

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

David E. Scharff (Editor)

This issue of *Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy in China* begins with contributions from the March 2020 China online conference on family and couple psychoanalysis, and themes sounded in this convocation echo throughout the whole issue.

The cover art, by analytic psychotherapist and artist Richard Wu, introduces the theme of the modern Chinese family and the tensions within the family and between families and the wider culture. These themes, studied in several dimensions, are of paramount concern in modern China.

Section one begins with a case study and discussion by two Shanghai psychiatrist–analytic psychotherapists, Song Rui and Fang Fang, both of whom have trained in psychoanalytic couple and family therapy. Timothy Keogh, a psychoanalyst who serves on the committee establishing an IPA fourth region for Asia and Australia/New Zealand, and who also serves on the IPA's committee on couple and family psychoanalysis, contributes the presentation he gave at the conference, “Working with primitive mental states in couples”, a subject that has not frequently been addressed and that takes up issues frequently present in couple therapies. Wu Hao, another Chinese analytic therapist, presents her work, along with her colleagues, on understanding couples with embedded and destructive rejecting objects. Then Hou Puqing and Zhang Tianbu look at the cultural components in play in a closely studied case of a woman with oedipal difficulties.

In section two, we gather three contributions along similar themes. Zheng Yu also studies vicissitudes of the Oedipus complex, looking closely at questions of its relevance and particular appearance in Chinese culture. Wei Zhang studies a related topic, calling it “The intersubjective tug of war in parent–child relationships”. This examination of tension between a child's autonomy and parental behaviour, and especially this dimension within China, offers a much needed clinical perspective. Huan Wang continues this theme by examining the tension between individual autonomy or, as she calls it “individual integrity”, and personal integration with the larger family and with group culture in China.

In section three, we have two presentations from allied disciplines. Jiajia Wu, Feng Yao, and Xudong Zhao present a history of the development of systems family therapy. I have located this rich contribution here because their field of systems family therapy, although not psychoanalytic, is a most valuable parallel line of psychotherapy which it behooves us all to know about and learn from. William Jankowiak's study of Chinese dreams from an anthropological point of view provides a link between the personal world of dreams and Chinese culture. His article is discussed by Israeli psychoanalyst and group analyst Robi Friedman, who links it to psychoanalytic tradition.

Section four gives us a book review by Shu Wenting, of Zhang Tianbu's book published in Chinese, *The Conflict Behind the Conflict—Interpreting the Oedipal Triangle Within Us*. It is fitting that this review accompanies Zhang Tianbu's important article on the Oedipus complex in section one.

Finally, we are glad to aid the project for the translation of Freud's lectures, *A New Introduction to Psychoanalysis*, translated directly from the original German to Chinese. This translation bypasses the changes made when the lectures were translated first into English, and into Chinese only then from the English version, thereby inevitably introducing distortions of meaning beyond those necessary with this direct translation. Tomas Plaenkers, who led the project, provides both the announcement of this work and an introduction to this groundbreaking event.

This issue continues the traditions of in-depth theoretical and clinical contributions, and of presenting work from allied professions that serve to enhance the reach of our understanding as psychoanalytic explorers and as clinicians. I hope readers will enjoy the richness of this volume.