

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

David E. Scharff (Editor)

This is the first of two special issues that feature papers drawn from the First Chinese National Congress on Couple and Family Psychoanalysis, organised online jointly by the International Psychoanalytical Association's Committee on Couple and Family Psychoanalysis (COFAP) and the Beijing Zhi-Dao-Zhong-He Medical Institute in Beijing. This was COFAP's first online congress, necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic that made it impossible for committee members to travel to China. That unhappy circumstance, however, also created an opportunity for innovation, and its partners at the Beijing Zhi-Dao-Zhong-He Medical Institute demonstrated admirable creativity in building a structure for the congress, helping to recruit Chinese contributors, and administering a remarkable affair. The resulting collaboration produced a remarkable mixture of Western and Chinese contributions, and a large and appreciative Chinese audience.

In this and the following issue, we print many of the papers that were presented there. The Western contributions present ideas developed in some of the most important centres in the United States, South America, and Europe. Whilst many of these presentations are based on experience outside of China, they offer ideas that need to be brought to China for testing in the Chinese context. Indeed, several of these presenters, including Damian McCann, Christopher Clulow, Elizabeth Palacios, and Monica Vorchheimer, have taught with me in China and are well aware of both similarities and differences in Chinese and Western contexts for families and couples. Then there are also papers by Chinese contributors who have the Chinese context in their bones, with the result that the mixture of articles in this issue represents a unique combination, a mixing bowl in which diverse psychoanalytic perspectives are offered with the hope that they will now be tested in China by Chinese therapists.

The issue leads off with a paper on analytic concepts useful in couple therapy, authored by Lin Tao, an eminent Chinese psychoanalyst, now living in London but trained in China by the IPA and the first Chinese IPA graduate analyst. He has also trained at Tavistock Relationships in London, and so trained both in psychoanalytic marital therapy and in formal psychoanalysis.

The second contribution is by Susana Muszkat of the São Paulo, Brazil Psychoanalytical Association, a member of COFAP for South America, and Damian McCann, a leading faculty member of Tavistock Relationships in London. Their lengthy article on domestic violence describes the theory and practice of working with couples for whom violence is an issue. This presentation draws on work outside of China, but it is important for China because, whilst couple violence is well-documented to be an important problem in

China, there is no comparable psychoanalytic literature on understanding and treating it. We present this work as a starting point for its consideration clinically in China.

My own contribution on family and marital structure in China draws on my fifteen years of in-depth interviews with couples and families in China, chiefly in a course I direct with my colleagues, offered by the Beijing Zhi-Dao-Zhong-He Medical Institute in Beijing. There I interview couples and families twice yearly, and the result has enabled me to construct an understanding of challenges facing the evolving Chinese family.

The following two papers are by two eminent scholars and clinicians, Christopher Clulow of Tavistock Relationships, and Stephen B. Levine from Case Western University in Cleveland, Ohio. They offer ideas about sexuality that also need to be compared with the Chinese experience, and again for which there is, as yet, no comparable clinical literature in China. Then we have a paper by Li Yanling who explores the relevance of Henry Dicks' formulation of the "joint marital personality" for Chinese couples. Elizabeth Palacios, currently the Chair of COFAP, and Lucia Morabito from Argentina explore how couples in Spain cope with the pandemic. Andrew Balfour, Chair of Tavistock Relationships in London, explores challenges for couples in old age—again a crucial issue in China for which there is no psychoanalytic literature. The same problem, of the absence of analytic writing on a crucial clinical situation, applies to the paper by Rosa Jaitin from Lyon, France, President of the International Association for Couple and Family Psychoanalysis, as she explores the unconscious structure of families with an anorexic member.

Mary Morgan from Tavistock Relationships and a member of COFAP, offers an article summarising her work captured in her groundbreaking new book, *A Couple State of Mind*, giving not only her own contributions but summarising much history of the development of the Tavistock approach to treating couples. Then Silvia Resnizky from Argentina offers a paper on siblinghood, a clinical situation that is about to become important in China once again with the new three-child policy. Monica Vorchheimer, past COFAP vice chair for South America, adds a discussion about the consideration of siblings as well. Yolanda de Varela, President of the Panama Psychoanalytic Provisional Society, writes about unconscious issues expressed in marital infidelity.

Shifting gears, in Section II, we present a paper by Ning Li, Maranda Y. T. Sze, and Wei Lan, graduates of the China American Psychoanalytic Alliance (CAPA), who are pioneering training in China by developing their own training programmes in Chinese. We have paired this with a programme developed by Lu Xiaohua, Liu Qian, Ma Zheng, and Tang Daisheng from Beijing Jiaotong University, for helping people subject to the pandemic through an innovative group support project.

We close with a film discussion about a couple by Monica Vorchheimer and Huan Wang (Chinese and now living in London), who has written about gender identity in China and has previously published on that in this journal, and a book review by her of my own book on marriage and family in China.

This issue of the journal continues the tradition of offering a mixture of Western and Chinese contributions. The journal has drawn on eminent Westerners who are interested both in bringing psychoanalysis to China, and in helping Chinese colleagues explore how best to incorporate psychoanalysis into the Chinese context. The journal features Chinese writers who are doing just that: exploring how to apply this Western creation into clinical work in China in the most usefully adapted ways, as well as investigating the relevance of psychoanalysis to Chinese culture more generally.