43. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Brooke Finley

Posted 11-16-2023 13:30

Reply

One of the things that is missing from this conversation is how we can collectively grieve and mourn our own individual and shared history of harm and exclusion, both in psychoanalysis

and in our own genetic and societal histories. In many cultures, ceremonies and group grieving are very important for unifying in the healing process, opening up space and connection to work through those things together. This mirrors what we do in our consulting rooms and is a large reason why I conduct psychoanalytic group therapy in my practice- it's powerful and life-changing.

Respectively, I would like to advocate for leadership (and volunteer to assist) in creating and facilitating a grieving ceremony so we can acknowledge our lived experiences and mourn together. Fracturing ourselves and splitting will not get us anywhere but further apart, disconnected, and continuously misunderstood. This could be a starting place for understanding and healing.

Best,
Brooke

--

Brooke A. Finley, PhD, DNP, PMHNP-BC, RN, CARN-AP

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➤ Original Message

44. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



David P. Gordon

Posted 11-16-2023 15:57

Reply ▼

Dear Colleagues,

There is a central point that needs, in my opinion, emphasis. The entirety of psychoanalysis is based on the validity of our subjective experience. Because of this we are fragile, insecure, and always questioning. That is our strength. Recently I had occasion to speak to an Iranian patient from her home in Tehran. She asked me where I stood. I knew immediately what she meant. I felt afraid knowing how powerful my answer would be, no matter what I would say. I brought up my grandmother who was

murdered by the Nazis in 1939, in Schumsk, Lithuania. What's happening in Israel is horrible, I said. Did I evade the whole matter by escaping through a personal sharing. Tears came to my eyes. We were on zoom.

I wanted to preserve our therapeutic alliance that had enabled her to survive some major traumas not the least of which was the refusal of her visa to attend a graduate program at the University of Minnesota School of Social Work.

My patient and I have traveled down difficult waters. In 2018 before traveling to Israel she imagined that I would be killed. Knowing that my heart was with the Palestinian people living in Gaza and the West Bank did not ameliorate her sense of existential conflict and led to her regressive decline for months.

Those of us making statements of fact are actually making subjective statements with all the capacities for seeing and understanding that we can muster.

Thank you Dr. Friedman, Dr. Abney, and others,

David P. Gordon,
LICSW, Psychoanalyst, Minnesota Psychoanalytic Institute

[▶ Original Message](#)

45. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

[Recommend](#)



David E. Cooper

Posted 11-16-2023 16:08

[Reply](#) ▼

While we encounter the hazards of the listserv in responding quickly in between appointments to what we have read, I would like to speak up for Tim Rayner and to remind Drs. Friedman, Bachrach, Poster and others that not having Ombuds Committees and attempting to resolve hurt feelings informally has not served organized psychoanalysis well. In contrast to the specter of being hauled before an Ombuds Committee we have our history of

sweeping incidents of dominance and hierarchical insistence on compliance under the proverbial rug. I would have thought those who have raised their voices against various inequities, particularly involving the dominance by TA's, would see in the development of Ombuds Committees the possibility for airing grievances and arriving at more equitable solutions going forward.

David Cooper

--

David E. Cooper, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychologist and Psychoanalyst
5480 Wisconsin Ave. #225
Chevy Chase, MD. 20815
301-907-2880

▶ Original Message

46. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Elisa Cheng

Posted 11-16-2023 17:01

Reply ▼

Dear all,

I find myself perturbed and confused that the suggestion of an ombudsperson has stirred up such dramatic and fearful reactions. Somehow the idea of an ombudsman has been deemed frightening, dangerous, and likely to lead to McCarthy-era witch-hunts and public denouncements of members as racists who should be tried and shunned, or Black and white candidates turning against each other in a kind of civil war.

In my mind and experience, an ombudsperson has always been a neutral party who creates a safe, confidential space for people to feel heard without fear of retaliation, because the ombuds is outside the usual power hierarchy. They can advise, provide resources, advocate, or try to bring about some kind of mediation or fair resolution.

They're not Special Prosecutors or Persecutors, which is the specter that seems to be coming up now.

I'm also perturbed at what feels like an insistence that unconscious or systemic racism within the history of psychoanalysis is overblown or simply not present. It feels like only overt institute policies declaring "No Colored People Allowed" can count as racism, and any candidate or trainee of color who has felt diminished, othered, or excluded is merely feeling the universal sting of what it's like to be a trainee in a hierarchical power structure. Somehow this brings to mind the dynamic of replying "All Lives Matter" in response to "Black Lives Matters." Are we afraid that bringing a spotlight to the discrimination and othering suffered by POC somehow negates the historical or ongoing discrimination/exclusion of all other groups? I struggle to understand the binary, the "one up, one down" mentality, and the fear that one will inevitably and unjustly be accused, tried, and executed as a Racist Individual if we as a community acknowledge the existence and impact of racism within the history of psychoanalysis, or make efforts to interrogate, explore, and address it.

Best,
Elisa

➤ Original Message

47. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Omar Khan

Posted 11-16-2023 21:57

Reply ▼

Hi Elisa,

As the earlier conflict involving Lara Sheehi and the EC has demonstrated, it is very hard to know who is impartial with matters that are so pervasive and polarized in our society. We as an organization are still unable to agree on whether the decision to prevent Lara from presenting was an example of racial enactment, governance, PR related or something entirely different. This is in part also because the idea of a racial enactment implies an unconscious process which is therefore subject to interpretation through our own subjective, transference-filled lenses. I think that is why there is so

much tension around an idea like this, because we are dealing with a spectrum of racism that goes from overt, to structural, to unconscious forms of racism. It seems like as you veer more and more unconscious the inter-rater reliability diminishes and so the idea that there would be someone tasked with being a consultant on others' unconscious motives feels scary to many. To some the HC provides a path to understanding these dynamics and to others the HC provides one theory that does not have to be accepted as veridical. So I guess I understand why there's so much affect behind it when the situation with Kerry, Lara and the HC's response feels like the closest the organization has come to such an ombudsperson and we saw firsthand how close to civil war the organization got. Hope this helps.

I agree with what you say in your last paragraph, that we need to move away from a zero-sum, scarcity mindset.

Best,

Omar A. Khan, M.D.
Psychoanalytic Association of New York
1st-Year Candidate in Adult Psychoanalysis

[➤ Original Message](#)

48. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0
[Recommend](#)



Henry J. Friedman

Posted 11-16-2023 22:48

[Reply](#) ▼

Clear and terrific response. Much appreciated by me. Henry F.

[➤ Original Message](#)

49. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

1

Recommend



Elisa Cheng

Posted 11-16-2023 23:48

Reply



Dear Omar,

I think we're still wrestling somehow with the fantasy that an all-powerful Ombudsperson or Anti-Racism Tribunal would be presiding over public trials to decide who's "racist" and making declarations about what's in individual members' unconscious, handing down incontrovertible verdicts like Supreme Court decisions - or finger-wagging scoldings from Judge Judy. It feels like a rather paranoid-schizoid fantasy/nightmare to me, like the Inquisition crossed with the Ministry of Magic trials in "Harry Potter" - highly politically-charged trials in which the guilt and fates of those on trial were pre-determined.

I don't get the sense that any of our candidates for APsA presidency are calling for this. But you're right, feelings and fantasies can run amok when groups split across binaries and polarize - and in the spring conflict involving Lara Sheehi, Don Moss and the Program Committee, Kerry Sulkowicz, Dan Prezant, the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, the Holmes Commission, and the fractious Members Listserv, nearly *everyone* became judge and jury. Highly trained analysts and therapists seemed to lose their capacity to think clearly, to mentalize, to hold space for multiple truths, to retain humility and uncertainty, or to be truly open and undefended in our curiosity about the subjectivity & experience of the Other, or to question how or why our self-perceptions might not line up with how others were experiencing us.

I'd like to think that an Ombuds would first and foremost lead with curiosity, not judgment - to allow for the space to open things up rather than foreclose, for there to be genuine dialogue rather than defense and attack. "Neutrality" can be near-impossible when you're in the thick of things (including while in an enactment yourself!), so would an Ombuds need to be someone from outside of APsA?

Since this is the Election Discussion listserv, I'll ask our leaders: how would you ensure that you're engaging in sufficient dialogue with your members?

Best,
Elisa

[▶ Original Message](#)

50. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

[Recommend](#)

Mehmet Kayatekin

Posted 11-17-2023 08:26

[Reply](#)

I think Elisa asked a key question - "how would you ensure that you're engaging in sufficient dialogue with your members?"

I will be able to provide my angle to it by Sunday (10/19) late afternoon

Regards

Sagman

*M Sagman Kayatekin MD
Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry
Menninger Department of Psychiatry and
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Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas USA*

*Faculty
Center for Psychoanalytic Studies
Houston/Texas, USA*

*Teaching and Supervising Faculty
Psychoanalytic Institute for Central Asia
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*Visiting Professor of Psychiatry
Wuhan Mental Health Center, Tongji Medical College*

*Huazhong University of Science and Technology
Hubei, People's Republic of China*

› Original Message

51. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Thomas M. Brod

Posted 11-17-2023 12:26

Reply

I ask myself whether that word "ENSURE" <"*how would you ensure that you're engaging in sufficient dialogue with your members?*" > implies a comparable doctrinal rigidity and pressure APsaA has been trying to recover from for a century. I am actually not sure, so I turn the question over to the Candidates for Presidency.

Thomas M Brod MD, DFAPA

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➤ Original Message

52. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

1

Recommend



Elisa Cheng

Posted 11-17-2023 15:00

Reply



Hi Dr. Brod,

I know we haven't met personally, but I'm pretty sure that most people who *have* met me would say I'm hardly someone who would ever call for doctrinal rigidity! But I'm sensing that there's a history lesson that I'm needing, to better understand the doctrinal rigidity and pressure you're referring to, and why there seems to be such an uproar from some APsA members at the mere proposal of an ombudsperson.

I say that with curiosity and sincerity, not sarcasm. Why did my choice of the word "ensure" trigger an association to doctrines, rigidity, and pressure? Why does the suggestion that racism is a topic that does fall within the purview of psychoanalytic theory (thinking about the defenses of splitting and projection, to evacuate our own sense of badness into an Other), practice (shouldn't we be more aware of possible racial dynamics and enactments, in the way that we want to be aware of other transference/countertransferences?), and organizational life (thinking about the ways in which BIPOC and members of other marginalized groups have not had adequate representation in analytic communities, and how we might change that), put people on the defensive?

Perhaps better wording would be: "How will you TRY to engage in sufficient dialogue with APsA members, and facilitate the voices of all your constituents being heard?"

Sincerely,
Elisa

➤ Original Message

53. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Judith S. Schachter

Posted 11-17-2023 21:07

Reply ▼

It appears to me that posts conflate institutional, situational racism, built into our national constitution and in our originally intensely hierarchical APsA with those individual, personal racist microaggressions that can be considered ethical issues that organizationally are dealt with locally. Confronting both forms of racism requires brave action by those impacted - Healthy exploration and exposure may even be best facilitated by a neutral outsider.
Judith S Schachter

➤ Original Message

54. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Henry J. Friedman

Posted 11-18-2023 15:52

Reply



I find it necessary to address some of the assertions or impressions expressed by Elisa Cheng in her post objecting to my opposition to establishing a ombudsman to negotiate, discuss, contain complaints of being the victim of a racial enactment. This was in reference to Tim Rayner's support of such a creation as recommended by the HC. In my objection to the creation of such an ombudsman system I was definitely not motivated by the fear that Elisa insists is behind my objection. McCarthyism was frightening in its day but this was a suggestion that I felt was wrongheaded and would increase an atmosphere already tense over issues of race and religion. So, I wasn't scared I was simply opposed to what I viewed as a bad idea. Perhaps Elisa conflated my fear of Joe McCarthy, experienced during the 1950s, with a simple objection to a creation that would make things worse rather than better.

The same should be said for my difference of opinion about the history of racism in the APsaA. Here I do have age and the experience of living the history on my side. When I try to explain that the pain of training in our system as it has been set up might be relevant to what candidates and members of color have experienced in their contact with the APsaA I am reflecting on my own experience as a white candidate during many years of training. This wasn't meant to ignore the possibility of racial micro-aggressions existing within the APsaA or at the local institute level but I do believe that charges of racism, conscious or unconscious, as integral to the history of our organization are misleading and inaccurate. There is a difference between a lower percentage of poc, which is observable and verifiable, and the assignment of racism as the causal factor. In Boston there have been prominent black psychoanalysts certainly when I first arrived there in the 1960s. For many individuals the expense and intensity of full psychoanalytic therapy 3-5x/week seemed like an indulgence available to only rich white patients. This was something that has always seemed wrong to some while perfectly acceptable and necessary to others.

In summary, I am not frightened of the creation of an ombudsman, just opposed to it and, in addition, I am not willing to accept unsupported accusations that the APsaA has been a racist organization. Homophobic, elitist, exclusionary, superior these I have seen and experienced but racist, no way.

Henry J. Friedman, M.D.

➤ Original Message

55. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Ralph E. Fishkin

Posted 11-16-2023 18:45

Reply

I too was startled to read of the suspicion about ombudspersons. I recall that Mark Poster asked the candidates about that recommendation which was one of the recommendations in the Holmes Commission Report. A few people appeared to attribute that recommendation to one of the candidates for President-Elect, Tim Rayner. I understood Tim's reply as thinking it through, not advocating for it. Like with any complex report dealing with a complex situation, the recommendations need to be thought through and explored before they are adopted or rejected.

I hope that we, the voting members of APsA, use this forum as a way to have dialogues with the candidates to present our ideas and see how they respond. Are they receptive and thoughtful? Are they dismissive? Are they articulate? Are they knowledgeable? We should ask ourselves these questions: Are we going to use litmus tests? Are we going to jump to conclusions?

I think that it is after we are able to answer these questions that we can make an informed choice about who we want to be in the leadership of our organization for four more years.

Ralph

=====

Ralph E. Fishkin, D.O.

=====

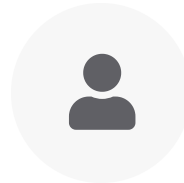
171 Gramercy Road
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
(610) 613-5291 (Office)
Email: rfishkindo@gmail.com

➤ Original Message

56. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Mark Poster

Posted 11-16-2023 23:10

Reply



"The problem with authority-based legislation of anti-racist change notwithstanding, there is a strong argument to be made for a top-down prioritization of issues of race and racism within psychoanalytic settings." The Holmes Commission Report, p. 191 While I support the other recommendations, this is one that my life experience has taught me to view with serious concern.

I also find it ironic that David Cooper and Ralph Fishkin, 2 of perhaps 6 people who drafted a TA survey that, in my opinion, deprived members of an up-or-down vote on the long-contentious TA system, are quick to support the use of an ombudsman "to investigate and report to the community" on alleged unconscious racism. Or Ralph says to study it carefully. I can agree with that. I also agree with David Gordon who points out that our opinions are subjective. I explained briefly the experiences I have witnessed or experienced to account for my opinion.

1- In 1993 Penn President Sheldon Hackney who grew up in the Jim Crow South, established a "racial hate speech" code and a judicial body to review complaints. The result was years of litigation, ruined lives of at least 5 students, and the hold-up of Hackney's Senate confirmation as Chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities for him to be ridiculed as "the PC President". Read books by Harvey Silverglate, Alan Kors, or Sheldon Hackney for details. Hackney's successor terminated the hate speech code and associated judicial body.

2- As a psychiatry resident at Boston State Hospital, my name was added by an attorney ombudsman to a class action law suit as it was coming to trial. I had never met him. I had no knowledge of the pending litigation or the restraining order that I violated by prescribing psychoactive medication which I was actually taught to do by the staff defendants in that case. The state attorney general decided that his office would not defend any more psychiatry residents. I think one who got in under that wire is a member of this list serve, now almost 50 years later. Eventually, my chairman Paul Myerson paid for a lawyer for me But being "naked", as the lawyers call it, for weeks with the case coming to trial was extremely stressful. I would not wish that on anyone.

Mark

Mark F. Poster, MD

West Newton, MA
mfpmd@comcast.net
617 244 5772

[▶ Original Message](#)

57. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

[Recommend](#)



[Ralph E. Fishkin](#)

Posted 11-17-2023 19:14

[Reply](#) ▼

Mark, Members,

I do NOT endorse an ombudsman. I don't oppose it, either. I merely pointed out that the Holmes Commission Report called for an ombudsman according to your post of a few days ago.

Ralph

=====
Ralph E. Fishkin, D.O.
=====
171 Gramercy Road
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
(610) 613-5291 (Office)
Email: rfishkindo@gmail.com

[▶ Original Message](#)

58. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

[Recommend](#)



Lucas Klein

Posted 11-18-2023 13:42

Reply



I would like to weigh in here on the issue of the Holmes report and the ideas that have followed in its wake. I realize that many of you will not be receptive to what I have to say, but on the chance that there are still those inclined toward the use of empiricism at the organizational level, here goes.

My greatest concern for modern society is that there is a growing tendency for individuals and groups to stand firmly on inner convictions in the absence of robust external evidence. This problem is at the core of many evolving social and political issues plaguing America and the western world at present.

It should be stated that racial discrimination is illegal in the U.S.; so if there is compelling evidence that race is actually used to exclude or administratively discriminate against any race, the Department of Justice would need that data in order to proceed in a civil rights case. They would require well documented evidence. If such evidence existed, I and many others would aid in the facilitation of correcting an identifiable discriminatory practice at the organizational level.

However, I would think that any group of scholars who endeavored to characterize their professional organization as an extension of "white supremacy" (a term found 151 times in the Holmes report) would come to that conclusion only after rock solid data had led them to such a claim.

The Holmes report is no such document; it lacks serious research methodology. The paper reads more like a religious tome, its very opening statements of the problems are circular and include many non sequiturs, and the outcomes are based merely on subjective reports. There is no actuarial evidence to support any of the few trends found in the subjective reports. There is not even a proper methods or results section. Have any of you ever read a legitimate empirical social sciences study that did not bother to include a proper methods or results section? Would you take seriously one that does not? It is not even clear that the data sets include normal distributions if there are even analyses of between group differences versus what appear to be simple percentage comparisons, if they were truncated and on what basis, what the specific analyses were and whether they were appropriate for the data. Readers are left to guess what the "mixed methods design" was composed of, which renders my aforementioned statistical questions shots in the dark.

Some may rejoinder that the subjective experience of respondents should be taken on its own as valid. My answer to that position is that when the Holmes Commission included an attempt at quantitative methods they were then obligated as social scientists to proceed along a valid design. They unfortunately did no such thing.

The paper is internally inconsistent and riddled with content validity problems. Items have no evidence of content validity surveys establishing their credibility or cohesion. Conclusions are reached conveniently and spuriously. What I am stating here is only a snapshot of the methods problems of the report. There are literally too many problems to include here.

...For one of many examples to be found, when POCs report perceptions of problems, that is apparently to be taken as a veridical representation of an actual problem in the external world around the subject (In Apsaa as an organization). But for white people... "Especially concerning was that white candidates and faculty *underestimated* (italics here and below added by me) the degree to which *critical racial incidents* contributed to candidates' decisions to leave training."

So...the subjective experience of one race is oddly to be taken as an objective representation of the external world... and the subjective experiences of another race are clearly seen as a defensive denial of reality, or at least a problem/distortion by way of being an "underestimation"?

I guess this is the point of the social breakdown following 2020 where it was claimed that certain races have "other ways of knowing." I don't know if there are any of you out there who will join me in observing a historical fact: claiming that races are epistemically distinct (have different internal parts and perceptual processes that align with their external appearance) has been tried before in human history, and the results have been catastrophic. It is an utter, stark, and for me a very sad irony that the same process is unfolding yet again in western civilization and apparently in Apsaa.

As an example of such a quandary, one item asks: "Did you ever have a *discriminatory experience* with your advisor, supervisor, or instructor?" It is supposed to be taken as statistically significant in terms of differences in percentages that "22% of white candidates and 37% of BIPOC candidates indicated "yes." Moreover... "One respondent observed, "Having only '*unintentionally*' racist white supervisors evaluating candidates of color who struggle at the very least to talk about anything race related" disadvantages candidates of color."

...For the purposes of the study's internal validity and reliability, why would we assume that any person is able to perceptually discern whether an interaction with a supervisor or anyone is a "*discriminatory experience*" or "*unintentionally*' racist?" These are unbelievably complex terms in the item-design and would be nearly impossible to measure properly. A robust attempt to measure these items would include an incredibly complex and controlled experimental design. So they don't bother with content validity or measurement.

...Why do they not also assess covarying factors and mediating variables at the level of the individual respondents, such as the perpetual processes of the perceivers? In other words, if unconscious bias assessments (though lacking validity in terms of measurement tools) are good for the goose, are they not also good for the gander? This is a serious problem in this study and others like it. It would seem to me that if a study wanted to rule these factors out in order to provide a compelling series of conclusions rather than untested and hence relatively unfounded claims, they would have been included. Again, the Holmes report makes major claims and major assertions. It really needed to have included major design integrity to accomplish those outcomes.

As far as the idea of having an ombudsman for race-related issues in Apsaa, such a notion could only be entertained after a problem had been identified empirically in more valid ways than has been done here.

Some have said that an ombudsman would merely be someone who facilitates dialogue. Let me present the definition of Ombudsman: "*A person who investigates, reports on, and helps settle complaints.*"

If anyone is merely advocating for some sort of sensitive person who listens and engages in dialogue (those people are called psychoanalysts, by the way)...why exactly would this person need to be imbued with the authority of an official ombudsman?

In our society, the general idea of having an "antiracist" administrative body comes directly from Ibram Kendi's proposal to have an anti-racist governing agency and an actual amendment to the US constitution that oversees other branches of government. It is worth reading his short statement in the following link in order to see the basic ideology and its actual aims. It is quite striking to say the least.

<https://www.politico.com/interactives/2019/how-to-fix-politics-in-america/inequality/pass-an-anti-racist-constitutional-amendment/>

Again, this has been tried before in human history. I hope it is not tried again in Apsaa. There are better ways of moving toward a more just society, where diverse voices are heard and respected than what has been promoted in the Holmes Commission report and elsewhere in the SJW world. As an example, it is well known in organizational management of both the technical and academic world that incentive initiatives are much more effective and productive than oversight in terms of producing innovation.

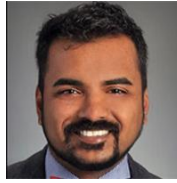
I hope we as a field maintain our fidelity to a wonderful and yet apparently vulnerable psychoanalytic tradition. May what I have offered here be a contribution in some way.

Lucas Klein
Ph.D.
San Diego Psychoanalytic Center
Rancho Bernardo CA

▶ Original Message

59. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0
Recommend



Himanshu Agrawal

Posted 11-18-2023 14:16

Reply



While I await the results of the double blinded randomized control trials that Freud (both of them), Klein and Bion conducted to reach the conclusion that the unconscious exists, the content validity of the list of ego strengths, the interviews with the thousands of Scandinavian infants that told us 'Mommy's breast has arsenic', and the p value of alpha and beta particles, I will just leave these two images here , that 'literally' prove that the Holmes commission Report is one of the very rare documents in psychoanalytic literature that actually DOES identify (and describes) a methods section and a results section.

Regards,

Himanshu Agrawal, MD

Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine,

Medical College of Wisconsin,

Lover of content validity (AND reliability !)

1:06 PM Sat Nov 18

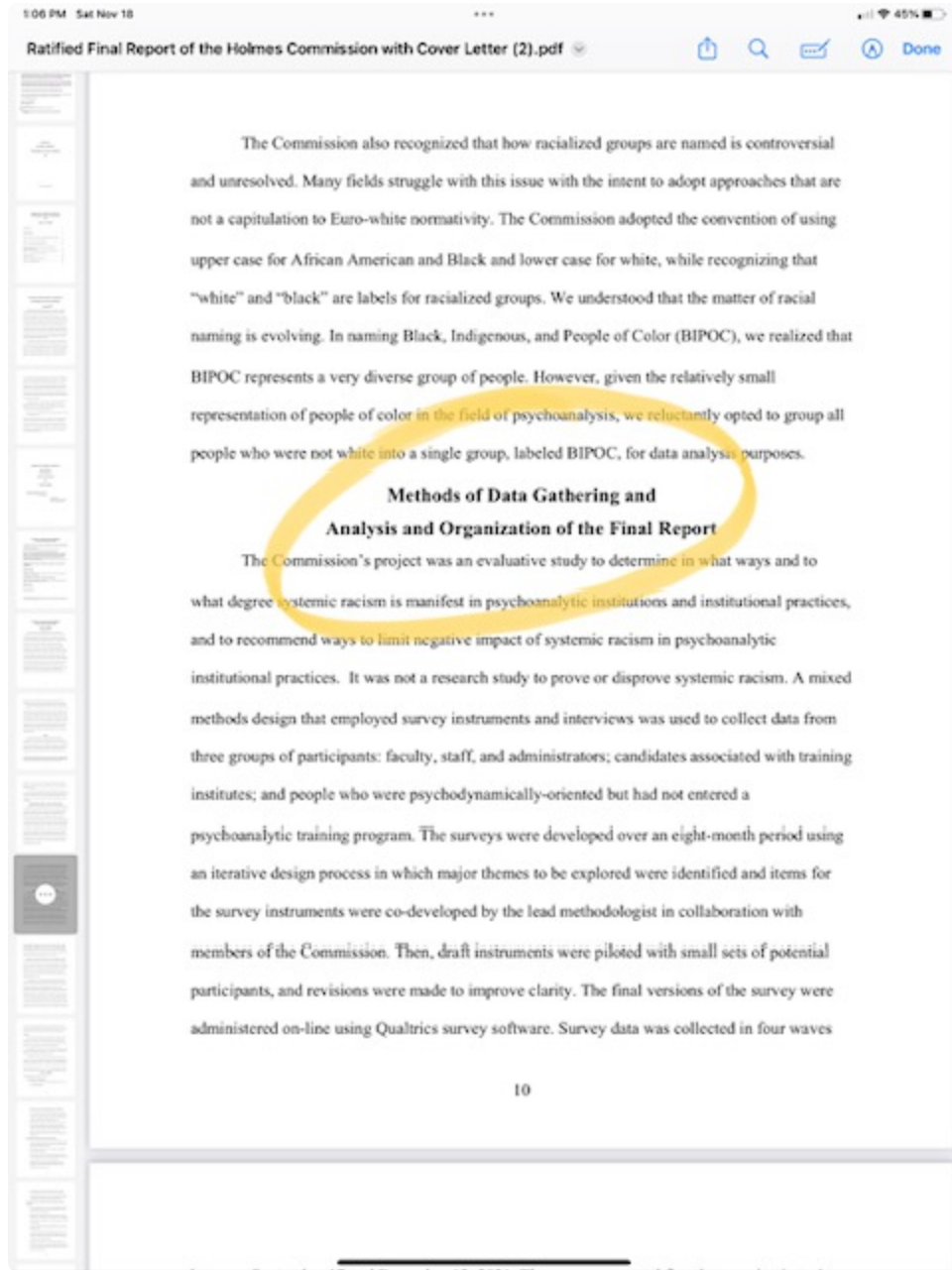
Ratified Final Report of the Holmes Commission with Cover Letter (2).pdf

Final Report of The Holmes Commission on
Racial Equality in American Psychoanalysis
2023

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2



➤ Original Message

60. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Lucas Klein

Posted 11-18-2023 14:45

Reply ▼

While these sections are *labeled* "methods" and "results", they do not even minimally approximate legitimate methods and results sections. Moreover, I would not advocate using subpar research methodology simply because it has been done elsewhere for the purposes of massive organizational overhaul.

The fact that psychoanalytic papers have well known research conundrums to do with the phenomena being observed, the nature of the work on an individual level, as well as an incongruence between laws of the emotional world and those of the external physical world should not permit us to make the same mistakes at the organizational level that the Holmes Commission would have us do. Their claims, "outcomes", and recommendations require true fidelity to strict and ethical quantitative designs because they are not presenting a small case study to a group of other analysts seeking to enrich an understanding of treatment....they are advocating for an insertion of an organizational/program change at the societal level.

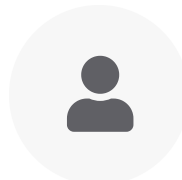
It is because they endeavored to make such claims and to ask or demand for changes of such magnitude that the report needed to be itself of a greater methods integrity.

Lucas Klein
Ph.D.
San Diego Psychoanalytic Center
Rancho Bernardo CA

➤ Original Message

61. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0
Recommend



C. Martin Bullard

Posted 11-18-2023 15:31

Reply ▼

Addressing the sincere concerns of ANY subset of an organization is of course an "appropriate" priority of that organization. That this is even a serious question (let alone the spate of resignations last year) re-reveals that ApsA does in fact have organizational problems with race.

The HC report is a comprehensive, good faith effort by affected members. Organizational change carries risks. Organizational stasis carries more. I advocate for welcoming risks associated with change. The HC recommendations, including the ombuds function, deserve to be implemented. Regards! Martin Bullard

➤ Original Message

62. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0
Recommend



Sydney Pulver

Posted 11-18-2023 14:27

Reply ▼

Lucas reflects my own reaction to the Holmes Commission report. I just didn't know exactly why. Thanks, Lucas. Syd Pulver

--

Sydney E. Pulver, M.D.

Office:

1512 Spruce Street, Apt. 102

Philadelphia, PA 19102

215-732-3332

Email address:

spulver1@gmail.com

➤ Original Message

63. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Leslie Schweitzer-Miller

Posted 11-18-2023 17:46

Reply ▼

Dear Dr. Klein,

Bravo and thank you! I've heard these ideas expressed privately, but you've explained the science and elucidated the problems with the Holmes Commission findings in a very compelling way. Of course we do have to be alert to whatever racism exists within the APsA, whether aimed at POC or Jews or Muslims or anyone else. Bigotry cannot be tolerated in any form.

But the ombudsman sounds more like the head of the witch hunt committee, investigating and judging. Complaints need to be heard and taken seriously, and the younger generation, the candidates obviously feel emboldened to raise complaints, which is a positive change from years ago. But I would not be in favor of the recommendation being floated and championed by Tim Rayner.

Thanks again for spelling out the flaws in the study,

All the best
Leslie Schweitzer-Miller

➤ Original Message

64. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Arnold D. Richards

Posted 11-16-2023 17:11

Reply ▼

i have scheduled several webinars to discuss my memoir unorthodox my life in an outside in Psychoanalysis
The first on December 17, the second on January 7 I plan to also go to San Francisco and have a dialogue with Chuck Fisher. I plan to talk about my own personal exclusion having been asked to join resign from the New York Psychoanalytic Society and Institute
Sent from my iPhone

▶ Original Message

65. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Arnold D. Richards

Posted 11-16-2023 17:15

Reply ▼

corrected

Sent from my iPhone

> On Nov 16, 2023, at 5:10 PM, Arnold Richards <arniedr14@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> i have scheduled several webinars to discuss my memoir unorthodox my life in and outside Psychoanalysis
> The first on December 17, the second on January 7 I plan to also go to San Francisco and have a dialogue with Chuck Fisher. I plan to talk about my own personal exclusion having been asked to resign from the New York Psychoanalytic Society and Institute
> Sent from my iPhone

➤ Original Message

66. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Andrew B. Klafter

Posted 11-08-2023 22:11

Reply

I believe that Timothy Rayner has mischaracterized the issues that are being debated on our listserv, and which are the main focus of the recent issue of *Free Associations* (including my own publication).

The issue is *not* whether diversity and inclusion in APsaA and at our institutes is important for the future of the analytic profession and for the future of APsaA. I have heard literally no one disagree with this idea, and I have heard no one speak against the Holmes Commission recommendations.

The issues being debated are the following:

- (1) Whether political issues and social justice and political controversies in our society and internationally are going to become part of APsaA's mission as an organization, such as the Arab Israeli conflict.
- (2) Whether Critical Race Theory (or Critical Social Justice Theory) should be understood and taught as a new school of psychoanalytic thought.

I do not think that this email by Dr. Rayner has actually laid out a coherent position on these issues.

***Please note my new address:**

Andrew B. Klafter, MD

נחום בנימין קלאפטר

***7537 State Road**

Cincinnati, OH 45255

phone (513) 474-8900 fax (513) 231-0653

www.klafter.com andrew@klafter.com

➤ Original Message

67. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Tamarind Knutson

Posted 11-09-2023 09:10

Reply



I am concerned that this promotes a narrative that does not represent me or what I perceive the debates to be (perhaps I missed something on my listserv hiatus). The reason I am concerned is that it seems the listserv (perhaps organization) is veering toward a political divide that highlights the 2 ends of the continuum and misses the majority of people who fall somewhere in between. There are people who want to enshrine classical analysis and there are people who want to "blow it up." I experience boiling the discussion down to the 2 debates you describe as a strawman argument. It is not enough for us to rubber stamp the recommendations of the Holmes Commission. Until people experience a sense of safety in APSA the discussion of DEI needs to remain active. Obviously, that sense of inclusion should include our Jewish and Arab members. Timothy Rayner appears to have his finger on the pulse of "younger" generations. If inclusion it isn't a focus, people will go where it is. We are here because we care about psychoanalysis and the future of depth therapy.

Kind Regards,
Tamarind

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Licensed Psychologist

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24-hour crisis line: 800-273-TALK (8255) or text MN to 741741

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➤ Original Message

68. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0 Recommend



Veronica Abney

Posted 11-10-2023 22:53

Reply ▼

Thank you for a thoughtful, truthful and important message.

Veronica D. Abney, Ph.D.
111 Hekili St., Ste. 361
Kailua, Hawaii 96734
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vabney@gmail.com

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➤ Original Message

69. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

1

Recommend



Michael Langlois

Posted 11-18-2023 18:14

Edited by Michael Langlois 11-18-2023 18:18

Reply



Hello Colleagues,

I am hesitant as always to wade into the fray of the listserv, and will try to keep my comments relatively brief and in response to the narrower electoral conversation. First though, because I assert context matters, I want to locate myself in several ways. I am a midcareer psychodynamic clinician, social worker, recipient of 30 plus years of psychodynamic treatment, training and teaching which did not include a formal analysis. Until recently I was a nonvoting Associate Member and a relatively new one at that. I do not have a history with APsA longer than 5-6 years. I am a member of one of the Collegial Groups and recently started and participated in a reading and discussion group on the Holmes Report, a group of 15-18 social workers, psychologists, MDs and counselors who met for 8 weeks during which time we read the entire body of the report up to the Appendices. For further context I am a cis white man who identifies as part of the larger LGBTQ community and a lower to middle class background of origin. I saved those for last because I believe that the mere use of some of those language choices set off internal reactions in the reader which may make it difficult to hear my words accurately.

First, I am so excited and pleased to see at least three of the members of part or all of our Holmes group are carrying on the good and thoughtful work of raising these issues in discussion. None of you three need my help, but I wanted to add my voice to yours in a way.

Second, I have been consistently troubled by the title of this discussion "Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?" That some want to frame that as even a question rather than a given tells me a lot about how entrenched the habit of racism remains. So too the recent discussion attacking the methodology of the report bears to me the same resemblance. I will not speak for the authors of the report, but as a reader and contemplator of its content I came to it **accepting as axiomatic** that we live in a society that was created on and maintains a culture of racism and white supremacy. I **accept as axiomatic that** a professional organization created and maintained in such a culture of racism and white supremacy will embody and struggle to remain aware of that conflict. I say this because I believe continued "discussion" about whether this is or is not an issue or reality is done in bad faith. I do not think you will be able to convince me with research-based language and critiques that these axioms are not true, and I do not think that you will be open to my convincing you they are true. You have made up your mind to frame the discussion as up for debate and research, and although I cannot know your inner thoughts, I

suspect that you have a different axiom at work, which is close to "prove to me that this is an issue." And so I must turn away from that and you, because I am no longer able to take an interest in what I consider a hollow debate. Of course, racism, particularly as Dr. Schachter describes, is an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization. Of course the process of organizing us all into some sort of constituency is directly informed by this context. And of course it is an important, and for me the most important issue facing our governance and electoral candidates.

Third, to perhaps move the needle a little, let me pose this sincere question to electoral candidates: If addressing racism is not a priority, can you please enumerate a few items you think ARE priorities? What do you want to work on? How do you intend to steward this organization in the 21st Century? What do you have to offer those of us constituents who are neither candidates nor intending to become candidates in the foreseeable future? I am eager to hear why you should have our votes.

Michael Langlois
M.S.W.
Nantucket MA

[➤ Original Message](#)

70. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0 Recommend



Henry M. Bachrach

Posted 11-18-2023 22:44

Reply ▼

Michael,

Lucas Klein just presented a penetrating critique of the Holmes Commission study and its methodology which you and three proud members of your Holmes Commission Study Group were quick to dismiss. None of your group's observations however addressed the particulars of his critique and especially the methodology of the study. I wouldn't be so quick to dismiss the methodology because the Holmes Commission invested more than \$75,000 in the methodology and execution of its study. In fact, nearly half of the 400+ pages of the report is composed of statistical tables. Admittedly it's a long and dense

report which many members have not carefully studied. But since your group has, methodology and all, could you help us better understand the methodology and where Dr. Klein is in error.

With much thanks.

Henry Bachrach

➔ Original Message

71. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

1

Recommend



Karim Dajani

Posted 11-19-2023 07:54

Reply



I am compelled to respond to Dr. Lucas' post with a brief comment only as I have elected to no longer participate on this listserv. However, there is something so intensely glaring about his post that it needs to be pointed out. I realize that I am in a position to do so, and feel compelled to offer this service to those of us who are still trying to think clearly.

I will leave the issue of methodology for another time. As Himanshu pointed out, the report is based on a 'methodology' and is a disciplined study. It is possible to deconstruct Dr. Klein's objections but I do not want to do that here and now.

I am compelled to comment on his conception of race or, more accurately, misconception. News Flash: Psychoanalysts have written about the links between the unconscious and ideology. They have written about cultural systems structuring the ego's nucleus, about social instincts and a social unconscious, about group objects and the pull of history and culture. They have written about race. From a certain analytic perspective, race is not about skin pigmentation but about ideology and racism is the unconscious reproduction and maintenance of oppressive ideologies and pathogenic cultural practices.

Dr. Klein's post ignores all of that and reduces the issue of race to black and white. I really hoped that we can actually use our capacious theories to understand each other and the world around us a little bit better. Instead, we seem to be engaged in endless litigation about how a small group of luminary white analysts can not possibly be racist and so anything having to do with the study of racism in us and between us must be false and null.

Let me go one step further. I am going to ask why does Dr. Klein, who is clearly intelligent and erudite, ignore extant analytic literature on ideology, culture and race to make a forceful point about there not being enough evidence to think race is an issue in organized American Psychoanalysis? When almost ALL candidates of color say that they experience serious problems related to racialized practices in training and that is not taken seriously by the likes of Dr. Klein, it raises serious questions about the reproduction and maintenance of racialized practices in ApsaA. Do you see what I mean?

Respect,
Karim

--

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➤ Original Message

72. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Hattie Myers

Posted 11-19-2023 09:13

Reply ▼

Glad you felt compelled to write Karim. Your voice has been missed. (I've missed it.) In answer to your last question. Yes.

Hattie Myers

Sent from my iPhone

► Original Message

73. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

1

Recommend



Elisa Cheng

Posted 11-19-2023 10:01

Edited by Elisa Cheng 11-22-2023 22:46

Reply



Dear Dr. Dajani,

Thank you for taking the time to chime in and respond to Lucas Klein's post, which felt like such a triumphantly degrading attack on the Holmes Commission Report and all POC who would dare to say our felt experiences and interpretations of such experiences might differ from those of our white counterparts.

This is what I've found so galling, exhausting, and demoralizing - the repeated, strident insistence that racism surely must not exist within APsA because a white person hasn't seen or felt it. For Henry Friedman to tell me that he knows better because he "lived the history" and saw two prominent Black analysts at BPSI in the 1960's. (And yet I am sadly unaware of any prominent streak of BIPOC presence at BPSI in the 50-60 year stretch since then, and there are zero visible Black or Asian-American analysts in our ranks today, at least not among our faculty or potential training/supervising analysts. I have grown to love my institute dearly, and think it is deeply committed to doing anti-racism work to combat its past, or else I wouldn't have chosen to train there as a candidate - but I would be hard-pressed to find others who would think BPSI has been anything other than extraordinarily white in its history). For Lucas Klein to skewer the HCR for daring to assert that white faculty and candidates "underestimated" (in

comparison to POC) how often racial incidents contributed to POC's decisions to leave training, because this would speciously imply that POC could have more accurate knowledge of why they themselves were leaving. For others to cheer every time a white analyst refutes or diminishes accounts of POC suffering, or denies the presence of systemic racism that should be addressed systemically, or would rather we leave messy racial enactments to be quietly swept under the rug in small private settings where no one else needs to hear or think about them.

Yesterday, I attended an extraordinary BPSI program featuring Carol Gilligan, who *took the time to listen* to girls' voices - the silent voices, the hidden voices, the secondary voices, the under-voices buried under the cover-voices. The ones that had to be elicited by asking (against standard methodology) in response to a first answer, "Is that what you really think?" - which would then uncover the "Actually..." of what girls and women truly thought, not what they were taught or expected to think. Carol Gilligan, Fran Arnold, and Stephanie Brody spoke about the many ways in which women's voices were silenced, othered, deemed unworthy or lacking by the scientific, literary, or moral standards set by men, not trusted to speak truthfully of even their own experiences, talked over, and so on. Women's experiences could not be seen, considered or comprehended in a world set up and dominated by and for men. And as my respected supervisor Jim Frosch noted, it's not just girls and women, but also boys and men - and non-binary and transgender individuals, I will add - who are trapped and harmed by such a system.

I couldn't help but think of the parallels that I see and feel here - crushingly, insidiously, repeatedly.

I am grateful for the private messages of support from fellow candidates or the occasional teacher or mentor from my institute, and even more grateful to those who risk their own necks by speaking out as well. But I want to ask again, alongside Dr. Dajani, why are clearly intelligent, respected senior analysts putting all their intellectual weight into discounting and siloing marginalized voices? Who will take the time to listen?

(Henry Bachrach seemed to scoff at my idea of an ombudsperson being someone who could provide a safe, nonjudgmental place for people to feel heard and why we might need such a person at APsA or local institutes, or want to imbue them with authority - because isn't that what ALL psychoanalysts do? Well... not always.)

A recent analytic graduate wrote to me privately, about the painful conclusion they had come to, that APsA and many of our institutes don't care to create a safe and inclusive space for the Other, and many of the individuals on these listservs don't care to engage in *dialogue*, however much we beg for it. They wrote (and I hope it is ok for me to quote them

anonymously): "I have spent so much time trying to have a dialogue about what is to be *othered* and I am tired."

I am tired, too.

[▶ Original Message](#)

74. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

[Recommend](#)



Henry M. Bachrach

Posted 11-19-2023 10:32

[Reply](#) ▼

Elisa,

I'm not aware I have offered any opinion about an ombudsman.. Would you be so kind to show me where I did?

Henry

[▶ Original Message](#)

75. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

[Recommend](#)



Henry M. Bachrach

Posted 11-19-2023 11:01

Reply ▼

Elisa,

My error. I just recalled I did mention the idea of an ombudsman frightened me in another context some weeks ago. But that had nothing to do with your comments.

Henry

► Original Message

76. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Sherwood Waldron

Posted 11-19-2023 12:00

Reply ▼

I would like, as a person as senior as Henry Friedman (and a longstanding friend), to share my reactions to the reverberations around Henry's comments. In all the ways that power abuse has been visible in APsaA, race has been far from the manifest content of what we have seen (I trained at NYPSI, and still am a member). I have had an interest, concern and activity relating to the oppression of POC in our society since before medical school, and I recall that Henry (whom I met just after medical school) had a similar antipathy to all the discriminatory aspects in our society. But the tragedy was and is, that the disadvantages built into the lives of the large majority of POC in our country have been such that there never to my knowledge have been more than a couple of Black people who might be interested in training to be mistreated in the course of training. So to speak, they mostly never had a chance to be discriminated against by APsaA!

In regard to racism in ApsaA, are we not all limited by our natures as human beings? I feel the urge to join one side or another in battle, in most situations, and I think we all do. And doesn't human history attest to the consequences, that one group of humans mostly (always?) finds reasons to oppress and exploit another group?

The ideas of the Enlightenment, with respect for all having a right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, are noble ideals, but in their application there will always be forces of oppression, by those who have an advantage over another group or groups. As psychoanalysts, we have every reason to mistrust ourselves, and to have to live with the burden of these urges to side with one group and skewer the other. How wishful to think that some group will be different (psychoanalysts? clergy? Supreme Court justices? police? Military people? students? candidates?).

It reminds me of a study, whose author I no longer recall, that showed that societies (such as small or middle-sized towns in New England) would not discriminate against an intruding group until the percentage reached something like 20%.

So, from a purely observational point of view, Henry's point of view, and mine, may be correct. The splits in APsaA had to do with other conflicting groups, like those who were (and are) training analysts against the commoner, so to speak, but never manifestly against Blacks.

I think we would benefit from exercising whatever possible degree of tolerance we can summon up for those whose views put them in a different group than ourselves.

On the other hand, when a person is in the oppressed group, dealing with those who have unbalanced power, how much should we fault the persons who rebel against that power?

Ending on a favorable note, the Harlem Family (Psychoanalytic) Institute is a positive development inspired in part by Gil Kliman, who has also been so active in regard to bringing psychoanalytically informed care to disadvantaged children in general with his "reflective network therapy". I understand that many others have contributed to this Institute. I am making my own contribution to the field by leading a systematic study following up former analytic patients many years after their treatments, while I am maintaining a practice. My research goal fits with the topic of this email: to document how psychoanalytic work can benefit people lifelong, and implicitly, should be available to a much broader swath of those who would benefit from it than it is today.

Woody

Sherwood Waldron, MD
Chair, Psychoanalytic Research Consortium
<https://psychoanalyticresearch.org>
Member, Fund for Psychoanalytic Research, American Psychoanalytic Association
98 Riverside Drive, #9C
New York, NY 10024
tel: 917-414-5012

[› Original Message](#)

77. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

1

[Recommend](#)

Deana Schuplin

Posted 11-19-2023 12:14

[Reply](#)

Dr. Klein,

I find myself wanting to respond to your post in a manner that feels in kind - with derision. But I do not know you and do not have enough information to understand where you may be coming from and this is not how I want to operate in our organization. So I would like to, instead, engage with you a bit around what you said about a very important matter for our organization.

Do you mean to say that we should dismiss the whole of the Holmes Commission Report?

Would you be willing to consider that this effort was not taken up in the context of an academic setting or with the support of a substantial grant (\$75,000 is a small amount considering the size of the endeavor and does not take into account the vast number of volunteer hours - not subsidized by being a part of one's paid position or education)?

Do you think that the limitations of the descriptive survey research means that the data it provided is useless? If not, what uses would you make of it (I believe we understand that all of our research in the social sciences has serious limitations and yet we proceed and endeavor to understand more over time while we are also improving our methods)?

Are you familiar with the differences between psychological research (your area of academic expertise) and sociological research (which includes survey research as an important approach - it's been 40 years since my first graduate degree in sociology, so I'm a little rusty, but think this is pertinent)? BTW, I think the difference is why Elisa thought of the presentation with Carol Gilligan - a seminal sociological researcher.

Do you think we need to consider the question of racial discrimination - individual and/or systemic - in our organization? If so, how would you go about learning about it and addressing whatever is learned?

I hope that you will consider these questions in a post. I would like to understand more about where you are coming from rather than continue with what seems to be attack and counterattack. That is not getting us very far and I am interested in trying to bridge our gaps if at all possible.

Sincerely,

“

‘

‘

Deana Schuplin, LMHC, IADC, FABP1441 29th Street Suite 209 West Des Moines, IA 50266
515-418-7735

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Sent from my iPhone

› Original Message

78. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Lucas Klein

Posted 11-19-2023 13:15

Reply



Here are a few ideas for a study on race as a causal or correlative factor in training. This is not something I've worked on tediously. I'm typing this out now, so there will be design flaws of course as this sort of project requires carefulness and planning, but I think most of you will get the picture of what a study could look like after reading this.

Question at hand: Does race determine or correlate significantly with training outcomes in psychoanalysis? How is this explained in the obtained evidence of candidate training records and across independent ratings?

Method: candidate progressions reports (and other items like passage/graduation rates, etc...tbd) will be the source of data. Main effects, mean differences, predictive analysis will be used depending on the data. A statistical power analysis will be required.

Measurement:

This one measurement variable just comes to mind now, but I'm sure could be refined.

- "Quality" of reports as quantified:

The papers would be blinded of identifying information of the candidate and then blindly rated by senior analysts for quality ("quality" would require content validity surveys across senior analysts prior to structuring the rating forms). Each paper would achieve a mean scaled score, an average of each senior analysts scores. Distributions of these ratings would be assessed for normality. There could even be multiple domains of scores per paper that then would form the mean score for each paper per analyst, which itself would be a treasure trove of potentially useful data.

An example of an essential question (defined more elegantly in the hypothesis section) could be:

- Does "quality" in the scores from the blinded rating averages have a significant association with outcome measures in the training record? If it does, that could be good news; it likely means that when tested, supervisors and blind/hence approximately "non-biased raters" achieved the same conclusions for candidate records.

Now, a second portion of the study would then aim to analyze the scores along racial and other demographic lines.

You could set this up one of two ways. You could test main effects of race if the data was ratio in nature, or a more simple difference of means, or you could use a regression analysis in order to predict paper quality mean scores using the IV of race

and see what the outcomes are. Covariating factors and mediating variables would be needed as well, and would need to be determined in terms of content and measurement. That would be a little trickier.

The mean scaled score for paper quality would then be used to establish group differences (mean scores for demographics variables) across races and other factors.

-Are different races receiving different scores? If so, why? Can this be explained with variables presented in the results? If not, that would add significant credibility to the idea that race/racial bias, etc is a problem in the training programs.

At that point a qualitative discussion section would be in order. You can see how the first part of the study is essential to examine the racial element. If races are receiving different marks, the nature of the score distributions above across raters would need to be examined. Race as a factor could be entertained but even with this design probably not explained as to why, given the control methods. Moreover, if there is no disparate finding, that is good news for everyone.

From here on, anyone with enough design know-how could get fairly elegant with extended analyses. If we had data on candidates/members subjective ratings, categorical and dimensional, on race relations in Apsaa those would also produce interesting correlations and regressions with their outcomes in the demographic portion above. The Holmes survey data might come in handy here. You could probably create a composite variable that categorizes each candidate in terms of whether they see race as a significant factor in their training without relying on explicit responses to the question. That categorical variable could classify in relative terms, meaning that a mean score would be devised and probably labeled "neutral" or something like that, and then candidates are classified based on their deviation along survey items from the mean. That variable could (potentially) be endlessly fascinating in terms of understanding how people engage in their training.

The measure does not have to be "quality" of papers. It could be something entirely different. I'm presenting a glimpse of how to provide compelling information on matters of training while simultaneously including racial factors.

If done properly such a study could shed light on training issues both with and without racial implications. Studies like these seek to discover in a way that keeps the seeker honest due to the methods constraints. They also provide actual and tangible evidence, and would be compelling to members if problems are found along racial lines or anything else.

Well, I think that's it for me here folks. I've tried to contribute and say what I believe is true and useful, and that's what we all should endeavor to do. Some of you are giving me my own "quality" ratings, so to speak!... which is understandable. Many private kudos have and continue to come in. Many public denunciations as well as support. This is all fine with me. We need to be able to go through this sort of process. I hope my ideas have proven useful to both those who see things like I do, and to those who do not. Better to sharpen your arguments against something solid, and so I hope I have done my part to provide just that.

Best,

Lucas

 Lucas Klein
 Ph.D.
 San Diego Psychoanalytic Center
 Rancho Bernardo CA

► Original Message

79. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

1

Recommend



Adele Tutter

Posted 11-19-2023 13:48

Reply



Dr Klein,

All of your ideas are very interesting, and lend themselves to the sort of "statistical power analysis" on which you place deserved weight. However, how many BIPOC candidates-let alone the number of candidates of different races-would you need to power your proposed studies?

I suggest there are not enough (as Sherwood Waldroon obliquely pointed out).

In the end your facility with study design and statistical terminology cannot detract from the real power of the reportage by the authors of the Holmes Commission, and the eloquent testimony of many people on this very listserve - who are all obliged to stand by and listen to you and others say, in effect, that the racist enactments that they have witnessed and endured and described are not, cannot be *really* real unless that are legitimized by the stamp of a certain kind of science that you, Dr Klein, authorize.

That a psychoanalyst charged with believing in the importance of articulating personal truths can come out and make this claim, without any shame, and without any understanding of how destructive they are being, is simply beyond

me. Beyond words, even. Suffice it to say that if not for the conviction that those who send you private "kudos" are in the (hopefully dwindling) minority, I would resign from Apsa right here and now.

The same goes for people whose adversity to the idea of a DEI ombudsman - mon Dieu, need we join the 21st century? - reveals their wish and intent to protect those in power, rather those that are supposedly welcome to join then under the Big Tent, as long as they don't complain or ask for an ombudsman to help them deal with microaggressions that don't exist. It is frankly embarrassing.

I apologize if my response lacks collegiality. In certain situations, collegiality is apparently beyond my skill set.

With that, I sign off, hopefully for another few months, but more immediately so that I can write a review of an excellent paper, which has been submitted to one of the best psychoanalytic journals: a study that has an N of... one.

It will be an important contribution, even if Dr Klein disagrees.

Adele Tutter, MD, PhD

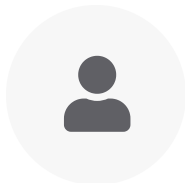
Columbia and NYPSI

▶ Original Message

80. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

1

Recommend



C. Martin Bullard

Posted 11-19-2023 15:11

Reply ▼

If the question was "is addressing sexism" or "is addressing homophobia an appropriate priority" who would say no? That there is any pushback at all to the question is "is addressing racism an appropriate priority" could not show more clearly that we have such a problem.

What is the fear manifesting here??

Regards! Martin

[▶ Original Message](#)

81. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

[Recommend](#)



Irene Cairo

Posted 11-19-2023 15:36

[Reply](#) ▼



Irene Cairo MD
(212) 787-1855
(631) 324-5170

[▶ Original Message](#)

82. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

2

[Recommend](#)



Aurelio Ogilvie

Posted 11-19-2023 16:17

Reply



Like Dr. Tutter, Dr. Cheng and many others, (and as a person of color), I am also alarmed by a general attitude that feels antithetical to the ethos of psychoanalysis. I would highly, highly, recommend that members watch or re-watch Black Psychoanalysts Speak. I have included the video in the thread. I think those of you who do watch the video will find the discussion very relevant. The complaints of the Black psychoanalysts throughout their training and beyond feel very much alive and meaningful-beyond the level of statistical significance!!



Black Psychoanalysts Speak
youtube.com

Dr. Joseph Ogilvie
Clinical Psychologist and Psychoanalyst
1002 East Capitol St. NE
Washington, DC 20003
202.552.1741
www.capitolhill-therapy.com

➤ Original Message

83. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

1

Recommend

KS

Kelly Shanks Lippman

Posted 11-19-2023 15:32

Reply



Adele Tutter's response here (with which I wholeheartedly concur) has me in mind of the article recently shared by Elaine Zickler (sharing again below because it so beautifully expresses a psychoanalytic stance). The back and forth on the election line over the past few days to the astonishing question posed in the subject line about whether a psychoanalytic organization should care about something that profoundly connects to human suffering and limitation has been something to behold and participate in (even through reading). I find myself saddened and struggling to think. I imagine I'm not alone.

The Rose article got me thinking about what is happening when we essentially seem to be saying that we will only listen and reflect on our own experiences and words (***because the HC report is filled with direct quotations describing experiences of our own***) if certain criteria are met. And of course, the criteria seem to change based on who is asserting the criteria and seem to have the effect of distancing us from our words in the report.

I am not a statistician. What I do know is that social science research is always an imperfect endeavor and that qualitative aspects of such research are pretty psychoanalytic in nature (subjectivity! human experience and perception! descriptions of enactment and defenses! reflection and efforts to make sense of patterns!). I am interested in listening to the words of my colleagues in the report and trying to learn something. Maybe we could start a dialogue about what we were surprised by, what we have learned, what made us feel something when we read the report?

I was struck by the ubiquity of racialized enactment (even amongst the commission) and the generosity with which the commission described their struggle with it. I found this encouraging and a profound statement about how we are all in this together. I was also taken aback, very troubled and felt guilt about how frequently micro aggressions (and macro aggressions) happened in public setting and how much (varied and multifactored) pressure exists to look away rather than engage or speak up and ask our communities (local and national) for reflection and engagement. It's made me reconsider my past actions and think differently about how I might engage in the future. These aspects (among many) in the report were very meaningful to me.



Jacqueline Rose · 'You made me do it'
lrb.co.uk

➤ Original Message

84. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

1

Recommend



Bobbie Davis

Posted 11-19-2023 15:34

Reply ▼

I have hesitated throughout, watching this discussion in my response. I think it's very troubling when we read responses that are claiming that there are no acts of racism or acts of discrimination. But as I read / listen, I hear comments that say "blind and stupid ". it is important that all of us think before we speak. That comment was a very offensive to me as I am "blind ". The whole point of any attempt to address adversity is to include. If we're going to argue one side that we are not discriminating then we need to think of the terminologies that we're using. As it is important that all of us think before we speak. That comment was a very offensive to me as I am "blind ". The whole point of any attempt to address adversity is to include. If we're going to argue on one side that we are not discriminating then we need to think of the terminology that we're using. Is it inferred that candidates can't be blind? Is it inferred that because I'm blind I'm automatically stupid? no I can take that out of context and take that personal which I did it first. However, it's important that in any of this type of language that we're using that we think, as we should as analysts about the words were using and how it might impact somebody. When we do this, it helps us to decrease enactment within our practice. This goes for both sides of the analyst and the

analysand. It's important for us to think before we speak, or in this case "type ". The language with that we use is painful when we don't think before we speak. Again I was highly offended by calling me stupid by saying that you're blind and stupid that comment is very offensive. Please think before you type that there might be other people out there that are not "" white "" sighted . I am OK I need no apology, but if we're going to attack both sides, we need to think about what we're saying, because in the process of attacking another side, you're attacking somebody else. I have a PhD I am in my fourth year of my analytic program. I've worked with all types of people with different types of disabilities and different variety of races with in the military population. Also working with children. It's important that we care about those that we are speaking to or speaking with. we must pay attention to the language used.

Bobbie Davis, Ph.D., LCSW, RPT-S, Psychoanalytic Candidate

Sent from my iPhone

› Original Message

85. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Emily Frank

Posted 11-22-2023 07:43

Reply



Bobbi,

Thank you for pointing out how hurtful it is to pair the words "blind" and "stupid." I think that ableism is so ingrained in our culture that those of us who are able-bodied often don't notice it. I will try to do better. I am glad you spoke up.

Sincerely,
Emily S. Frank

[➤ Original Message](#)

86. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

[Recommend](#)

Tamarind Knutson

Posted 11-22-2023 08:55

[Reply](#)

Dear Bobbie,

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. Language matters! Your email brought to mind this quote by Arundhati Roy. ***There's really no such thing as the "voiceless." There are only the deliberately silenced or the preferably unheard.*** We need to individually and collectively pay attention to our language, and note who we elevate and who we silence.

Warmly,
Tamarind

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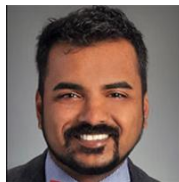
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[▶ Original Message](#)

87. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

[Recommend](#)



Himanshu Agrawal

Posted 11-22-2023 10:04

[Reply](#) ▼

Thank you, Dr. Davis, for adding food for thought to this banquet that some are appreciating, some are puzzled by and others are attacking (and I've done all three so far !)

Himanshu

[▶ Original Message](#)

88. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

[Recommend](#)



Maritza Rodriguez

Posted 11-22-2023 06:38

[Reply](#) ▼

Bobbie, I wanted to cheer for your fierce and indignant message to those who have been insulting and harming others with their careless use of words (like putting “blind and stupid” together) — thank you, we need to be mindful of the impact of our words

› Original Message

89. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Deana Schuplin

Posted 11-19-2023 16:42

Reply

Dr. Klein,

In agreement, at least in part with Henry Friedman, I find your response to be unserious for two reasons. First, while this may well be an enlightening endeavor, where do you see it happening? Is this research you are willing to take up? Is there a setting where you see it happening? What do you imagine it would cost? Do you think that our educational institutions would be willing/able to provide these documents? In the absence of real opportunity for such, what you propose is not connected with the reality of what APsA is dealing with. There is the realities we can work to find through our research and there is the reality that we live in. We must contend with both.

Secondly, you failed to consider any of my other questions apart from acknowledging that the Holmes Commission Report provided data that could be meaningful within the research you imagine. Are you trying to further our process together, or make a point without making it directly, so that your agenda is not exposed.

On these two bases, I cannot take your contributions seriously.

Sincerely,

Deana Schuplin, LMHC, IADC, FABP
1441 29th Street
Suite 209

West Des Moines, IA 50266
515-418-7735

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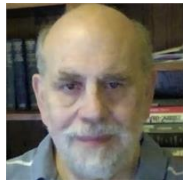
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➤ Original Message

90. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Robert M. Galatzer-Levy

Posted 11-19-2023 17:54

Reply ▼

Could those who want to engage in general discussions of these issues rather than learning what the candidates for office are thinking, please move their comments to the Member's List or Openline so that we can hear from the candidates and have an opportunity to vote in an informed way.

➤ Original Message

91. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Nancy Ann Lawroski

Posted 11-19-2023 22:07

Reply



This has been a rich and important discussion, also at times very painful to read. However, I think Dr. Galatzer-Levy's suggestion that the more general discussion of racism in the context of psychoanalysis be moved to the Members list, reserving the Elections List for candidates to express their views, is worth our considering. I would have thought the answer to the question originally posed by Dr. Rayner would have been a resounding yes, and that candidates for office would have gone one to express their ideas as to HOW to address issues of racism, rather than WHETHER it is an appropriate priority, let alone whether racism even exists within the context of psychoanalysis or APsaA. So I'm suggesting those of us who are not running for office move our discussion to the Members list. If I have misunderstood the intended distinction between the Members list and the Elections list, I am willing to be corrected.

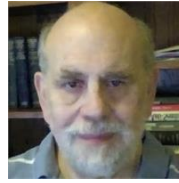
Nancy Ann Lawroski, Ph.D.
Licensed Psychologist
2904 Humboldt Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55408
612-767-1987

➤ Original Message

92. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Robert M. Galatzer-Levy

Posted 11-19-2023 23:01

Reply



Hi Nancy,

I apologize for not being clear. I would hope the Election List could be used to ask questions of candidates and respond to what candidates are saying as well as hearing from candidates. My thought is that discussions that don't involve candidates directly, e.g. back and fourths about the Holmes Commission Report itself or questions of racism generally would better be on the Member's list. I hope by doing this we can all have a clearer idea of who we want to vote for without having to plow through masses of discussion that, whatever their merit, have little to do with that decision.

Robert M. Galatzer-Levy, M.D.

Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral
Neuroscience, University of Chicago

Faculty, Training, Supervising and Child & Adolescent
Supervising Analyst, Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis

Telephone 312 922 5077; Fax 312-264-0400

Email galatzerlevy@rgalatzerlevy.com

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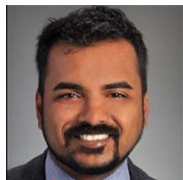
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▶ Original Message

93. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Himanshu Agrawal

Posted 11-20-2023 10:04

Reply ▼

As someone who has contributed to the thread, Thank you, dear colleagues, for the gentle and tactful reminder and redirection to move this important conversation on to the members listserv, to create space for the candidates for office to respond.



Himanshu Agrawal, MBBS, DF-APA

1155 N Mayfair Rd, 3rd floor (North Entry), Milwaukee, WI-53226

Telephone: (414) 955-8900 Fax: (414) 955-6285

For a list of my various roles and responsibilities [please click here.](#)

To learn about my failures, including my dismal step 2 score, please click this link: [Failure Share Series with Dr. Himanshu Agrawal by Well, Well, Well... \(anchor.fm\)](#)

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➤ Original Message

94. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Coral Harriman

Posted 11-21-2023 00:06

Reply ▼

Dr Klein,

Thank you for your valuable input regarding research methodology. It's a nice reminder of by- gone days when we were actually trying to discover something real and true instead of simply seeking to confirm pre-existing premises and assumptions. Thanks for the nostalgia!

Coral Harriman, PHD

➤ Original Message

95. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Coral Harriman

Posted 19 days ago

Reply

<https://merionwest.com/2024/01/17/what-happened-to-the-american-psychological-association/>

Coral Harriman, PhD
Veritas vincere tenebras

➤ Original Message

96. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

1

Recommend



Adele Tutter

Posted 11-19-2023 09:56

Reply

Like Karim, I have avoided joining in-I was about to say "joining the dialogue," but I hesitated, as there really has *not* been a "dialogue" per se about racism in Apsa on this listserve, as Mike Laglois so cogently observed. I am really quite despairing about the state of things: it seems that the same kind of (or, maybe, simply the same) entrenched polarities that underlie the violence in the Middle East are right here, right now, with us, no longer just under the surface, but unroofed, unadorned.

Inspired by Karim, Mike, C Martin Bullard, Elisa, and others that I don't mean to exclude-chalk it up to mental fatigue-I will respond to Dr Lucas' post from my perspective as a former basic scientist with a PhD in molecular genetics who is also well versed in clinical research methodology. Dr Lucas deplores the methodology employed by the Holmes Commission in their report as "subpar" and in need of "greater methods integrity." Thus he invalidates its claims and recommendations-without suggesting how its methodology could have been materially improved. I will go out on a limb and suggest that he cannot. His objection is sort of like saying I won't buy *any* vitamins unless I can find one that has 100% of every vitamin and mineral there is (regretfully, as my brother-in-law once stated).

I have read the Holmes Report. Any limitations the study might display appear to derive from its relatively small sample size and from the nature of the study itself: in other words, it simply is not possible to do a double-blind, placebo-controlled study with whatever "methods integrity" Dr Lucas may be imagining with the study subjects it concerns (i.e., us). Regardless of whether a particular ideological stance may motivate Dr Lucas' disparagement of the Holmes Report, his critique reflects the du jour lack of respect for the sort of evidence that formed the foundation of modern medicine: empirical observational studies. People were using aspirin for pain, successfully, long before its efficacy was determined to be statistically significant in placebo-controlled, double blinded studies.

And need I add that placebo-controlled studies are not necessarily as "controlled" as we imagine they are? Conversely, it is *always* possible to lie with statistics. It does not appear to me that Holmes Report is trying to lie with the albeit basic statistics that are available to it. Rather, it observes and summarizes disturbing, salient patterns and suggests ways to remedy them-ways that, at least to my thinking, are more likely to effectively address and prevent such crises as the recent exodus of BIPOC members and candidates than the alternative that others have proffered: namely, just insisting that Apsa isn't racist.

It is exhausting to hear people claim, over and over, that they want to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in Apsa, without being willing to face the inconvenient truths and do what's necessary. Indeed, I have come to believe that for those that hotly devalue "the social" in psychoanalysis (supposedly, in favor of the clinical, absurd as that is), "the social" is actually a euphemism for DEI issues.

And yes, Martha, BIPOC exclusion, and passively enabling it, **IS** racist.

Adele Tutter, MD PhD
Columbia and NYPSI

➤ Original Message

97. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Siamak Movahedi

Posted 11-20-2023 15:07

Reply

Perhaps we did not appreciate Dr. Lucas Klein's profound methodological analysis of Holmes' commission report, which includes the major issues of the philosophy of science from intentionality and observation to inference. His methodological analysis favoring multivariate analysis of variance and covariance, including some form of causal and path analysis as a substitute for double-blind experimental analysis of racism, is quite impressive. As a philosophy of science student and in my career teaching methodology and statistics, I have not encountered such a sophisticated analysis of race and racism. Perhaps we have examined his remarks only at the manifest level. I hear Dr. Klein as saying (my interference based on my observation of his remarks as empirical data) that we (including himself) are "doubly blind" to our hatred of "the not-me"others, and no amount of analysis by the "compromised" other in the compromised language and method, would lead to any "significant" result at any (Bionian) "alpha" level.

 Siamak Movahedi, Ph.D. LP
 Professor Emeritus of Sociology
 University of Massachusetts Boston

Professor of Psychoanalysis, & Director
 The Institute and Doctoral Program for the Study of Psychoanalysis, Society and Culture
 Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis

Newton, Massachusetts 02468

➤ Original Message

98. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Ralph E. Fishkin

Posted 11-20-2023 19:11

Reply



Hi, Siamak,

Since I am methodologically challenged, I could not tell whether you were speaking seriously or making humor at the idea of an actual statistical analysis of racism. I also couldn't understand whether your remark that Klein is saying that we are "doubly blind" to our hatred of "not me others," is any different from the usual double blind situation, unless what you mean is that he misses his own racism and/or that those recipients of racism are also blind to their own. But they would acknowledge that, so what is new in what you are saying?

And that is a typo where you refer to interference as opposed to inference, right?

Warm regards,

Ralph

=====

Ralph E. Fishkin, D.O.

=====

171 Gramercy Road
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
(610) 613-5291 (Office)
Email: rfishkindo@gmail.com

➤ Original Message

99. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Siamak Movahedi

Posted 11-20-2023 19:38

Reply ▼

Dear Ralph,
Beginning with Freud's interpretation of dreams, we should listen to analytic discourse in terms of metaphor and metonymy in context. Except for the last paragraph about our double blindness, my post is a sarcastic metaphorical interpretation of Dr. Lucas Klein's piece, which equally applies to many other posts on this listserv where unadulterated racism is rapped in the intellectualized language of psychoanalysis, "science," and "facts."

Siamak

Siamak Movahedi, Ph.D. LP, FIPA
Professor Emeritus of Sociology
University of Massachusetts Boston

Professor of Psychoanalysis, & Director
The Institute and Doctoral Program for the Study of Psychoanalysis, Society and Culture
Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis

Newton, Massachusetts 02468

▶ Original Message

100. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Henry J. Friedman

Posted 11-19-2023 10:59

Reply ▼

It is easy to establish something as a pressing "truth" that requires no proof simply because it is based partially on irrefutable fact or material, such as, the United States has a clear and terrible history of racism from slavery to Jim Crow to legalized segregation and making intermarriage between blacks and whites illegal in some Southern States. This is fact but add to this another assertion that is hypothetical: If you grow up in the United States you must have internalized at an unconscious level that very racism that our society has surrounded us with. We are all racists (as asserted repeatedly on these listservs often by white psychoanalysts who agree with the concept and can demonstrate some of what they believe is their participation in a so called enactment (also a theoretical construct, not a fact). Since we all have been trained in aspects of traditional Freudian theory it is again easy to accuse those who refuse to accept these assertions as resisting an uncomfortable insight about themselves.

When Karim adds his "facts" including that most if not all poc candidates have experienced racist micro-aggressions he raises the issue of proof. How does he know this is the case? Has he personally done a survey that establishes his assertion? Should the APsaA conduct a survey of all poc candidates and members to establish the degree of racism that they have experienced both during and after training? What would we learn if we surveyed candidates of color who have not completed their training as to the reasons that they quit training. If we did how uniform would the reasons be and how often would it be as the result of encountering racial micro-aggressions to the level of cumulative micro-trauma?

Whatever the reasons for creating the Holmes Commission it has done a formidable amount of work and drawn many conclusions but it should be remembered that it was created on the basis of an assumption that it was needed. So, it began with an assumption that racism in the APsaA was a problem worthy of investigating and committing funds and time to pursuing. I realize that raising questions as to why the HC was created as well as to the validity of its conclusions and recommendations will expose me, or any other psychoanalyst, who raises these doubts to accusations of either being racist or simply blind and maybe stupid. The list has already seen Karim's response to the challenge of its methodology by Lucas Klein. Klein like any well trained student of statistical studies raised serious questions as to the validity of the HC's findings. Those who responded to him in the negative in essence replied not with a counter position about the methodology that would challenge his own but with the assertion that whether or not the methodology is flawed the conclusion that the APsaA has been and continues to be racist is irrefutable. For many psychoanalysts it is impossible to refute that assertion because it has been built upon the kind of assumptions that I have enumerated earlier in this email; also, they are afraid of being seen as racist even if they have been fighting against it for most of their adult lives. We can add to this the difficulty with assertions about the unconscious. How can we know if we are unconsciously racist?

The response that you can only know if you open your hearts and minds to exploring your unconscious racism in small groups containing opposing positions on the presence of racism demonstrates a methodology that is loaded in the direction of acknowledging guilt. Guilt is a powerful affect that can appeal to our masochism.

Some are more vulnerable than others when it comes to refusing to accept responsibility for destructive acts that they have, in fact, not committed. If there is insistence that the APsaA has been a racist organization it may well carry sway over enough of our members to split our organization even more than the sunseting of BOPS managed to do. We now have an underlying split between institutes that have joined AAPE and those who have refused to do so. Is race and racism going to be a new line that we divide ourselves over? I certainly hope not,

Henry J. Friedman, M.D.

➤ Original Message

101. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

1

Recommend



Katrin Haller

Posted 11-19-2023 11:20

Reply ▼

Reading about questioning the validity and the calling out of "facts" related to the HCR, I find myself reminiscing about what I am currently reading about the "Gaullian Exorcism" (Rousso) at the time of the Algerian war and the resurfacing of the old divisions (Pompidou). It was a time when peoples' conscience was reawakening after the war, questions were raised, and when there was also a return to the repressed. For example, the film, "The Sorrow and the Pity" calls out: "Remember me!" In the film witnesses were placed on stage. What was left unsaid was the French tradition of state antisemitism at the time ignoring the concerns of the deportees and resistance fighters. History repeats itself.

I am glad that we are thinking about racism within APsA and about the return to the repressed.

Katrin Haller, MSW

[➤ Original Message](#)

102. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

[Recommend](#)

Arsalan Malik

Posted 11-20-2023 03:34

[Reply](#)

I think everyone can see what you mean, Karim.

I believe it is important to acknowledge that, despite the disclaimers put forward by some in this discussion, the fact is it took a VERY long time for non-white clinicians to pursue psychoanalytic training or even be encouraged to be curious about it. My singular black psychoanalyst consultant and mentor, during training, explained to me how, in the 50s and 60s, black people were considered "unanalyzable because they were brought up by mammies" which meant, he explained, that they did not have sufficient ego strength to undergo psychoanalysis. One cannot make this shit up! I wonder if Henry Friedman "lived through" anything like this. I wonder what kind of research methodology Lucas Klein would recommend to probe the veracity of this black psychoanalyst's statement. Surely, we cannot trust this comment without a p value assigned to it.

It took a VERY long time for psychoanalytic training to include the reading and writing discussing racism, and indeed misogyny, as integral to the training. It took a very long time for writing by non-white clinicians and theorists to emerge. It took a very long time for racism and the omission of issues about race to be acknowledged and interpreted in the canonical texts of psychoanalysis. It took a very long time for some non-white people to teach and be in positions of power and authority in psychoanalytic institutes. And the dearth of such people, to this very day, in these institutes speaks volumes about the institutional and structural practices that produce this outcome.

As Karim alluded to, we are all forced and formed to be certain kinds of people by the languages and the groups we grew up in and by the diffuse and insidious consortiums of power. But this does not mean that we must be the ventriloquist dummies of culture, as Foucault put it, because structure does not abolish agency and there is room within these regimes for people to innovate and improvise. So, the question then becomes, what, in any given regime, militates against the possibility of reform or

revolution? How come it has taken 150 years for conversations like this to even be on the agenda? Given that the most significant inventions of psychoanalysis were commensurate with the boom and bust of Western imperialism with its inherent racism, perhaps we, as an organization, are looking at a severe blind spot. It is as though the infinite suffering that is racism is unbearable or must be construed as unbearable by psychoanalysts themselves, or as something unbroachable that can't be faced up to.

Psychoanalysis, if it has taught us anything, is to pay attention to what we omit and the suffering we shy away from. I am glad that some are brave enough to shine a spotlight on it.

Arsalan Malik, MD

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➤ Original Message

103. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

1

Recommend



Umi Chong

Posted 11-20-2023 04:18

Reply



In addressing Dr. Lucas Klein's post questioning the validity of the Holmes Report, and to move away from the hypothetical nature of some of the earlier discourse about ombudsmen, I'd like to go back to the original question noted in the subject line: **Is addressing racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?**

(Though, I agree with Michael Langlois' point that to even frame the question in this manner is problematic.)

To this question, I'd like to change the unit of analysis to the '*local psychoanalytic institute*' (and *not* the APsA organization) because it is at our local institutes where racism and institutional racism is directly impacting BIPOC students and candidates to leave their fellowships and analytic training due to their experiences of ***racism and othering***; this is per the Holmes Report and based on my personal experience of deciding to leave my former APsA Institute due to racism and institutional racism.

I am going to refrain from using terms like 'racial enactment' and 'microaggression' because I think both terms, while conceptually theoretically important ideas, get us away from the felt experience and impact of racism on a *person*. To this, I want to quote David Carrasco, a Professor at Harvard Divinity School, but more impressively, in my mind, a friend of the late Toni Morrison. Carrasco, in sharing what he learned from Morrison, makes the point that, "*Morrison showed how white supremacy can permeate every facet of reality.*" ... "*We in academia sometimes settle with the idea that racism is a social construction that can be deconstructed. ... [But] we who suffer racism undergo it as a total aggression.*"

The Holmes Report speaks poignantly, honestly, and systematically to show how racism is not a social construction that can be deconstructed, but a felt, inescapable reality to BIPOC at our local institutes, which are predominately white spaces, and where white supremacy does permeate every facet of its workings and reality.

In my experience, I was the one aggressed upon and made to be the scapegoat or problem at my former local APsA institute. For me, racism operating in our local institute is not about openly using racial slurs or putting up signs like "BIPOC not allowed or BIPOC not allowed to progress." It's more what is done to BIPOC and how we, our skin, is used as a projective surface and functional container for malignant whiteness. (I believe our skin is the boundary between the social and intrapsychic, they are two sides of the same coin; they are ***interimplicated***. Our skin is the most

outer layer of our intrapsychic world, and our skin is a social organ that gives us social standing, belonging, and identity in our outside world; there is NO divide here as some would like to purport.)

In my experience at my former institute, racism is when you are the only candidate of color in your cohort, and you are aggressed upon and berated by a senior faculty member (who has had numerous complaints made against them), but nothing was done by your all white cohort to stop him-whether out of fear or out of sadistic pleasure. Racism is when those in leadership & power first decide to cancel the faculty's class, but then decide to continue with the class due to their close personal relationships with the faculty member, and mind you without any safety measures put in place after two people reported to leadership-a massive liability; so the faculty member is given, yet, another pass.

Or racism is when two white candidates aggress on you and scapegoat you, with one even openly sharing in the presence of the white male Institute Director and white female leadership member, that they put a post-it note over your face on Zoom because they cannot stand to see your face. The other white candidate aggresses by yelling at me when I talk about my experience of otherness in a class where we were to discuss a reading on *Otherness*. There are more incidents to recount here, but nowhere-NOWHERE-did leadership say to these white candidates-*Cut it out, this type of behavior is not acceptable at our institute, and unbecoming of 4th yr candidates*. The Institute Director, himself, characterized these behaviors to other members of leadership as "*vitriolic hate*."

Racism is also when your advisor lets you know that you are being "oppositional to the institute" because you are voicing that something disturbing and racial is going on at my cost. Not in keeping with Model Minority behavior, you then ask your advisor to get a consult with leadership and the diversity consultant, who finally has been brought in, and then your advisor quits in a one line, formal sentence email to you. This is the perverse cost that BIPOC students and candidates endure.

And it is institutional racism and protection of whiteness when you have to press, and press, and press for **accountability** that these people be held to some sort of account for their behavior. Mind you, it is accountability, not punishment, I am asking for- that those who aggressed and engage in destructive aggression be held accountable in some way for their actions so that I feel there is some sense of justice. But you are told you cannot even know if accountability will happen because it is "confidential" and "part of their progression information." This is in stark contrast to how my information was handled-- not being kept confidential, and shared without my consent to the faculty member of my reporting them to leadership. And then leadership being told it was all a misunderstanding, that's not the person they know, and that I should meet with the faculty member to work it out, not paying any attention to the power differential or aspects of my emotional safety.

A total felt aggression is what racism felt like for me at my former local APsA institute. A total, felt destructive aggression, in its initial act by the faculty member berating me, and the two white candidates aggressing on me. But then there is another felt type of insidious aggression that comes from the response of the local institutional leadership when you bring the incident to light. This aggression is via the local institute's reactive reaction, which is steeped in defensive ignorance, which is so shocking given the

power and position that these leaders are in. To experience their defensive ignorance is isolating, when you are asked over and over again-what is racial about what happened? To have to answer that there is Anti-Asian Hate happening in our world, and Asians have been historically scapegoated, we are deemed forever foreigners perpetually having to arrive in the US, are easily objectified, are deemed compliant against hostility in keeping with the Model Minority Myth - to keep voicing this, and to have to defend my experience makes you question if what happened really happened. And if the anger and hurt you feel is appropriate. The local institutional response, like the response of some on the APsA listserv, made me feel erased and voiceless, as if you are talking to an impermeable object.

In the end, the faculty member was held accountable via suspension for one year. The two white candidates were not because they were infantilized in white leadership's minds, as if they didn't come to analytic training licensed and boarded to practice clinically. And later, I believe, were elevated to teach, as if to send the message-don't worry whiteness, when you engage in destructive aggression and vitriolic hate against BIPOC, you will not be held accountable because whiteness is untouchable here at our local institute. You and your information will be protected, and we will advance you. To this, I'll share a quote I wrote down from a panel's chat thread in 2021 written by psychoanalyst and sociologist Nancy Chodorow: *"I think we want to be careful about talking about "our primitive side," as if what goes on in our institutes is not being engaged and enacted by "civilized" peoples."*

And more recently, racism out of ignorance is when you are approached by your former institute director to come on as faculty at your former institute, thinking time has passed, all must be okay, and so can be brought back with a faculty position. And when I asked them that I need to understand how you and other leadership understand what happened to me before I can even consider coming on as faculty, they can only reply-*We learned we are not welcoming to POC.* I let them know I need to hear more than that because it rings so hollow, and does not reflect that much internal work has been done. I'm sure many BIPOC, including the Program Committee Members who resigned last Spring, would also agree they need to hear more than that from APsA-because BIPOC can feel that they are not welcomed at our institutes, and to bring it to light runs high emotional risk, as well as runs the risk of racialized acting out by whiteness off the surface of BIPOC's skin.

More and more, it is becoming a pressing question of whether to stay and engage, especially when you are viewed as the "issue" (not malignant whiteness), and there is organizational resistance, kept in place by close relationships that keep and promote problematic people in local institutes. BIPOC need meaningful action to stay -- locally and at the national APsA level.

Toni Morrison was not wrong- *"white supremacy can permeate every facet of reality,"* and that includes at local psychoanalytic institutes. Whiteness goes untouched, not held accountable (mind you, in my situation, this is even after the Institute Director and another in leadership described what they witnessed happening to me as, "vitriolic hate" where the lone Asian female candidate in a group of all white candidates was being scapegoated by some and used a projective surface for the unwanted parts of malignant whiteness.)

Ignorance, willful ignorance, hate, malignant hate and envy- played off the surface of my skin, and plays off the surface of BIPOC's skin, and it is exhausting, destructive, and hurtful. This is the racism and institutional racism that is making our local institutes sick, our field sick, and making BIPOC students and candidate leave or not even consider entering our field.

The Holmes Report speaks elegantly, honestly, and systematically to examples and examples of this, compiled from the painstaking experience of the perverse cost that BIPOC students and candidates have had to go through, and then risked again in opening ourselves up to recount these painful, dehumanizing events.

Dr. Klein-I am very much interested in using "empiricism at the organizational level" and at the individual level. That is why I became a psychoanalyst. The Oxford and other dictionaries define empiricism: as learning that comes from only experience and observations; that true knowledge or justification comes only or primarily from sensory experience. To that end, I want to marry that definition to Bion's Theory of Thinking so noted in Edna O'Shaughnessy's "A Commorative Essay on W.R. Bion's Theory of Thinking," where she notes: *"This first form of thinking strives to know psychic qualities, and is the outcome of early emotional events ... which are decisive for the establishment - or not - of the capacity to think Bion's theory, which carries the interesting implication that knowledge of the psychological precedes knowledge of the physical world, represents a new understanding of thinking as one of the fundamental links between human beings, a link which is fundamental also for the forming and functioning of a normal mind."*

The Holmes Report's data is steep in such psychologically empirical knowledge and data. And, I would add, the idea that the '*psychological precedes knowledge of the physical world*,' is the cornerstone, the raison d'être for the existence of our field, and why you, and the rest of us, have a job.

In the absence of an ombudsman, or, any formal, neutral, safe process for reporting racial and aggressive incidents at my former institute, I had to document every incident myself that played out at all levels of my former institute. I'm not sure the leadership kept any formal documentation, as everything seemed to be on the fly and so reactive. So that may be another issue to look at Dr. Klein, is how many local institutes are actually formally documenting, in all its accuracy, entirety, and not white-washing or minimizing incidents such as mine, and the many others noted in the Holmes Report? And if they are not documenting, why aren't they documenting such incidents? Maybe out of sight, out of mind? To keep it disavowed? The Holmes Commission endeavored to collect the empirical data that local institutes are resistant to do.

And, when you ask in your post Dr. Klein, if anyone is "receptive to what I have to say, but on the chance that there are still those inclined toward the use of empiricism at the organizational level," it seemed to my analytic ears, the purpose of your post was really inclined toward the use of **imperialism** at the organizational level-that is: applying the faux standard of whiteness' rigor, so as to discredit and maintain whiteness' power and influence by flexing statistical terms & calculations to poke holes at an empirical data set, as defined by the Oxford dictionary and Bion, all compiled and analyzed by the Holmes Commission.

My sharing what happened to me at my former institute is to show how **valid** the Holmes Report is. And, I'll also add my post comes from a place of sheer desperation to be heard and seen by institutional whiteness; and not be erased or white-washed away by some flexing of statistics or extreme, paranoid thinking about having an ombudsman. I am at a loss about my belonging in APsA when even the validity of the Holmes Report is up for question. Because not only are you, Dr. Klein and others who hold his mindset, tearing away at the Holmes Report, but you are also tearing away at the moral fiber of our community.

To that, can we think about the moral injury being done here to ALL of us, to our local and national analytic communities when racism and institutional racism is not handled responsibly and justly. We are injuring our capacity to trust each other. Judith Butler notes that a close reading of Melanie Klein has implications for social ontology. She succinctly notes, "When my life is bound up with this life I want to murder, I also imperil my life."

Given what happened to me at my former APsA Institute, where two successive Institute Directors characterized what happened to me as "vitriolic hate," and the other wrote in a report to membership that the institute did not address "destructive aggression," and, still with that understanding, all those involved were not held accountable, or that I could not *even* know if there would be accountability measures, why would I or any BIPOC stay at such an institute when the social ontology of what Butler points out is not factored in, or, only tipped toward whiteness' favor? Suffering and witnessing this is what is driving BIPOC students and candidates away from local institutes, APsA, and our field.

To Dan Prezant, Jeffrey Taxman, and Candidates: Tim Raynor, Bonnie Buchele, M Sagman Kayatekin, we are desperately in need of leadership now. Instead of just watching on the sidelines, as we race to the bottom, we need leadership to uphold a moral compass of what is acceptable debate and discourse, and what crosses the line of decency. I would think the validity and significance of what the Holmes Report finally gave voice to is not up for debate.

Respectfully,

Umi

~~~~~

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Umi Chong  
Psy.D.  
Contemporary Freudian Society (IPA)  
Washington DC  
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► Original Message

### 104. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Mehmet Kayatekin

Posted 11-20-2023 08:57

Reply



Thank you Umi

This is a powerful, sophisticated, informative articulation of what sounds like a horrifying and lonely experience. It was very helpful for me - on multiple levels.

One note that I want to add is that 'deconstructing what has been constructed' in my opinion is not possible. It is similar to an era when I was still young, when we/they used to think 'well it is psychological, so it can be changed'.

Constructed, co-constructed fantasies, images, stereotypes become a part of our neural network, to use the term loosely. Like maternal language

With respect  
*Sagman*

*M Sagman Kayatekin MD  
Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry  
Menninger Department of Psychiatry and  
Behavioral Sciences  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Houston, Texas USA*

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[▶ Original Message](#)

### 105. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0  
[Recommend](#)



Lynne Zeavin

Posted 11-20-2023 09:29

[Reply](#) ▼

I am emerging from my listserv silence because Umi Chong has given such clear voice to a terrible and unconscionable experience and it should shake us out of our certainties about racist presences in analytic institutes and in the endeavor of psychoanalysis itself. I find myself so bewildered by these certainties, and can see their links with the generally white, or mostly white constitution of the institutes many of us are part of-and this is how psychoanalysis gets reproduced as white-because of our certain stance that we do not need to confront deeply seated and embedded racial prejudices. When we had a town hall at our institute after the murder of George



Floyd, the first question posed was how can we get more candidates of color. I said that I thought we wouldn't until we could confront our own prejudices and histories of exclusion-personally and as an institute, I said I thought we had to have discussions about Race. I was told by a senior analyst that" this is not about race". I thank Tim Raynor, and I do think he is right-How can we not be interested in examining our unexamined --and here patently denied-- history of exclusion and prejudice particularly when it speaks to us so honestly and asks that we respond. Thank you Umi for posting such a painful and personal account. I feel apologetic on behalf of our profession.

Lynne



➤ Original Message

### 106. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Stanley J. Coen

Posted 11-20-2023 09:41

Reply ▼

I feel pained that Umi needed to explain to so many older white male colleagues that their attacks on the Holmes Commission Report continued what led so many of our BIPOC colleagues to resign from the Program Comm. and from APsaA and what led Umi to change psychoanalytic training institutes. Please don't drive away more BIPOC colleagues from APsaA and our Program Comm. Instead, go see the Henry Taylor show at the Whitney in NYC! Perhaps it will move you enough to stop attacking our BIPOC colleagues. We need them with us!

Stan

Sent from my iPad mini

[› Original Message](#)

## 107. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

1

[Recommend](#)

Tamarind Knutson

Posted 11-19-2023 10:41

[Reply](#)

The idea that qualitative research is subpar went out of favor decades ago. If people need a primer on research methodology one can easily find it by searching the internet. It is unfair to ask members of the Holmes Commission or the listserv to do the heavy lifting. Everyone here has the capacity to think critically and understand research methodology. The problem here is not research methodology. This discussion is one more way in which to distract from the study. Every time the Holmes Commission report comes into conversation the smoke and mirrors come out.

***Tamarind P. Knutson, PsyD***

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➤ Original Message

### 108. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Michael Langlois

Posted 11-19-2023 15:13

Reply ▼

Hi Henry, please call me Mike.

I decline your invitation to enlighten you or others about the HRC findings, in fact the pith of my post is that to engage on that level Dr. Klein and others suggest is to undermine my assertion that these issues are axiomatic.

I will point out possible process here for the group: Henry invites me to return to the status quo and I resist. In resisting a split may occur, where all the "rational," "intellectual," "civilized," and/or "good" are pulled away from me and inhabit Dr. Klein's, "penetrating critique," which could also be seen as intellectualizing defense, sublimated hate, unconscious attack, etc.

To remain true to my point I risk higher valence for the "bad" side of the split, and be perceived as aggressive, resistant, uncivilized, unintelligent. And yet I must, but perhaps people can read these and see the dynamic, which can have value.

-----  
Michael Langlois  
M.S.W.  
Nantucket MA  
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➤ Original Message

### 109. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Henry M. Bachrach

Posted 11-19-2023 16:22

Reply

Mike,

I understand what you are saying. These are matters so clear to you, so axiomatic, they are not subject to further discussion or modification by any means.

For the record, I found Dr. Klein's reply to requests for elaboration off the mark and irrelevant to the Holmes Commission study. What appeared first as the beginnings of a serious critique dissolved in his further elaboration. Problems there may be, but Dr. Klein didn't provide the clarity I thought might be forthcoming. Dr. Tutter got it just about right.

Best,  
Henry.

➤ Original Message

### 110. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

1

Recommend



April Crofut

Posted 11-19-2023 14:26

Reply ▼

I want to belatedly join in thanking Tim Rayner for making such a compassionate, specific, and unequivocal statement. I agree this work is essential to the continued survival - let alone growth - of APsA and of psychoanalysis in the 21st century. We can't afford to lose momentum.

April Crofut

-----  
April Crofut, MD  
Candidate, Seattle Psychoanalytic Society and Institute  
-----

► Original Message

### 111. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0 Recommend



Nancy Ann Lawroski

Posted 11-21-2023 17:23

Reply ▼

I believe all three candidates for President have responded on this thread, although Mehmet Kayatetkin's response was to say he would address a different, albeit related, question as to how he would maintain communication with the membership in a separate thread. I think all the candidates have addressed the question in some way, either in their personal statements or in other threads. Many others (non-candidates) have also expressed opinions on this thread. Several members have started separate threads posing other questions for the candidates, but have not yet received responses from the candidates. Specifically, Emily Frank, Tamarind Knutson, and Robert Galatzer-Levy have posed questions that have not yet received responses from all the candidates (in some cases, any of the candidates). I hope these questions will be addressed by the candidates at some point. I suggest those of us who have additional questions for candidates might start new threads with their questions. I hope the candidates will respond to those, as well. We haven't heard anything from candidates running for other offices.

-----  
Nancy Ann Lawroski, Ph.D.

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➤ Original Message

## 112. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?

0

Recommend



Mehmet Kayatekin

Posted 11-21-2023 18:26

Reply



Thank you Dr Lawroski

I appreciate your attention to the discussions. That is a major accomplishment as Galatzer-Levy suggested and increases my hope about APsA

I will be posting on Knutson later today

Frank and Galatzer - Levy is on my list. It takes me quite a bit of preparation and work to prepare a concise text.

I am thankful to your and others' patience with the process.

Regards

*Sagman*

*M Sagman Kayatekin MD  
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Behavioral Sciences*

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*Visiting Professor of Psychiatry  
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Huazhong University of Science and Technology  
Hubei, People's Republic of China*

➤ Original Message

**113. RE: Is addressing Racism an appropriate priority for a psychoanalytic organization?**

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Recommend



Nancy Ann Lawroski

Posted 11-21-2023 23:48

Reply ▼

Thank you, Dr. Kayatekin. I certainly didn't mean to imply that you or any of the other candidates was being neglectful. I appreciate that it takes time to compose thoughtful responses to complex questions. Taking the time to be thoughtful and reflective is certainly one thing I would look for in a candidate for any office, within APsaA or any other public office. I appreciate your and the other candidates' willingness to expend so much time and effort in running for office--let alone fulfilling the duties of office, especially in this very challenging time for our organization.

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Nancy Ann Lawroski, Ph.D.  
Licensed Psychologist  
2904 Humboldt Ave. S.

Minneapolis, MN 55408

612-767-1987

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