

Rapaport-Klein Study Group

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c/o Nadine Desautels

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Dear *Rapaport-Klein Study Group* Members,

We are pleased to invite you to the 63rd Annual Meeting of the *Rapaport-Klein Study Group*, which will be held on **June 20-22, 2025**. The meeting will be held in a hybrid format. The Saturday evening cocktail party will again be held at *Prospect House*.

As you will see, we have put together an excellent program based on recommendations made by our members. Below is a list of speakers, including a description of their presentations and biographical statements.

Friday night, June 20, 2025

8:00-10:00 pm:

Keynote: Mark Solms, “Did Strachey falsely scientize Freud?” (on Zoom)

Introduced by Morris Eagle

The claim that Strachey “falsely scientized” Freud, mainly through the translation of his technical vocabulary, is the red thread that runs through all the major criticisms of the *Standard Edition* (e.g., Bettelheim, Ornston, Laplanche). In this lecture, I will argue against this criticism on three grounds: 1. It fails to take account of the differing conventions employed in German and English scientific writing; 2. It fails to take account of Freud’s personal involvement in Strachey’s choices; 3. It fails to consider continuities between Freud’s neuroscientific and psychoanalytic writings. These points will be illustrated by way of representative examples. I will also take the opportunity to describe and defend other editorial policy decisions that I took, and I will provide a general introduction to the form and content of the *Revised Standard Edition*.

Professor Mark Solms, Ph.D., is a member of the British Psychoanalytical Society and the American and South African Psychoanalytic Associations. He is Director of Neuropsychology at the Neuroscience Institute of the University of Cape Town. He is an Honorary Fellow of the American College of Psychiatrists. He has received numerous honors and awards, including the Sigourney Award. He has published 350 scientific papers, and eight books, the latest being The Hidden Spring: A Journey to the Source of Consciousness (New York: Norton, 2021). He is the authorized editor and translator of the Revised Standard Edition (RSE) of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud (24 volumes) and the forthcoming Complete Neuroscientific Works of Sigmund Freud (4 volumes).

Saturday, June 21, 2025

9.00-10:15 am:

Informal go-around and introduction of guests

Saturday morning will open with our traditional informal go-around to discuss members' current work and introduce guests. This will be followed by our two Saturday panels.

10:30 am-1:00 pm:

Panel (1 of 2): “On the Nature of the Unconscious and Unconscious Representation: Contrasting Perspectives” (hybrid)

Introduced by John Auerbach

Anne Erreich, “Mental Representation: The Infant’s Innate Capacity for Representing Subjective Experience”

The author cites the prominence of theories which locate serious adult psychopathology in the preverbal infant’s inability to formulate or represent traumatic experience. The work of two such authors, Howard Levine and Donnel B. Stern, is briefly considered. The frame of reference for this investigation is that clinical and academic research findings are highly relevant to psychoanalytic theorizing. It is argued that when such findings are considered, a view of the infant with “primitive,” “unformulated,” or “unrepresented” states of mind has little evidence to support it. In fact, research findings point to an opposite view: that of the “competent infant,” one with highly accurate perceptual discrimination capacities and an innate ability to register and represent subjective experience in both procedural and declarative memory, even prenatally. Given the infant’s competencies, it seems implausible to hold that representational deficits are at the heart of serious adult psychopathology, which is instead seen to be the result of defensive maneuvers against unknowable and unspeakable truth, rather than the absence of a preverbal representational capacity. Current research findings seem to pose a significant challenge for psychoanalytic theories that espouse so-called “primitive mental states,” “unrepresented,” “unformulated,” “unsymbolized” experience or “nonconscious” states. [See the 2024 *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association (JAPA)* paper, that is posted online in the web page of the 2025 program, “The Innate Capacity for Representing Subjective Experience: The Infant's Mind is Neither Primitive nor Prerepresentational”, by Anne Erreich]

Anne Erreich, Ph.D., is a Training and Supervising Analyst at the Psychoanalytic Association of New York (PANY), affiliated with New York University (NYU) Grossman School of Medicine. She has lectured and supervised in Seoul, Korea, and at Tokyo University and Kyushu University in Japan. In 2017, she was a Visiting Scholar at the International Psychoanalytic University (IPU) in Berlin and the Alexander-Mitscherlich-Institut in Kassel, Germany. For the last decade, Dr. Erreich has served as Associate Editor of JAPA, and she has published papers in that journal, as well as in Psychoanalytic Quarterly, Psychoanalytic Study of the Child, and Psychoanalysis and Contemporary Thought. Her work has been translated and published in German and Italian psychoanalytic journals. She has also published work in academic journals such as Cognition, Child Development, and the Journal of Child Language. Her writing is often an attempt to integrate academic research related to models of mind and development with the unique data offered by psychoanalysis.

Joel Weinberger, “The Unconscious: What We Think We Know, What Took so Long, and Some Clinical Implications”

This talk will discuss the latest research and theory on unconscious processes. Based on Weinberger and Stoycheva’s book *The Unconscious. Theory, Research, and Clinical Implications*, as well as on work subsequent to the publication of that book, it will focus on what can be termed the normative unconscious, namely the unconscious as it functions in our everyday lives. The idea is that unconscious processing is a central and vital part of all of our functioning. These processes have been elucidated through the study of implicit memory, implicit learning, implicit motivation, automaticity, attribution

theory, embodied cognition, and affective primacy. I will attempt to integrate these many apparently independent aspects of unconscious processing through the neurocognitive model of neural reuse. I argue that some, if not much, of the dynamic unconscious can be subsumed by this model as well. Finally, I will try to apply this model of unconscious processes to the theory and practice of psychotherapy. [See the book, *The Unconscious. Theory, Research, and Clinical Implications* (New York: Guilford, 2021), by Joel Weinberger and Valentina Stoycheva]

*Joel Weinberger, Ph.D., is Professor at the Derner School of Psychology, Adelphi University, as well as a practicing clinical psychologist. As co-owner of Implicit Strategies (<https://implicitstrategies.com>), he conducts research for political campaigns, nonprofits, and businesses. He completed postdoctoral training in motivation at Harvard University. His research has been funded by National Institutes of Health (NIH). He has published about 100 papers. He received the Ulf Kragh Award, University of Lundh, Sweden, for his work on unconscious processes. He is a Fellow of both the American Psychological Association (APA) and the Association for Psychological Science (APS) and is a recipient of the Research Award of the Society for Psychoanalysis and Psychoanalytic Psychology, Division 39 of the APA. His book *The Unconscious: Theory, Research, and Clinical Implications* (New York: Guilford, 2021), with Valentina Stoycheva, is the winner of the Book Prize Award of the American Board and Academy of Psychoanalytic and Psychodynamic Psychology.*

1:00-2:30 pm:

Lunch

2:30-5:00 pm:

Panel (2 of 2): “On the Nature of the Unconscious and Unconscious Representation: Contrasting Perspectives” (hybrid)

Introduced by Chris Christian

Wilma Bucci, “Levels of Awareness in Emotional Communication: A Multiple Code Perspective”

In psychoanalytic theory, the difficulties involved in expressing emotional experience are generally understood as involving avoidance of painful experience and defined in terms of repression, an «unconscious defensive process by which mental experiences are not allowed access to conscious awareness. The process of free association and its variants then may support bringing painful experience to conscious, verbal form. In multiple code theory (MCT), the difficulty in expressing experience verbally is defined in terms of the disparate forms of experience, rather than level of awareness. MCT incorporates nonsymbolic processing that occurs in analogic forms on continuous dimensions; this is dominant in emotional experience and connects only indirectly to the symbolic forms of language. Connection occurs through the functions of the referential process (RP), including arousal, narrative symbolizing, and reflecting/reorganizing.

*Wilma Bucci, Ph.D., is Professor Emerita, Derner Institute, Adelphi University, where she was Director of Research, Honorary Member of the American Psychoanalytic Association, the New York Psychoanalytic Society and Institute (NYPSI), and the Institute for Psychoanalytic Training and Research (IPTAR). She was Visiting Professor in Psychoanalytic Research, University College London (UCL), is Director of Research at NYPSI and Codirector with Leon Hoffman of the Pacella Research Center there. She directed the Referential Process Work Group with Bernard Maskit. She is the author of *Psychoanalysis and Cognitive Science: A Multiple Code Theory* (New York:*

Guilford, 1997), Emotional Communication and Therapeutic Change: Understanding Psychotherapy through Multiple Code Theory (New York: Routledge, 2021), and many clinical, theoretical, and research papers.

Jerome C. Wakefield, Ph.D., “Freud as Philosopher of Mind: Reconstructing the Freud-James Debate Over Unconscious Versus Subconscious Mental States”

Freud is not usually seen as a philosopher, but his most basic and controversial claim—that mental states can be unconscious—fits into a long tradition of philosophical argument about the nature of mental representation that stretches from Descartes through to our own day. After some discussion of Freud’s place in the three-century debate over the nature of mental states that preceded him, I will closely examine one issue: Freud’s arguments defending unconscious mental states against the alternative postulation of dissociated subconscious states split off from one’s primary consciousness—Janet’s view. The *subconscious* view was dominant in Freud’s day and was vehemently defended by William James. Although Freud and James never actually debated the issue, I reconstruct their implicit debate and find rather surprising and perplexing arguments on both sides. I will argue that Freud and James can best be understood as taking different pathways that allow them to explain challenging empirical data in their respective ways while staying as close as possible to the Cartesian heritage that had long dominated philosophy of mind. [See the two papers that are posted online in the web page of the 2025 program, namely chapters 1 and 3 of the 2018 book *Freud and Philosophy of Mind. Volume 1: Reconstructing the Argument for Unconscious Mental States* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018) by Jerome C. Wakefield: Chapter 1, Introduction: Should Freud be Taken Seriously as a Philosopher of Mind?; Chapter 3: “Unconscious” as “Mental and Not Conscious”: Why Repression, the Dynamic Unconscious, and Psychopathology Are Irrelevant to Freud’s Philosophical Argument]

Jerome C Wakefield, Ph.D., is University Professor and Professor of Social Work at New York University (NYU), with additional appointments in Philosophy and the Center for Bioethics at the NYU School of Global Public Health. He is also Honorary Faculty at the Psychoanalytic Association of New York (PANY), affiliated with New York University (NYU) Grossman School of Medicine. He generally writes about topics at the intersection of philosophy and the mental health professions. His book (with Allan Horwitz), The Loss of Sadness. How Psychiatry Transformed Normal Sorrow into Depressive Disorders, with a foreword by Robert L. Spitzer (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007), was named Best Psychology Book of the Year by the Association of American Publishers. He is author of Freud and Philosophy of Mind, Volume 1: Reconstructing the Argument for Unconscious Mental States (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018), the first of a projected trilogy on Freud as philosopher of mind. His most recent book, published as volume 86 of the Psychological Issues book series, is Foucault Versus Freud: Oedipal Theory and the Deployment of Sexuality (New York: Routledge, 2024).

6:00-8:00 pm:

Cocktails at Prospect House (3 Prospect Hill Road, Stockbridge)

Sunday, June 22, 2025

9:00-10:00 am:

Members’ Business Meeting

10:00 am-12:30 pm:

Clinical Case Presentation and Discussion with Reference to Unconscious Representation

Anthony Weigh, “Clinical Case Presentation” (hybrid)

Introduced by Chris Christian

Anthony Weigh M.Phil., L.P., is an Advanced Candidate at the Institute for Psychoanalytic Training and Research (IPTAR) in New York City. He is a graduate of that institute’s Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy program. He is a Licensed Psychoanalyst in New York State and sees adults, adolescents, and children in private practice in Manhattan, as well as children in the New York City Public School System.

Anne Erreich, Jerome Wakefield, Wilma Bucci, Joel Weinberger, “Discussion of Clinical Case”

This presentation explores family dynamics, trauma, and emotional regulation in a 40-year-old man with chronic overeating. We will examine how his maternal relationship and the birth of a sibling contributed to his struggles with overeating and anger. The presentation will also discuss the impact of a previous 10-year analysis and the challenges of reengaging in therapy after a significant loss. The presentation will be followed by a discussion from the panelists.

Website, Guests, and Dues

Our website remains <www.psychomedia.it/rapaport-klein> to review the history of every meeting since the beginning of our group, including many of the papers presented (this year program’s web page is <www.psychomedia.it/rapaport-klein/june2025.htm>). If there are any changes in your e-mail address, please notify Paolo at <migone@unipr.it>. We will post on our web site the documents that speakers would like to precirculate. We will post also the video and audio recordings of all sessions. Any suggestions for improving our website are welcome and should be directed to Paolo.

Soon, Craig will be emailing dues statements. Dues for this year are \$150 for members, and \$50 per guest. Kindly let Craig know if you plan to bring a guest.

We look forward to seeing you once again and enjoying the weekend together.

Warm regards,

John Auerbach and Chris Christian, *Cochairs*