

## For a lively and attractive IPA

Presidential and Vice-Presidential Statement of Bernard Chervet and Rotraut Helene De Clerck



It is a great honor to be nominated for the positions of President and Vice-President, and to show you how determined we are to fulfil this important task and to put ourselves at the service of the IPA, its members and psychoanalysis.

We intend to accomplish this with enthusiasm, working alongside the Treasurer, the Representatives, the Committees, and the staff.

The IPA is composed of 12,000 members and 5,500 candidates, from 65 countries: 117 Component, Provisional or Study organizations with their Institutes, plus direct members and Allied centers.

We wish to support democratic principles through the dialectics of equality and difference, responsibility and delegation, transparency and confidentiality, respect for majorities and minorities, whilst avoiding the tyranny of one or the other, divisions and splits.

### Questions

What can the IPA bring to its members and organizations? What are the specific contributions of the IPA? Why pay a membership fee?

### The IPA, a vector of civilization

The IPA was founded by Freud to safeguard the scientific corpus of psychoanalysis against distortion, to support this therapeutic method and this new way of thinking.

Scientific life and research prove the value of our method and the fruitfulness of psychoanalytical thinking. The cultural process opposes the extinctive trend that currently threatens humanity.

Inter-regional exchanges (CAPSA), openness to other sciences, the variety of clinical and theoretical themes, and the involvement of our psyches allow us to broaden our listening.

Interpretation without contextualization would make psychoanalysis a soulless science, whereas sensitivity and intelligibility give it a strong appeal. The epistemology of psychoanalysis is a never-ending process.

Our cathexes will be turned towards the Research Committee, the Encyclopedic Dictionary, The Congress, webinars, interregional conferences, publications, and awards.

Other functions for the IPA then emerge, such as bringing psychoanalysts together as a community and being concerned with mental health. As a part of the international community, the IPA is concerned with large-scale community issues such as global deterioration, migration, and terrorism. Our mission is to pay attention to psychic life, to exalt psychic generativity, to recognize its involvement through unconscious transference in the governance and dynamics of groups, to encourage our members, candidates, societies to promote what the IPA has to offer, to spread the importance of psychoanalysis and to involve it in the concerns of the world.

### **International perspective**

One of the IPA's strongpoints is the rotation of leadership between the different regions. Now it is Europe's turn. This requires embracing an international mindset.

### **Thinking about diversities**

The IPA aims to bring together the diversities of all its members; hence its richness. The challenge is to remain receptive to differences in culture, history, mentality, gender, LGBTQ2S+, training, socio-economic and political contexts, and to think about these differences in order to affirm the identity of psychoanalysis as an act of life opposed to discrimination, prejudice, war, torture, child abuse, the abuse of women, the death penalty, slavery, racism, anti-Semitism, and totalitarianism.

We will implement this ethic by encouraging members to remain psychoanalysts while playing an active role in these crucial areas of life.

### **State of mind**

The IPA inherits the humanism that pays attention to the precious nature of psychic matter. Psychoanalysts are the guardians of psychic life.

Our state of mind combines humanism, democracy, attention to psychic life and respect for differences. We believe in lively and inclusive governance.

The legal framework for the IPA is the UK Charity Laws. It encourages controversy so that consensus can be reached. A vote does not mean that the subject is no longer taken into consideration.

Many years of national and international Board experience have taught us that clear, transparent and democratic discourse must be the cornerstone of our approach and we look forward to lively dialogue and shared vision.

### **Legacy, transmission, succession**

Our predecessors worked to integrate the multiple trends within the IPA, to adapt to the new realities that disturb our routines and force us to revisit our practices and theories. We will pursue their path vigorously for future generations.

By being sensitive to the attacks on psychoanalysis, to the hegemonies of the single mindset, to current catastrophes and threats, the IPA is committed to the evolution of psychoanalysis, psychic lives, and the community.

## **Sexuality and gender**

Taking sexuality and its drives into consideration is often avoided in favor of other factors. The issue of surgical interventions on children and adolescents and their consequences in relation to their psychic life should be considered.

## **Experience**

We are Freudian psychoanalysts with an open mind to other approaches, long clinical experience, in-depth familiarity with psychoanalytical literature, longstanding commitment to training, transmission, institutional and cultural life, and fluency in several languages.

**Bernard Chervet** is a psychiatrist and child psychiatrist. He has an abundant scientific output which earned him the Bouvet Prize.

**Rotraut Helene De Clerck** is a psychologist. She enriched her psychoanalytical training as a post grad in London.

Bernard Chervet has been involved in IPA bodies for 8 years, and for 3 years he has been a member of the Board and the Executive Committee. He has experience and expertise on the subject of democratic representation of members, component organizations, committees, the constituent federation (APsaA), regional federations (FEP, FEPAL, NAPsaC), new groups (ING), the 4th region (Asia-Pacific), candidates (IPSO), and training models.

Rotraut Helene De Clerck is involved in the Cultural Committee and COWAP. She is experienced in the interrelations between psychoanalysis and culture, the dissemination of psychoanalysis, women's concerns, candidates' and young members' concerns, and the articulation of generational issues.

We share an interest in children and adolescents (COCAP) and in an approach that articulates the practice, research and institutional governance.

## **Topics of Concern**

### ***- Budget and finances***

This area requires rigor and flexibility. Budgetary concerns were erased by firm management during the pandemic. This made it possible to redirect these funds to colleagues suffering from the war.

The budget is monitored by the Treasurer, the Budget & Finance Committee, the accountant and specialists. Flexibility in membership fees takes into account changes in socio-political contexts and inflation fluctuations.

How can we obtain a margin to initiate new projects? A question for the future.

**- The Board and the Executive:** The use of zoom has improved efficiency, reduced costs and facilitated interaction with committees. A balance should be sought between online and face-to-face meetings. Important decisions should be made in person.

Our democratic governance results in each region having the same number of votes. The progressive integration of the 4th region will be discussed by the Board and with the Asia-Pacific Committee.

- **Organizations:** They influence decisions through their Presidents thanks to the new interregional organization of the Presidents' Conference, and the function of the Link of Representatives and the Regional Federations.

- **Training and remote analysis:** Reflection on training, support for high standards and excellence in training, consistency and evolution of the 3 models, are constant concerns.

We differentiate between Psychoanalysis, with the proximity of bodies and the rule of abstinence, Remote analytic work, which is one of the modalities of practice that is the subject of ongoing clinical research, and Training that requires a sustained physical presence.

Clinical studies are conducted by the Training Institutes (with ILaP and EPI), the Education Committee and Task Force 2. Various parameters are involved: proximity phobias, the specificity of Oedipal mourning which takes place in the physical and psychic presence of objects, the evolution of the shuttle analysis with online sessions, and the new traffic conditions.

- **ING Committee:** The creation of new organizations is inherent in the extension of psychoanalysis in the world. The role of the ING is essential in this maturation.

- **Institutional Issues Committee (IIC):** The regulation of conflicts within societies can be worked on with the IIC, sometimes in conjunction with ethics committees. The evolution of thought can lead to splits and reunifications.

For ING and IIC, precise procedures exist and require a high level of diplomacy.

- **Communication** within the IPA and with the outside world is one of our priorities. We will use all our means to share the richness of our work with our colleagues and communities.

- **The IPA in the Community and the World:** The Steering Committee and the various Committees that meet within it promote the IPA's interest in the correlation between internal and external realms. The IPA congresses have the same objective.

This dynamic and committed involvement has a strong impact on the younger generation, on their interest in their psychic life and in our profession, but also on the participation of members in the IPA.

We share an essential experience. We are all living evidence of the value of the psychoanalytic method. Every day, every night we experience this and provide it to our patients. We know what psychoanalysis can do to elaborate private and collective tragedies, and to enjoy life.

We hope that you will recognize yourselves in our proposals and enthusiasm and that you will trust us to carry them out.

**Bernard Chervet MD/Psychiatrist/Child-Psychiatrist**

EuroRepresentative IPA-ExCom (2021-)  
Après-coup in Psychoanalysis (Book.12-30-2022)  
EuroRepresentative IPA-Board (2019-2021)  
Bouvet Prize (2018, 250 articles/13 books)  
Task-Force Representation, IPA (2018-2021)  
ING: Istanbul association, Tunisia Allied-Center (2016-)  
Task-Force Freudian Legacy, IPA (2015-2021)  
Task-Force IPA and Organizations, IPA (2015-2017)  
Director French-Speaking-Psychoanalysts Congress, SPP (2015-2023)  
Institutional-Matter-Forum, EPF (2015-)  
Chair Research & Development Committee, SPP (2015-)  
CAPSA (2014, 2018)  
Founder-Director SPP-Edition (2012-2017)  
President SPP (2011-2015)  
Vice-President SPP (2009-2011)  
Chair Scientific-Technical-Council, SPP (2007-2009)  
Training Analyst (2004-)  
Scientific-Secretary, SPP (2002-2006)  
Board&Executive, SPP (1994-2015)

**Rotraut Helene De Clerck**

TA Frankfurt Psychoanalytic Institute (FPI)  
Post Grad training BPI London.  
Chair Scientific Committee FPI 2006-2011  
Chair Training Committee MPI 2010-2014  
Chair Training Committee FPI 2014-2016  
Chair EPF Group Psychoanalysis in Literature (2017-)  
Consultant IPA Culture Committee (2019-)  
Founder-Editor Psychoanalysis and History (1999)

**Interests and Publications:**

Interdisciplinary studies; Psychoanalysis and Culture / Cultures; Trauma and Creativity, Unconscious Phantasy, Klein/Bion, Sexuality, Theories of Masochism.

Recent work: "Portraits" Investigation into Creativity in Literature, Art and Psychoanalysis. (Collected essays; in preparation).