



Hanns Sachs Library Newsletter Fall 2020

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*So we wait, breeding
mood, making music
of decline. We sit down
in the smell of the past
and rise in a light
that is already leaving.*

~ From "November for Beginners" by Rita Dove

These are hard times. Yet, despite them, we have much to be thankful for: that most of us are still here, that we can still enjoy one another, even if it has to be at a physical distance; that we can listen to music; that libraries, including our own, keep bringing us books, that scholars still do research, that books are still written and reviewed (see below). In this issue, the past arrives via a history of the Goldwater Rule, in the article by Olga Umansky on Sabina Spielrien and in Shari Thurer's new visit to an old novel. We can celebrate, too, that BPSi continues to thrive through many Zoom meetings and conferences that help assure us that psychoanalysis is still alive and preparing for an expanded post COVID-19 future. Dove's poem ends on a positive note "Sail, wind/ with your cargo of zithers." So bring the holidays on! We can give thanks for all we still have.

~ Dan Jacobs, MD, Director of the Library

Journal Subscriptions

The 2021 journal subscription season is underway. The deadline for BPSI members to subscribe to [IJP](#) and [JAPA](#) group plans is **November 30, 2020**. Our members and partners can also take advantage of special discounted rates on nine psychoanalytic journals published by Taylor and Francis and a special rate for American Imago. The library is currently looking for donors of the print issues of the following journals: [Psychoanalytic Dialogues](#), [Studies in Gender and Sexuality](#) and [Psychoanalysis, Self and Context](#). Please contact library@bpsi.org, if you can help or have any questions about journal group plans and member discounted rates.



Free Online Resources

At this time of distanced learning caused by the global pandemic, many publishers make select contents available for free. We would like to call your attention to free access to the following journal issues:

- [American Imago, 76\(1\), Spring 2019](#). The issue containing articles on Werner Boleber, Jacques Lacan, D.W. Winnicott, Michel Foucault, Freud's relations with Romain Rolland, reviews of Diane O'Donoghue's book and Quentin Tarantino's film.
- [The International Journal of Psychiatry in Medicine, 55\(3\), May 2020](#). Special Issue: A Narrative History of the American Balint Society 1990–2020: As Recalled by Founding Members.
- [Psychoanalysis and History, 21\(1\), April 2019](#). Special Issue: The Hungarian Voice in Psychoanalysis: New Historiography of the Budapest School.

Library at a Distance

Our BPSI building is still closed to the public, but we continue shipping books to members and partners. We have purchased new books by BPSI members as well as new titles on child analysis, gender, trauma, and psychoanalytic training. [Click here](#) to see the library catalog list of 2020 acquisitions. If you no longer need a library book, please kindly mail it back using your mailed book package that includes a stamped/addressed envelope for the return. If you have old book loans, please consider mailing them back to the library at your expense or request a return envelope from the library. The flat library rate for all domestic packages under 1lb is \$2.66 or 5 forever stamps (add extra \$0.50 or one more

stamp for each additional pound). Recent publications by BPSI Authors are featured on the [Recent Work](#) blog and publicized on BPSI's [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) pages. If you have a publication in press, please share the information with our library!

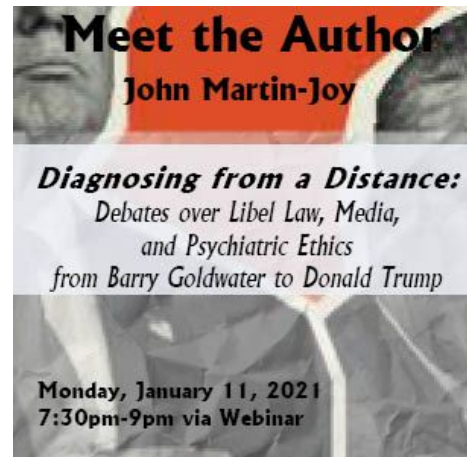
New Voice of Experience Video

Ramon Greenberg, MD, a BPSI Psychoanalyst Member, talked to Howard Katz, MD, about his work on dreams and other contributions to psychoanalysis in an interview recorded on the BPSI patio on Oct 9, 2020. This and other recent video interviews are [posted here](#).



Meet the Author

John Martin-Joy, MD, a BPSI Candidate Member, will discuss his new book *Diagnosing from a Distance: Debates over Libel Law, Media, and Psychiatric Ethics from Barry Goldwater to Donald Trump* (Cambridge University Press, 2020) **via a Webinar on Mon, Jan 11, 2021, at 7:30pm EST**. The discussion will be co-moderated Library Committee Members, Jim Barron, PhD, and Shari Thurer, ScD. The online audience will have a chance to ask questions via a Q&A chat or “on camera”.



Please [REGISTER](#) to attend - our license limits the total number of participants! At registration, you can also obtain an autographed copy of the book while our supply lasts. To order a book, select "Register and Purchase a Signed Book - \$25" Option from the drop-down menu, proceed to the payment and specify your shipping address. The book will be shipped to you prior to the event, the shipping cost is included in the price.

About the Book:

Ever since the rise of Adolf Hitler, mental health professionals have sought to use their knowledge of human psychology to understand – and intervene in – political developments. From Barry Goldwater to Donald Trump, psychiatrists have commented, sometimes brashly, on public figures’ mental health. But is the practice ethical? While the American Psychiatric Association prohibits psychiatric comment on public figures under its ‘Goldwater Rule’, others disagree. *Diagnosing from a Distance* is the first in-depth exploration of this controversy.

Making extensive use of archival sources and original interviews, John Martin-Joy reconstructs the historical debates between psychiatrists, journalists, and politicians in an era when libel law and professional standards have undergone dramatic change. Charting the Goldwater Rule's crucial role in the current furor over Trump's fitness for office, Martin-Joy assesses the Rule's impact and offers a more liberal alternative. This remarkable book will change the way we think about psychiatric ethics and public life.

About the Author:

John Martin-Joy, MD, is a psychiatrist in Cambridge, MA and a fourth-year Candidate Member at BPSI. He is the author of many articles on the history and ethics of the Goldwater Rule and co-editor of *Conversations with Donald Hall* (in press). His recent [Psychology Today](#) blog explored the history and ethics of psychiatric comment on public figures. Dr. Martin-Joy is scheduled to present a paper on Erik Erikson and the 1960s at the 2021 APsaA meetings.

Recordings of Recent Book Events:

[Click here](#) to watch the recording of the **Meet the Author Webinar with Steven Luria Ablon, MD**, reading poetry from his new book *Dinner in the Garden*. Recorded on **Oct 6, 2020**.

[Click here](#) to watch the recording of the **Meet the Author Webinar with Joan Wheelis, MD**, presenting her memoir *The Known, the Secret, the Forgotten*. Recorded on **Jun 2, 2020**.

SAVE THE DATE:

- **Nancy Chodorow, PhD**, will discuss [*The Psychoanalytic Ear and the Sociological Eye: Toward an American Independent Tradition*](#) (Routledge, 2019) on **Tue, May 4, 2021**. The book brings together and moves beyond two traditions within American psychoanalysis, naming for the first time an American independent tradition, which Chodorow locates originally in the writings of Erik Erikson and Hans Loewald, and outward toward what Chodorow sees as a missing but necessary connection between psychoanalysis, the social sciences, and the social world.
- **Judy L. Kantrowitz, PhD**, will present her new book [*The Role of the Patient-Analyst Match in the Process and Outcome of Psychoanalysis*](#) (Routledge, 2020), on **Mon, Sep 27, 2021**. The match between patient and analyst places attention on the dynamic effect of interactions of character and conflict of both participants on the process that evolves between them—a spectrum of compatibility and incompatibility that is relevant to the analytic work. The introduction places

the patient-analyst match in a historical context, emphasizing the current loss of focus on the character and conflicts of the individuals.

All books are available in the library and can be borrowed by members and partners

In the Archives

"I, too, was once a human being. My name was Sabina Spielrein."

Klara Naszkowska, PhD, a Fulbright and Visiting Scholar at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University contacted our archives this fall. She requested access to interviews of Maria Piers, Marianne Kris, Else Pappenheim, Helen Tartakoff, and Janny Waelder-Hall. Dr. Naszkowska is working on a book on Jewish women émigré psychoanalysts to the United States and the great wave of European intellectual immigration of the 1930s. She is teaching a virtual [NPAP](#) seminar on this subject in the spring and organizing the "[Sabina Spielrein and the Early Female Pioneers of Psychoanalysis](#)" conference in Warsaw, Poland, in April 2021, as a chair of the International Association for Spielrein Studies. The Association holds an impressive collection of [resources](#), [papers](#), and [photographs](#) depicting tragic life and work of Sabina Spielrein (1885-1942), a Russian-Jewish psychoanalyst and pediatrician with at least [thirty publications](#) in German, French and Russian.

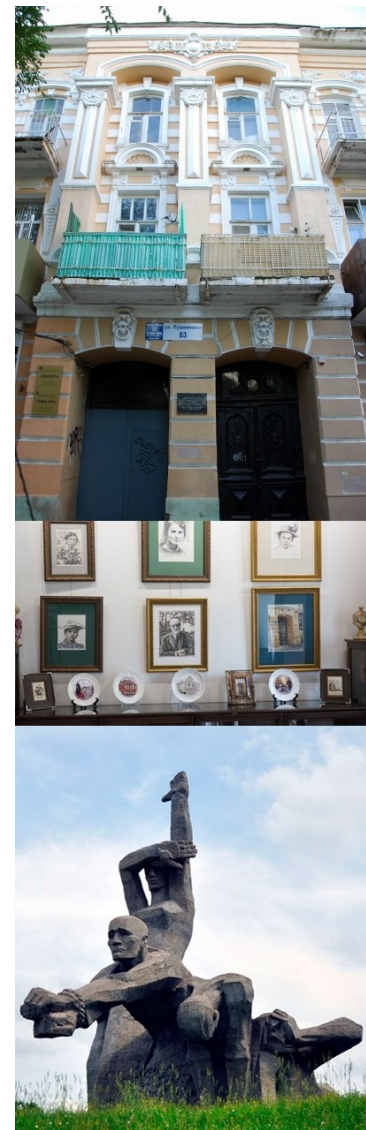


One of BPSI's last live gatherings before the Covid-19 pandemic, was a dramatic reading of "What Does Woman Want", a play written by Susan Quinn and Sarah Berry-Tschinkel. The reading celebrated four women in Freud's intimate circle: Sabina Spielrein, Anna Freud, Lou Andreas-Salome, and Marie Bonaparte. Based largely on correspondence and diaries, the performance included Sabina's interchanges with Freud and a gut-wrenching story of her murder by an SS death squad in the Zmievskaia Balka ("Snake Ravine") near Rostov-on-Don.

Mostly remembered for her role in the Freud and Jung love triangle, Sabina Spielrein is often overlooked as a forebear of child analysis. Even though her *Contributions to Understanding a Child's Mind* paper was published as early as 1913, the significance of her scientific work was minimized for decades. She influenced Freud's theory of the interplay between sex and death drives formulated in *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*. She shaped Jean Piaget's views on childhood language development in the early 1920s, and contributed to the formation of the views of Lev Vygotsky and Alexander Luria, two Soviet psychologists she had met in the notorious Moscow Psychoanalytic Orphanage-Laboratory "Detski Dom". In 1923, Sabina was appointed to train teachers in this strange boarding school intended for 25 true orphans, aged 2-7, mixed with 25

children of the Soviet elite, including a young son of Joseph Stalin. The school was shut down in 1924, but this short appointment may have saved Sabina's life during Stalin's Great Purge. Her family struggled, (her three brothers were executed in 1938), yet she miraculously survived the 1930s in her native Rostov-on-Don. She raised two daughters and worked as a pediatrician at the local walk-in clinic until the German invasion. Very little is known about the last period of her life. The loss of contact with her European colleagues, followed by her tragic death, resulted in her work descending into obscurity until the late 1970s when her archives started resurfacing in Geneva. Sabina Spielrein's legacy has undergone a fuller assessment in the last 20 years thanks to recent publications about her by Adrienne Harris, Cooper-White, Michael Plastow, Sabine Richebaecher, John Launer, Klara Naszkowska, and to the work of the International Association for Spielrein Studies.

Five years ago, a plaque with her name was placed on Sabina's family house in Rostov-on-Don. One of the apartments held a memorial exhibit featuring Sabina's portraits painted by a local contemporary artist. The tenement house at 83 Pushkinskaia street (shown on the picture here) was built by Sabina's parents in 1897. In addition to the Spielrein family apartments, it quartered her mother's dental clinic. Other notable tenants included the Belgian consulate and the Turkish consul. The building was nationalized and turned into communal apartments after the Russian revolution of 1917, but the Spielreins were able to keep a small room under the front stairs. To commemorate her 135th birthday on November 10th of this year, the apartment of her childhood was planning to officially open as the Sabina Spielrein Memorial Museum (Rostov archivists recently found her birth certificate and established her corrected birthday date). The museum staff managed to find odd pieces of Spielrein's dinnerware scattered among the neighbors. There are plans for guided school visits and "a psychological lab" in Sabina's memory. Her world acclaim inspires local historians to continue researching the Holocaust in Rostov-on-Don. What is considered to have been the largest extermination of Jews on the territory of Russia, is, sadly, the worst documented one. The exact date of Sabina's murder is not known, but the first massacres in Zmievskaia Balka began in August 11-14, 1942. The site of Sabina's death has become a scene of a recent controversy. In 2004, a plaque referring to "more than 27,000 Jews murdered by the Nazis" was added to a typical Soviet-era monument that had not mentioned the killing of Jews (shown on the picture here). A few years later, however, the local government



reverted to a more generic plaque, acknowledging the murder of “peaceful citizens of Rostov-on-Don and Soviet prisoners-of-war”. In 2014, a compromise plaque, commemorating “27,000 civilians of many nationalities” and also mentioning “a mass extermination of Jews”, was installed. The world-wide effort to gather names and stories about those who died alongside Sabina Spielrein and her young daughters is still ongoing.

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[Rostov Jewish Community Calls For Survivors, Children to Remember Zmievskaia Balka](#). (2020, November 18). *Chabad Lubavitch*.

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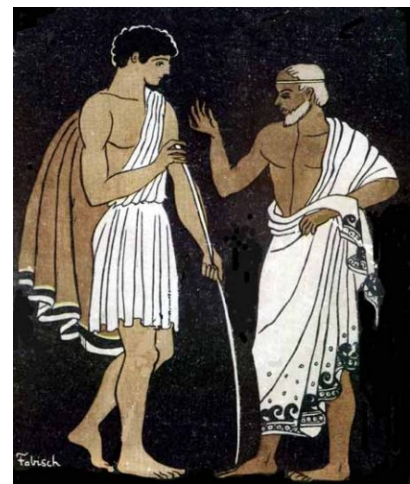
What Are We Reading?

Blos, P. (1985). *Son and Father: Before and Beyond the Oedipus Complex*.

Mendelsohn, D. (1999). *The Elusive Embrace: Desire and the Riddle of Identity*; and (2017). *An Odyssey: A Father, A Son, and an Epic*.

Torrente, M.G. (2010). *Father and Son: A Lifetime*

Reviewed by Dan Jacobs, MD



In Daniel Mendelsohn’s beautiful memoir *An Odyssey: A Father, A Son, and an Epic* (2017), he writes of Elpenor’s urgent request of Odysseus:

*Don't go off and leave me behind, abandoned and
unburied and unmourned.*

Elpenor is a young sailor who has died under Odysseus's command. Paradoxically, his cry might also be Mendelsohn's: that of a son who will be left behind by a father - a father with whom there is a good deal of unfinished business. It is the repeated plea in the books I have been reading: sons asking that their individuality be recognized and a blessing bestowed by their fathers who, in so doing, can help them lay old torments to rest. The fulfillment of that request is often hard to come by, as these books illustrate.

Peter Blos fully acknowledges the difficulties of the Oedipal stage of development. However, his classic contribution, *Father and Son* focuses on the importance of the early dyadic pre-Oedipal relationship of father and son. He makes clear the psychological disasters that arise if the father is not responsive to the child's needs during this period. A strong early positive connection between the two helps the little boy resist the regressive pull of mother and aids in separation and individuation from her. He illustrates his point, now well accepted, with clinical illustrations as well as literary analyses. He describes in detail Kafka's struggles to find the pre-Oedipal father he needed, using the latter's torturous *Letter to My Father* as evidence. Blos then turns his attention to Hamlet. While Hamlet's reluctance to kill Claudius has often been attributed to his Oedipal conflicts, Blos argues that Hamlet's procrastination reflects his need to keep Claudius alive. While Claudius lives, the young prince is protected from being overwhelmed by his incestuous attachment to his seductive mother. Only when Gertrude is dying, Blos points out, is Hamlet free to slay his stepfather. For both Kafka and Hamlet the tragedy begins with the father who leaves his son's need for him unrecognized. Blos's writing is elegant and clear, his arguments persuasive, his devotion to understanding early child development evident in every line.

The failure of recognition of the son's need for an idealized and protective father haunts the pages of an earlier Mendelsohn work, *The Elusive Embrace* (1999). In it, he describes a life split between living in Chelsea as a gay single man and being a part-time foster father in upstate New York. Mendelsohn acknowledges his wish to be an object of a man's desire and repeatedly acts upon it. Once that wish is momentarily achieved, he moves on - breaking the connection and avoiding lasting engagement. Fatherhood seems a somewhat elusive task for him, as it was for his own father.

In *An Odyssey*, the 2017 memoir, Mendelsohn draws on his experience as a classical scholar to explore further his relationship with his own father. Here, he tells of his 80 year old father's offer to sit in on his son's freshman class, devoted to studying *The Odyssey*. Daniel apprehensively assents, hoping that his father will appreciate him as a scholar and teacher. In class, the old man finds little to admire about Odysseus, repeatedly emphasizing his failings and disagreeing with

his son's interpretations. The differences of father and son are at once amusing and painful. It ends with the two of them, still trying to find common ground, taking a cruise together devoted to tracing Odysseus's journey. The story of Mendelsohn and his father in search of one another is interwoven with Telemachus' search for his father and Odysseus's struggles to return to him. The depth of Mendelsohn's scholarship, his clear explanations of the structure of *The Odyssey* and his beautiful translations of important passages are gifts to his readers. His is a tender and beautiful book, despite or perhaps because, while Odysseus and Telemachus appear to be happily reunited, the distance between Mendelsohn and his father is never fully bridged.

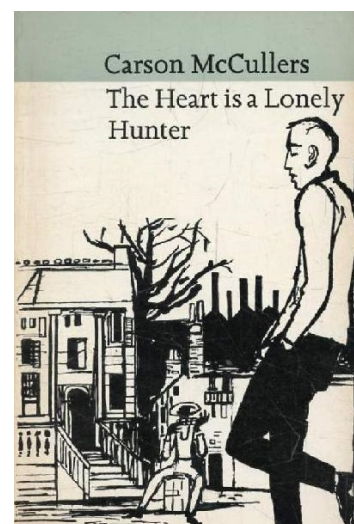
At the Montague Book Mill, whose motto is "Books you don't need in a bookstore you can't find," I came upon *Father and Son: A Lifetime* (2010) by Marcos Giralt Torrente. His account of his troubled relationship with his father won him the Spanish National Book Award. After his father's death, Torrente found himself unable to write anything else until he wrote about his father. His is a searing and detailed account of caring for his father during a protracted final illness while, at the same time, trying to make sense of their difficult relationship. He writes that one of the temptations of those who've suffered trauma is to think that everything will be all right once the wrong is righted. In the face of impending loss, Torrente wrestles with his longing for a better father as well as his anger with and love for the one he has. Torrente takes responsibility for his part in their difficulties: his competitiveness, demandingness and unwillingness to forgive. He makes amends by caring for his difficult, dying father, but only in writing about his painful struggle can Torrente put it to rest. He finds his way to an uneasy forgiveness of them both and, in so doing, restores his ability to write about other matters.

"Telemachus and Mentor" illustration by Pablo E. Fabisch from "Les Adventures de Telemaque"

McCullers, C. (1940). *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*.

Reviewed by Shari Thurer, ScD

Among the torturous obligations of my American adolescence was the reading of Carson McCullers's *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*, about four losers in a godforsaken town in 1930's Georgia. Rereading it now in my geriatric years with a modicum of maturity and psychoanalytic training, I realize that John Singer, a deaf mute who became an object of worship, was the perfect blank screen onto which his peers could project their fantasies. Singer's only attachment was to another deaf mute, an empty soul who cared for nothing except food. Of course the novel is



about our inability to communicate....but as a teenager I wondered why we had to read about such pathetic individuals. Then I grew up.

Who Is Reading Us?



Recent Reviews of BPSI Authors' Books

In the attempt to celebrate BPSI Authors remotely, we are introducing a new section, which will feature a compilation of reviews of books that have been recently published by our members. If we have missed a review of your recent work, please share the reference with our library and we will cite it in the future issues of the library newsletter! BPSI Authors are listed alphabetically. Follow the DOI links below to download fulltext (requires a journal subscription), or request articles from the library.

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- Ochsner J.K. (2020). On Dangerous Ground: Freud's Visual Cultures of the Unconscious. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*. 2020;68(2):292-300. DOI: [10.1177/0003065120917439](https://doi.org/10.1177/0003065120917439)
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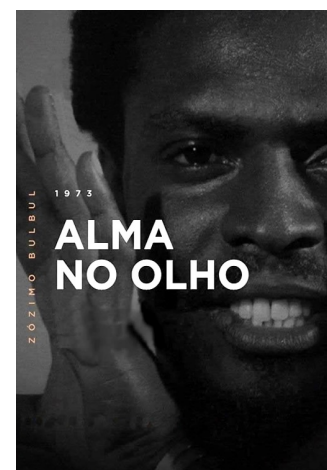
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- Shapiro, T. (2019). Consciousness, Language, and Self: Psychoanalytic, Linguistic, and Anthropological Explorations of the Dual Nature of Mind. *The Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 88(4): 894 - 897. DOI: [10.1080/00332828.2019.1654300](https://doi.org/10.1080/00332828.2019.1654300)

In the Media

IPA Year of Shorts - Fall Selections

The IPA in Culture Committee, chaired by BPSI member, Cordelia Schmidt-Hellerau, PhD, made 2020 a Year of Shorts. Every month, they post a link to a new short film, hoping you will "watch these films, and be touched, puzzled, enchanted, intrigued, stirred or inspired." September selection and commentary by Aranye Fradenburg Joy features "[Fire](#)" (Pozar), a short 2020 film by David Lynch animated by Noriko Miyakawa and put to music by the Polish-American composer Marek Zebrowski. October pick, reviewed by Paola Golinelli, is "[Doll Face](#)" (2007) by Andy Huang: "a skilful mix of music, digital animation,



computer graphics and robotic forms." A classical 1973 short film "[Soul in the Eye](#)", acted and directed by Zozima Bulbul and selected by Daniel Delouya, is featured for November. All commentaries as well as films can be found [here](#).

Thank You!

We would like to thank all of our members who have decided to continue donating journals to the library next year. Your support keeps our collections thriving and your generosity is much appreciated in these unprecedented times! We are deeply grateful to Deborah Choate, Jack Foehl, Mark Goldblatt, Dan Jacobs, Stephen Kerzner, Dan Mollod, Malkah Notman, Dean Solomon, Monty Stambler, Rita Teusch, Steven Varga-Golovscenko, and Julie Watts for donating print journal issues to the library. Also greatly appreciated are recent donations of books by John Martin-Joy, Karen Melikian, Katherine Nahum, and Karen Roos. With funds established by Morton and Raisa Newman many years ago, we continue building our child analysis and neuropsychology collections. Our Gifford fund helps to purchase books on the history of psychoanalysis.



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