

EDITORIAL

James Poulton, Lorna Robinson, and Kate Thompson

As Freud famously noted, “Psychoanalysis is, in essence, a cure through love”. This idea, referenced by Ortal Kirson-Trilling in these pages, contains a germ of insight that has been pursued variously over subsequent decades of analytic enquiry. But how does this cure come about?

As the articles in this thirty-second issue of *Couple and Family Psychoanalysis* suggest, any cure that psychoanalysis is able to offer comes from a profoundly relational endeavour; from the contact between patient(s) and therapist.

The articles we present here offer a range of perspectives on psychoanalytic work with couples and families. Kirson-Trilling looks at the importance of the destruction and survival of the object in the process of becoming. Katherine Astill reviews the book in which this adapted article appears (reproduced here with kind permission), highlighting the clinical value of viewing love as affect, atmosphere, and quality of connection.

Catriona Wrottesley describes the therapist’s struggle with couple super-ego deadlock, a destructive type of projective gridlock, and the powerful way in which something new can unexpectedly break through. Next, Susanna Abse presents her thoughts on male dread of need and phallic omnipotence, along with a response article from Simon Cregeen, adapted from their presentations at the Tavistock Relationships Association of Psychotherapists and Counsellors (TRAPC) Scientific Meeting.

We present an article by Christopher Vincent and colleagues that expands our theoretical lens by providing a shared object approach to chronic illness. This is followed by an article by Vivian Eskin that looks at lived experiences of Israel as an internal object shaped by intergenerational trauma.

Robert Monzo captures moments of clinical change in a forensic account of couples’ mourning of shared unconscious phantasy, which grew out of a recent TRAPC Scientific Meeting. And Anastasia Galaktidou applies a detailed psychoanalytic perspective to the cycle of violence in intimate relationships.

In the book reviews section, Amita Seghal reviews Scott Galloway’s bestselling response to the masculinity crisis. And, to conclude our reviews section, we present an analysis by Perrine Moran of the meaning of cross-dressing in the film *Pretty Red Dress*.

The editors-in-chief would like to thank the journal’s sponsor, Tavistock Relationships in London, for their generous support, as well as the International Psychotherapy Institute in the US, who enthusiastically promote the work of the journal through their networks. We would also like to thank our colleague Anastasia Tsamparli for her invaluable editorial input in this issue. Most of all, we would like to express our gratitude to our readers and subscribers for their ongoing support—and we would remind you that colleagues

who are new to the journal can be introduced to its articles through PEP-Web and APA PsychInfo. We very much hope you enjoy this issue and we look forward to receiving your feedback.

Jim, Lorna, and Kate

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