

Wednesday 20 April 2022

Letter to

IPA President, Harriet Wolfe

Copied to IPA Board members

Regional representatives

Members of the Remote Analysis Study Group

Members of the Task Force

To the President of FEP

To the Board of the EPF

*To the Presidents of the constituent European
Psychoanalytic Societies of the EFF*

Madam President, dear Harriet Wolfe

On 7 December 2021, the three presidents of the French societies, APF, SPP, SPRF, expressed their concern about remote training psychoanalysis. The Belgian Society expressed the same concern in its own letter. By return mail, you reassured us about the possibility of a “rushed change in standards”, and assuring that it was a question that “the Board would take very seriously”.

On 15 December 2021 the Task Force mandated in January 2020 (before the pandemic) by Viginia Ungar, then President of the IPA, to report on several aspects of remote training psychoanalysis delivered its report. Despite a lot of work this committee does not bring convincing conclusions on the quality of analysts trained through distance analysis.

In January 2022, you renewed a study group for two more years. However, you write in March 2022: “Given that the work of the second study group is likely to last another two years, the Psychoanalytic Education Committee (PEC) has been asked to make recommendations for temporary training guidelines that consider the requirements for training and graduation, given the current changes in practice and training during the pandemic.”

So you are in fact maintaining the validation of remote training through a temporary measure that may last a long time!

We can understand that adaptations may, perhaps, be necessary in times of pandemic or war, but we ask that they remain strictly circumscribed to these particular conditions and suggest that they be reflected upon for their political dimension also by the Executive Committee of the IPA and not only by the Psychoanalytic Education Committee (PEC).

Beyond the various training models and theoretical references, all the members of the IPA are psychoanalysts, who work within the specificity of the psychoanalytic method. The method involves two aspects:

- Free association, which is based on freedom of thought with absolute respect for confidentiality; something that technology does not ensure.
- The bodily presence of the analyst and the patient with all the sensory dimensions involved in the encounter and the word.

Pending the results of an in-depth research which should then be widely discussed in the analytic community and not to be presented as a "*fait accompli*".

- We ask you to proceed with a moratorium concerning the remote training psychoanalysis.
- We propose that the new study group in charge of pursuing the investigation of remote analysis should share its research and investigation work as it progresses and not in fine.
- We hope that the contributions of the various component societies of the IPA or of IPA members will be made available for discussion, with a view to a progressive co-construction that will strengthen the cohesion of the IPA.

We will remain vigilant on the follow-up of our approach, and we will take stock of the situation next October.

In the interest of maintaining and supporting the demands of psychoanalysis, with kind regards.

Dominique Suchet

Hélène d'Avout

Clarisse Baruch

Arlette Lecoq

President of the APF

President of the SPRF

President of the SPP

President of the SBP

For the APF: Patrick Merot Vice President, Miguel de Azambuja Vice President, Jean-Michel Levy Secretary General, François Hartmann Scientific Secretary, Chantal Duchêne Gonzalès Treasurer. Former Presidents: Jacques André (2015-2017), Claude Barazer (2019 -2021), André Beetschen (2005-2007), Leopoldo Bleger (2017 -2019), Dominique Clerc (2001 -2003), Laurence Kahn (2009 -2011), Patrick Merot (2012 - 2015), Évelyne Sechaud (1998 -2000), Felipe Votadoro (2009 - 2012)

For the SPRF: Anna Dal Mas Vice-President, Zoé Andreyev General Secretary, Catherine Lacheny Scientific Secretary, Dr Jean Philippe Guéguen Scientific Secretary, Dr Elisabeth Abdoucheli Dejours Treasurer. Former Presidents: Dr Jean Claude Stoloff (2005-2007), Dr Patrick Miller (2007-2011, 2019-2021), Dr Daniel Zaoui (2011-2015).

For the SPP: the Board of SPP

For the SBP: Diana Messina Pezzuti President of the Teaching Commission, Marc Hebbrecht Scientific Secretary, Liliane Dirx, Claire de Vriendt-Goldmann, Françoise Labbé former President of the Teaching Commission. Former Presidents : Marie-France Dispaux (1996-1998, 2006-2008, 2014-2016), Christine Franck (2016-2020), Serge Frisch (2008-2012), Jacqueline Godfrind (1982-1986, 2002-2004), Nicole Minazio (1998-2000, 2004-2006), Rudi Vermote (2012-2014).