

## EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

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### **David E. Scharff (Editor)**

Before introducing readers to the current issue of *Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy in China*, I want to share the good news about the future of the journal, a future that will enhance its availability and impact inside China and beyond.

For the past year, we have been in negotiation with the China-American Psychoanalytic Alliance (CAPA), the sponsor of the major American training programme for Chinese clinicians. CAPA has been offering high-quality training since 2007. Founded by the American psychoanalyst Elise Snyder, CAPA is widely known and respected in China. Its trainings have been offered only in English, and therefore only to English-speaking Chinese trainees, as has also been true for the Sino-German and Sino-Norwegian trainings. However, in the last few years, Chinese CAPA graduates have begun to organise their own trainings within China, now offering training in Mandarin, with the result that the influence of CAPA has increased dramatically. (Incidentally, trainings offered by the International Psychotherapy Institute that I co-founded, and others that I and my colleagues offer elsewhere, have been taught with Mandarin translation.)

Now the CAPA board of directors has agreed to adopt the journal as its official journal, underwriting subscriptions for CAPA students and faculty, and with the ability to offer group subscriptions at favourable rates to CAPA graduates. The journal is already distributed via PEP-Web, the groundbreaking collection of psychoanalytic literature resources, and the journal is negotiating other enhancements for increasing its availability.

As founding editor, I am deeply gratified at this development that can only enhance the journal, provide for a regular readership, and at the same time offer a wider base for recruiting contributions by Chinese colleagues and Western teachers, and all those who share the journal's passion for the growth of psychoanalytic thought and clinical application in China.

With the future of the journal thus secured, it is also my pleasure to introduce Karyne Messina, PhD, to you as co-editor for the 2026 issues of *Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy in China*, and then, as my successor as editor-in-chief. Karyne has graciously agreed to take on this task of securing the journal's future. I have asked her to write a note to follow this introduction, in order that she might introduce herself.

### **Introduction to volume 8**

This issue begins with a personal and heart-warming contribution by Ping Sun, grandson of Sun Mingzhi, an unsung psychoanalytic pioneer, whose

devotion to psychoanalysis, long before its new heyday, did a great deal to prepare the way for its current blossoming.

The journal proceeds to consider clinical matters from the perspectives of metapsychology, theory, clinical technique, and diagnosis. The first of Qiao Xiaomeng's articles in this issue discusses current considerations between relational issues and the social unconscious, a topic that I have also been personally interested in. Ailing (Elena) Sui and Jill Savege Scharff discuss how a mother used psychoanalytic understanding to improve her child's development, seen through the lens of cross-cultural consultation. Xiubing Wang, Yao Lin, and Robert Gordon examine the transmission of intergenerational trauma through another case study, followed by an astute clinical study by Zhao Chengzhi of the clinical application of silence as therapeutic technique. He Song explores the common experience of a "teacher transference" in clinical work in China, before the final article in this section examines the relationship between unipolar and bipolar depression, using the historical perspective of Karl Abraham.

A strength of the journal has been our interest in examination of how cultural issues impinge on our psychoanalytic considerations. In an important article, William Jankowiak and Shelly Volsche take a deep dive into the current phenomenon of declining birth rates in China in the light of new orientations by the current generation of child-bearing age adults. Qiao Xiaomeng's second contribution takes on the issue of social media and mental health, a worldwide concern. Then I introduce Mao Zhikang's article on the intersection of local myths and beliefs with mental health. Mao's consideration is from a purely psychiatric and diagnostic point of view, but I contend that this is frequently what psychotherapists encounter when dealing with the many patients who consult us but who are also deeply entrenched in medical and psychiatric interventions.

Section IV presents three contributions from the overlapping areas of philosophy and psychoanalysis. Shan Bin explores the world of "virtual space" and "the body", a matter of fundamental interest in today's world in which there are so many avenues of multiple virtual realities. Wang Guangyao looks at areas of Freud's formulations of "eros" seen from the particular vantage of the philosopher Levinas. Wu Shuanglei extends the journal's investigation of female sexuality to address particulars of Chinese thought, and Huo Chuansong details a history of the fundamental role of symbolism in psychoanalytic thought.

Finally, Section V continues the journal's interest in psychoanalytic takes on literature in Wang Xiaodong's examination of "dreamwork" in the classic *Dream of the Red Chamber*.

This year's Volume 8 of *Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy in China* continues the journal's tradition of detailed clinical application, enlarged by cultural and historical points of view. The journal continues to do this by drawing on allied areas of thought to widen clinicians' perspectives. I look forward to many more issues that will continue this tradition.

## A NOTE FROM THE INCOMING CO-EDITOR

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### *Karyne Messina*

In an increasingly interconnected and complex world, the profound insights offered by psychoanalysis are more crucial than ever for understanding the human condition. *Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy in China* stands as a vital forum in this global discourse, a testament to the visionary leadership of its founding editor, David E. Scharff. His enduring commitment has meticulously cultivated a journal that explores the intricate interplay between depth psychology and the rich cultural landscape of China. It is with deep gratitude and a sense of profound responsibility that I embrace the role of co-editor in the coming year, eager to build upon this robust foundation and prepare to serve as editor-in-chief in 2027. This transition is particularly exciting due to the journal's strategic alliance with the China-American Psychoanalytic Alliance (CAPA). As a supervisor and teacher within CAPA's impactful training programmes, and currently editor of its newsletter, I have witnessed first-hand CAPA's dedication to advancing high-quality psychoanalytic education across cultures. This partnership significantly expands the journal's reach and influence, fostering an even richer exchange of ideas and diverse contributions that strengthen psychoanalysis both within China and globally. My own professional journey, spanning clinical practice as a psychologist and psychoanalyst, alongside extensive engagement as an author and podcast host, has centred on exploring the nuanced ways psychoanalytic thought illuminates human experience. My work examines contemporary issues—from understanding the psychological dimensions of societal dynamics and political phenomena, to investigating the intricate relationship between psychoanalysis and emerging technologies like artificial intelligence. These diverse areas of inquiry, reflected across my published works and public discussions, align directly with the journal's mission to engage with the evolving complexities of the psyche in a global context.

Looking forward, *Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy in China* will steadfastly uphold its rigorous commitment to clinical application, metapsychology, theory, and technique. We will also proactively embrace new intellectual frontiers. This includes deepening our exploration of psychoanalysis within specific cultural contexts, a hallmark of the journal. From a fresh perspective, we will amplify discussions on how the digital age is reshaping identity and mental health, and how psychoanalytic insights can uniquely address urgent global challenges. By fostering dynamic scholarship and interdisciplinary dialogue, the journal aims to be a leading voice in charting new pathways for psychoanalytic understanding, connecting historical wisdom with the most pressing questions of our future. I eagerly anticipate collaborating with

Dr Scharff, our esteemed editorial board, and our global community of authors and readers. Together, we will ensure *Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy in China* continues to serve as an essential and dynamic resource for years to come.