

CANDIDATE SESSIONS

Below are sessions geared for Psychoanalysts-in-Training/Academics-in-Training and Psychotherapists-in-Training. See the Preliminary Program for more information including faculty and educational objectives.

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

6:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

**SOCIAL EVENT:
FIRST TIME ATTENDEE GATHERING**

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

**SENIOR ANALYST PRESENTATION (PART 1):
THE PSEUDO-SELF WITH GILA ASHTOR IN A CARCERAL SETTING**

Co-chairs: Elizabeth Diamond, Ph.D. (Los Angeles, CA)
Christopher G. Walling, Psy.D., MBA, FABP (Los Angeles, CA)
Presenter: Gila Ashtor, Ph.D., LP (New York, NY)

Note: This program is intended to satisfy the requirements of those states that require CE/CME credits in the area of cultural competency for license renewal, but the final judgment for such qualification is made by each state's board.

This session examines the clinical and cultural phenomenon of the "pseudo-self," a dissociative personality organization in which outward functionality conceals a lack of emotional authenticity. Drawing on psychoanalytic and psychotherapeutic theories—including the false self, normotic personality, and "as-if" presentation—the session explores how such structures challenge traditional clinical approaches. Often undetected due to the patient's/client's intact reality testing and absence of complaint, the pseudo-self resists affective depth and emotional engagement. The discussion will also address how neoliberal ideals of speed, productivity, and disconnection shape these presentations. This session is intended for psychoanalysts, psychotherapists, therapists, candidates and trainees, and other clinicians interested in complex, hard-to-detect personality dynamics that defy conventional diagnostic and therapeutic models.

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

**DPE PSYCHOTHERAPY SECTION AND COUNCIL ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CO-SPONSORED
WORKSHOP: AI IN PSYCHOANALYTIC TRAINING PROGRAMS**

Chair: Ann Dart, LCSW (Portland, OR)
Presenters: Todd Essig, Ph.D. (New Paltz, NY)
Michael Langlois, MSW (Nantucket, MA)
Amy Levy, Ph.D. (Chapel Hill, NC)

Is the accelerating AI revolution leaving you horrified and terrified? Fascinated and excited? Trying to ignore the whole thing? Are you an expert or a novice? This workshop is designed with all of the above in mind. Co-sponsored by DPE's Psychotherapy Section and its Council on Artificial Intelligence, it addresses the

fundamental challenge of how to prepare students so they can thrive professionally in a culture being transformed by AI. A panel that will include seasoned clinicians, as well as an AI demonstration, will discuss AI as both a pedagogical technology that can enhance, or if misused diminish, classroom experience and a topic requiring critical, psychoanalytic engagement. Breakout groups will follow, offering participants a chance to engage actively with the material to think and learn together.

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

**SENIOR ANALYST PRESENTATION (PART 2):
THE PSEUDO-SELF WITH GILA ASHTOR IN A CARCERAL SETTING**

For description and educational objectives see Part 1 at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

**DISCUSSION GROUP 13: IPSO: INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES IN PSYCHOANALYSIS:
SUPERVISION WITH KATY BOGLIATTO**

Chair: Mary Sacco, LMHC (Seattle, WA)
Presenters: Katy Bogliatto, Dr. med. (Brussels, Belgium)
Ursula Hines, M.D., FRCP(C) (Alberta, Canada)

This presentation is targeted at psychoanalysts in-training, to address a gap between their current level of clinical knowledge and the level representative of a senior analyst. IPSO clinical supervision provides an opportunity to study with senior analysts and candidate peers from other parts of the world. Katy Bogliatto is a training analyst at the Belgian Psychoanalytical Society and the IPA Vice-President. She is a published psychoanalyst, with expertise in medically assisted reproduction and child psychoanalysis. Using the clinical material provided by a candidate, she will help learners explore unconscious dynamics, transference messages, and defense mechanisms in the session.

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

DISCUSSION GROUP 15: DISTANCE PSYCHOANALYSIS AND PSYCHOANALYTIC PSYCHOTHERAPY

Co-chairs/Presenters: David E. Scharff, M.D. (Chevy Chase, MD)
R. Dennis Shelby, Ph.D. (Chesterton, IN)
Co-chair/Discussant: Ralph E. Fishkin, D.O. (Bala Cynwyd, PA)
Presenters: Tatiana Onikova, Ph.D. (Prague, Czech Republic)
Caroline M. Sehon, M.D. (Bethesda, MD)
Discussant: Shao Major Xiao, Ph.D. (Beijing, China)

Note: This program is intended to satisfy the requirements of those states that require CME credits in the area of risk management or medical ethics for medical license renewal, but the final judgment for such qualification is made by each state's medical board.

This presentation explores strategies and skills for effective technology-supported hybrid education, aiming to enhance teaching of psychoanalysis and psychotherapy and foster the development of competent analysts and psychotherapists in-training. It addresses complexities of hybrid learning environments with a view to optimizing engagements between onsite and online settings. The discussion will address managing group anxieties related to visibility and connection, and the unique dynamics, inherent losses, and valuable gains

within this evolving hybrid educational landscape. The discussion will also focus on developing a learning community across distance and varying cultures of the students and candidates.

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

DISCUSSION GROUP 16: FROM SELF TO SELFIE: SOCIAL MEDIA AND DEVICES AS REGRESSIVE TRANSITIONAL OBJECTS

Chair/Discussant: Maya B. Klein, Ph.D. (San Diego, CA)

This discussion group invites psychoanalysts, psychotherapists, and trainees to examine how digital devices—especially smartphones and social media—can act as regressive rather than progressive transitional objects for children and adolescents. It will consider how these “digital objects” intrude into the child’s internal world, alter object relations, and disrupt the gradual attainment of affect regulation, object constancy, and the capacity for mutual recognition. Drawing on clinical material and current psychoanalytic and psychotherapy literature, the group will explore how early psychic structures adapt—or fail to adapt—to the constant presence of these devices. Participants will leave with concepts and language for understanding these shifts and strategies for addressing them in psychoanalytic and psychotherapeutic work with analysands, patients/clients across the developmental spectrum.

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

DISCUSSION GROUP 17: RESEARCH ON THE FRAME IN PSYCHOANALYSIS: IN PERSON VERSUS TELE-ANALYSIS

Chair: Karl Stukenberg, Ph.D., ABPP (Cincinnati, OH)

Presenters: Spencer Gardner, M.D. (Cincinnati, OH)
Sean Michael McGraw, MA (Cincinnati, OH)

This presentation is intended for psychoanalysts, therapists, candidates, trainees, and researchers. COVID-19 and the subsequent lock-down raised questions about the analytic and psychotherapeutic frame – specifically about the impact of in-person versus telehealth delivered treatments. Preliminary results from an ongoing research project listening to in-person and telehealth psychoanalytic hours will be presented. The hours have been recorded and then transcribed and rated. All analyses are from a single analyst, some delivered only in-person, some started in person and transitioned to telehealth and some exclusively through telehealth. Comparisons in the analytic process will be discussed to help us move forward in understanding the role of telehealth in the provision of mental health services.

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

DISCUSSION GROUP 18: LISTENING IN THE ANALYTIC FIELD: AN IMMERSIVE GROUP EXPERIENCE IN BIONIAN FIELD THEORY

Co-chairs/Presenters: John B. Cardinali, Psy.D. (Seattle, WA)
Nancy C. Winters, M.D., FIPA, ABPsa (Portland, OR)
Discussants: Caron Harrang, LICSW, FIPA, BCPsa (Seattle, WA)
Scott Murray, M.D., FIPA (Portland, OR)
Darren Thompson, M.D., FIPA, ABPsa (Vancouver, Canada)
Drew Tillotson, Psy.D., FIPA, BCPsa (San Francisco, CA)

This discussion group is intended for psychoanalysts, psychotherapists, candidates, and trainees interested in deepening their clinical listening skills through the lens of Bionian Field Theory (BFT). The session will explore the analytic field as an emotional and symbolic space that reflects unconscious intersubjective dynamics, with particular attention to socio-cultural dimensions. Drawing on the work of Ferro and Civitarese, presenters will introduce an immersive model for group-based training in psychoanalytic listening. Using a clinical case for discussion, participants will examine how the analytic field enhances attunement to unconscious processes, transference, countertransference, and emergent meanings. The case will also highlight how social location—such as race, gender, and sexual orientation—shapes the field, offering tools for engaging these forces as active dimensions of work with patients/clients.

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

4:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.

DISCUSSION GROUP 24: THE CANDIDATE AT WORK: CLINICAL CASE CONSULTATION WITH JONATHAN SHEDLER, PH.D.: TREATING CHALLENGING PATIENTS: FROM CASE FORMULATION TO SHARED TREATMENT FOCUS

Chair: Konstantinos Taliouridis, Ph.D., Psy.D., MBA (Dedham, MA)
Presenter: Lauren Davis, LCSW (Chicago, IL)
Presenter/Discussant: Jonathan Shedler, Ph.D. (San Francisco, CA)

This clinical workshop is designed for psychoanalysts and therapists to effectively navigate the treatment challenges and impasses that inevitably arise in analysis/psychotherapy. Focusing on two essential skills—developing a sound clinical case formulation and cultivating a shared treatment purpose with clients—participants will learn to address the common obstacles that lead to stalled analysis/therapy. The session will feature hands-on demonstrations through live case discussions and role plays, illustrating practical clinical applications. Key topics include distinguishing the consultation phase from ongoing analysis/therapy, establishing the therapeutic frame, treatment contracting, and developing a working alliance. Additionally, attendees will explore the use of transference and counter-transference to overcome impasses and enhance the therapeutic process.

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

4:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.

DISCUSSION GROUP 26: EMERGING PERSPECTIVES ON LGBTQ+ ISSUES

Co-chairs: Andi P. Eliza-Christie, LPC (Pittsburgh, PA)
J Unterberg, Ph.D. (Dallas, TX)
Discussants: Reyna Cowan, Psy.D., LCSW (Oakland, CA), Willa France, J.D. (New York, NY)
Gary Grossman, Ph.D. (San Francisco, CA)

Note: This program is intended to satisfy the requirements of those states that require CE/CME credits in the area of cultural competency for license renewal, but the final judgment for such qualification is made by each state's board.

Many psychoanalysts and psychotherapists are working in political and legal environments that are increasingly hostile towards LGBTQ+ communities, and that potentially interfere with access to care, compromise mental health, and impact the therapeutic relationship. LGBTQ+ psychoanalysts and psychotherapists may experience their own parallel process as they live, work, and train, in these environments. This discussion group will facilitate a dialogue among psychoanalysts and psychotherapists who

will illuminate important historical and institutional context and provide both clinical and personal perspectives on the pathologizing and criminalization of LGBTQ+ identities.

Thursday, January 29, 2026

7:45 A.M. - 8:15 A.M.

**SOCIAL EVENT:
BREAKFAST GATHERING FOR CANDIDATE MEMBERS**

Join colleagues from around the country for breakfast. All are welcome to stay for the Candidates' Council meeting following the breakfast.

Thursday, January 29, 2026

8:15 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING: CANDIDATES' COUNCIL

Note: APsA In-Training Members who are pre-registered to participate in the Travel Scholarship are required to attend this meeting.

Candidates' Council leadership, committee chairs, and delegates from APsA institutes welcome all APsA candidates to attend this meeting. Our friends from IPSO, psychoanalytic psychotherapy trainees and any trainees who are not in analytic training, are also warmly welcomed. The CC meeting is open to anyone who is in training except when there is a need for the council to be in executive session.

You will learn about our committee work, participate in roundtable discussions of issues most relevant to candidates, have opportunities to compare notes with colleagues from around the world, gain an orientation to the greater APsA community, learn about exciting opportunities available exclusively to in-training members, deepen your psychoanalytic identity, broaden your connection to the profession, explore resources for building your practice, and forge lifelong friendships with fellow in-training professionals.

Thursday, January 29, 2026

11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

**THE WENDY JACOBSON CANDIDATE'S COUNCIL TEACHING AWARD: INSIGHT:
AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE CURATIVE PROCESS OR A VESTIGIAL CONCEPT**

Chair/Discussant: Konstantinos Taliouridis, Ph.D., Psy.D., MBA (Dedham, MA)
Co-chair: Wendy Jacobson, M.D., DF-APA, FABP (Atlanta, GA)
Presenter: Fred Busch, Ph.D. (Chestnut Hill, MA)

This session delves into the concept of insight within psychoanalysis, examining its significance in the curative process. While insight has long been regarded as a cornerstone of psychoanalytic practice, some scholars, such as Greenberg and Renik, challenge its primacy, emphasizing the importance of lived experience over verbal articulation. This paper argues that insight remains essential in fostering a psychoanalytic mind, despite the valuable contributions of the relational turn, which offers new perspectives to analysts and patients alike. Through a critical exploration of these viewpoints, the session posits that insight not only empowers patients to reclaim agency in their narratives but also underscores the unique role of psychoanalysis in therapeutic contexts. As Aisenstein aptly notes, this quest for self-agency represents a fundamental human freedom.

Thursday, January 29, 2026

2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

CANDIDATES' FORUM

Co-chairs: Carrie Atikune, Psy.D. (Portland, OR)

Presenters: Konstantinos Taliouridis, Ph.D., Psy.D., MBA (Dedham, MA)
 Tiffaney Hale, MFT (Long Beach, CA)
 Michael Mazzella, LMFT (San Luis Obispo, CA)
 Mariana Elisa Zermeno Piñera, Psy.M. (Tijuana, México)
 Jamie Steele, LMFT (Washington, DC)

Discussant: Paula Christian-Kliger, Ph.D., ABPP (New York, NY)

As psychoanalysis endeavors to evolve in the areas of diversity, equity and inclusion, candidates and trainees are facing the realities of these growing pains in myriad contexts. In this program, a group of candidates will share their experiences of the vulnerabilities, challenges, and tensions they face in navigating DEIBA issues in psychoanalytic training spaces, both personally and clinically. A senior analyst will facilitate a conversation with the group and audience. The intended audience includes psychoanalysts, psychotherapists, candidates, and trainees interested in recognizing and addressing challenges that candidates and trainees face in raising issues of difference within psychoanalysis.

Thursday, January 29, 2026

7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

**SOCIAL EVENT:
 JOINT CANDIDATES' COUNCIL/IPSO WINTER PARTY**

APsA's Candidates' Council and the International Psychoanalytical Studies Organization (IPSO) are happy to invite you to the annual Winter Party. This year, we're opting for a more casual and intimate experience. The party will be held in a luxury suite at the Palace Hotel, featuring great food, drinks, music, and the chance to forge new connections or catch up with friends and colleagues from across the country and around the world. Escape the conference bustle and join us for an evening of networking and relaxed conversation.

We're thrilled to share that there is no charge to attend! However, registration is required, as space is limited — so be sure to secure your spot today. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

Friday, January 30, 2026

11:15 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

POSTER SESSION: RESEARCH RELEVANT TO THEORY AND PRACTICE IN PSYCHOANALYSIS

Chair: Konstantinos Taliouridis, Ph.D., Psy.D., MBA (Dedham, MA)

The American Psychoanalytic Association sponsors this annual research poster session designed to promote stimulating conversations and mutual learning among psychoanalytic practitioners, theorists, and researchers. Submissions have relevance to psychoanalytic theory, technique, practice, and effectiveness of psychoanalysis or interdisciplinary scholarship addressing research questions in neighboring fields.

Poster descriptions and submitters will be listed in the final program.

Friday, January 30, 2026

11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

THE 2026 LEE JAFFE CANDIDATES' COUNCIL PAPER PRIZE: PSYCHOANALYTIC TREATMENT OF AN ALCOHOLIC IN RECOVERY WITH SUBSTITUTE ADDICTIONS

Chair: Elizabeth A. Hamlin, M.D. (Milwaukee, WI)
 Presenter: A. Graeme Daniels, MA, MFT (Walnut Creek, CA)
 Discussant: Lance M. Dodes, M.D. (Los Angeles, CA)

The Lee Jaffe Candidates' Council Paper Prize is awarded annually to a candidate, recent graduate, or psychotherapy trainee or recent graduate for outstanding candidate or trainee writing. This year's winner, A. Graeme Daniels, joined by discussant Lance Dodes, will present his paper entitled *Psychoanalytic Treatment of an Alcoholic in Recovery with Substitute Addictions*, which masterfully integrates psychoanalytic theory and treatment with the social surround and with the problems of contemporary life, utilizing Freudian and Kleinian theory to formulate a cogent theoretical overview of a multifaceted and challenging topic.

Friday, January 30, 2026

4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

**PASSING THE BATON AND PRESERVING PSYCHOANALYTIC VALUES IN A POLARIZED WORLD:
A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE HOLMES COMMISSION AND THE CONSULTATION
LIAISON NETWORK**

Co-chairs: Elisa K. Cheng, M.D. (Cambridge, MA)
Dorothy E. Holmes, Ph.D., ABPP, FABP (Bluffton, SC)
Presenters: Paula Christian-Kliger, Ph.D. ABPP (New York, NY)
Dionne R. Powell, M.D. (New York, NY)
Sien Rivera, M.D. (Columbia, SC)
Beverly J. Stoute, M.D. (Atlanta, GA)
Jasmine Ueng-McHale, Ph.D. (Princeton, NJ)

The Holmes Commission's 2023 seminal report on racial equality in American psychoanalysis led to the formation of the Consultation-Liaison Network (CLN), a network outside traditional hierarchical structures and institutions of psychoanalysis, designed to foster community, reflection, growth, and creativity among psychoanalytic practitioners from diverse backgrounds. This panel, featuring members of both the Holmes Commission and CLN, will examine how analytic organizations and individuals can cultivate inclusive, visionary leadership amid rising global polarization and authoritarian pressures. Presenters will explore historical and institutional barriers to equity and the challenges leaders face in expanding the psychoanalytic community. Attendees will gain actionable strategies for strengthening psychoanalytic values—dialogue, insight, connection, and mutual concern. This panel is intended for psychoanalysts, therapists, students, and leaders committed to addressing systemic inequities in psychoanalysis.

Saturday, January 31, 2026

7:30 A.M. – 8:45 A.M.

BREAKFAST WITH DISTINGUISHED ANALYSTS

Chair/Discussant: Konstantinos Taliouridis, Ph.D., Psy.D., MBA (Dedham, MA)
Presenters: David E. Scharff, M.D., FABP (Chevy Chase, MD)
Jill Savage Scharff, M.D., FABP (Chevy Chase, MD)

Join this enriching breakfast panel discussion tailored for APsA members in psychodynamic or psychoanalytic training. This event offers a unique opportunity to engage with Dr. Jill Scharff and Dr. David Scharff, distinguished practitioners whose contributions have shaped contemporary psychoanalysis. In this intimate setting, the Scharffs will share reflections on their extensive body of work, discussing pivotal lessons learned throughout their careers and the complexities of psychoanalytic practice. They will also contemplate what aspects of their training they would retain or approach differently, providing a reflective lens on the training process. Join us to engage with esteemed professionals, connect with fellow trainees, and deepen your understanding of psychoanalytic theory and practice. This gathering promises to be a valuable experience for all committed to exploring the human psyche.

Saturday, January 31, 2026

9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.

JOIN COGS MEMBERS IN CONVERSATION: HELPING OUR TRANS CHILDREN AND PATIENTS

Given the rise of political attacks on LGBTQIA+ persons and communities and the distress that our current political climate is creating for families wrestling with the impact of these attacks on their children and those close to them, the Committee on Gender and Sexuality (CoGS) wants to offer education, advocacy and support to parents and family members of LGBTQIA+ individuals, as well as to clinicians working with them. This informal group, facilitated by CoGS members, offers an opportunity to talk with others who share these experiences. Whether you're a clinician who wants to learn more about working with LGBTQIA+ children and their parents/family members or are yourself a parent/family member facing these issues, we invite you to join us. All are welcome.

Saturday, January 31, 2026

9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

**DPE ERIK GANN MEMORIAL PSYCHOANALYTIC SCHOLARSHIP FORUM:
THE MUSIC OF PSYCHOANALYSIS**

Chair: Robert Galatzer-Levy, M.S., M.D. (Evanston, IL)
Presenters: Peter L. Goldberg, Ph.D. (Albany, NY)
Michael S. Jacob, M.D., Ph.D. (San Francisco, CA)
Charles M. Jaffe, M.D. (Chicago, IL)
Michael D. Levin, Psy.D. (San Francisco, CA)

Psychoanalysis and psychotherapy are profoundly musical activities infused with depth, rhythm, harmony, counterpoint, and call and response, as two participants bring life to their interaction. This session will explore the musicality of psychoanalysis on multiple levels, from the descriptive to the clinical to that of neuroscience. The Erik Gann Forum is designed to be highly interactive, engaging speakers and the audience in conversation to create music together.