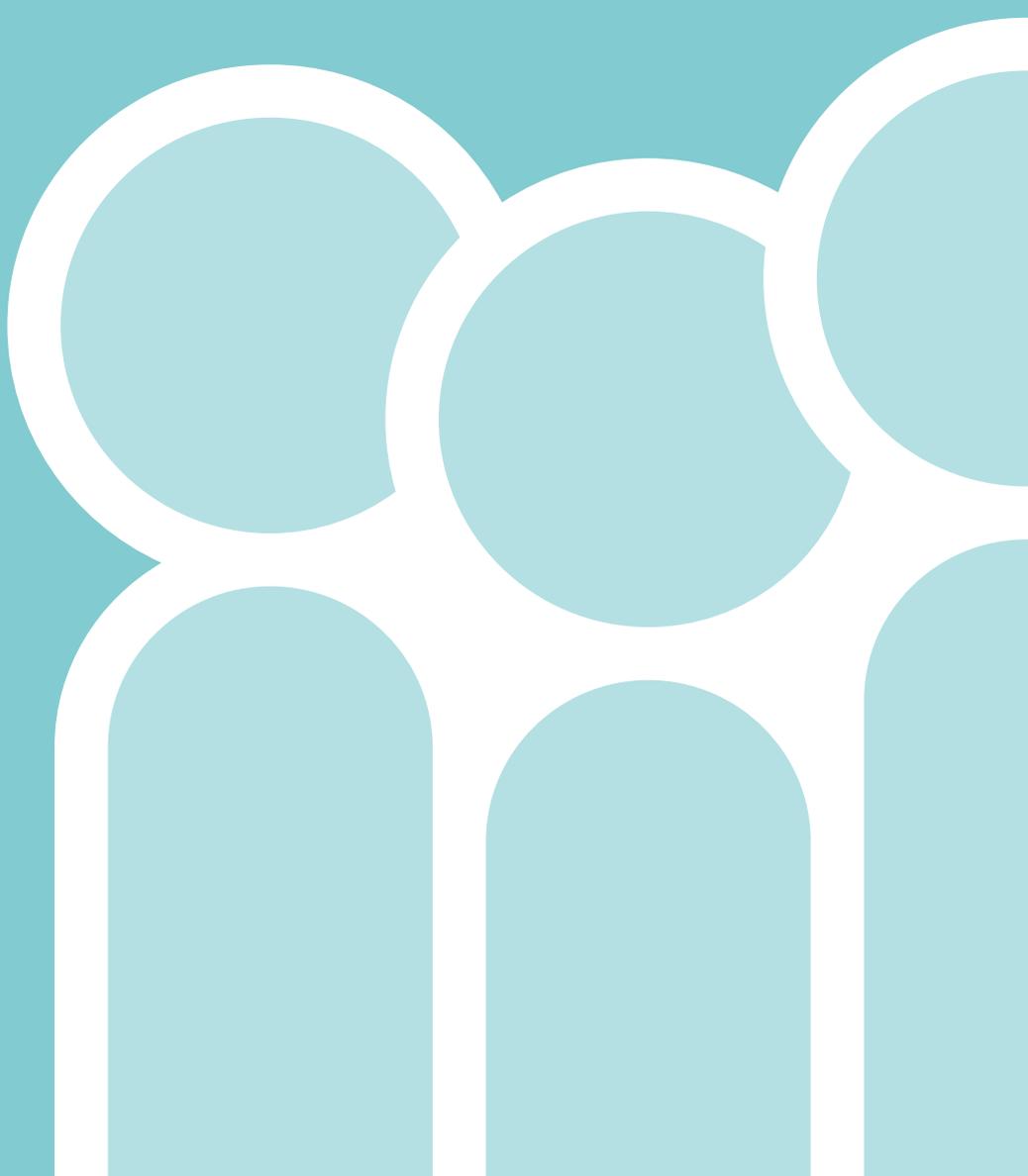


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Theoretical and Clinical Reflections on Integration

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Introduction

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Submissions and New Editorial Process

In the future all articles for this journal will be subject to an anonymous peer review by two members of the editorial board. We trust that most of the present editorial board will be willing to engage in this process so please do contact us about this. If you are interested in joining the new board, please do contact us by emailing us or calling Maria Gilbert on 020 8997 6062. If you are interested in submitting please visit our web site (www.ukapi.com/journal/) and download a copy of the submission guidelines.

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Editorial

Theoretical and Clinical Reflections on Integration

In this issue we have both theoretical and clinical material on a number of interesting themes. The submissions reflect the breadth and diversity of issues with which integrative practitioners are engaged. We are impressed by the level of engagement that these practitioners have demonstrated in their in-depth reflection on a diverse number of issues. Each author 'grapples with' a particular interest from their own integrative perspective.

In their thought-provoking article, Gillian Straker, Jacqui Winship and David Watson present their 'very integrative' approach to treating priests and men in religious orders who have perpetrated child sexual abuse/molestation. They use Fonagy's concept of the 'alien self' to support their view that these men's abusive behaviour results from a rejection of sexuality both in their original attachment environment and in their distorted interpretation of Christian Theology. Straker's concept of the 'uncanny self' picks up on the complexities of the dissociation from the self in their interpersonal process with harmful consequences in the lives of many people. They illustrate their integrative perspective with an extended case study that vividly describes the therapeutic process for the reader. We were particularly impacted by the soul-searching reflections on the part of the practitioner which gave a sensitive and moving insight into this therapeutic process.

John Boyle writes about a possible integration between psychoanalysis and parapsychology which we found both involving and challenging. He presents his experience of an apparent moment of 'telepathy' with a client which he

refers to as 'uncanny intersubjectivity'. He explores this experience from his reading of Freud's little known studies in telepathy. John Boyle is to be commended on the thoroughness of his historical research into this subject which opens up the history of psychoanalysis for the reader. He looks at the many ways in which these uncanny forms of intersubjectivity have been conceptualised under other theoretical terms like 'empathy', 'projective identification', 'intuition' and 'concordant countertransference'. We enjoyed both John's academic rigour and his challenge to us to reconsider these concepts.

Jane Purkiss' poignant article shares her personal journey to find a way to integrate her own personal bereavements and losses. She shares some of the writings that brought her comfort, reassurance and hope in her darkness. Jane names her own 'inner screaming', a vivid and moving image, which characterises her struggle with her personal agony. She also engages personally with various bereavement theories and shares the findings from her own Master's research into others' experiences of living through transitions. Jane particularly engages with the postmodern theory of 'Continuing Bonds' which empathises the ongoing relationship with the 'lost one' in a way which preserves the quality of the relational experience.

Claire Nelissen engages with the issue of describing our professional identity; her immediate interest is prompted by forthcoming regulation. She argues that the expertise of psychotherapists is currently poorly described in a way that does not do justice to their/

our endeavour. She proposes a functional approach to our professional identity as experts in applying clinical reasoning based on integrative psychological theories to bring about change in the client. Her argument transcends the modality debate and looks at the expertise underlying effective practice. Her passion for her subject and for her profession shine through the writing of this article as she celebrates psychotherapeutic expertise.

As is our usual tradition, we publish an example of a student's final written submission for their qualification. In this edition we include the first section from Cheryl Keen's MSc dissertation which provides her integrative theoretical framework that underpins her practice. We also include a book review by Professor Simon du Plock of 'Relational-Centred Research for Psychotherapists' (eds Linda Finlay and Ken Evans).

Maria Gilbert and Sharon Cornford,
Co-editors of this issue.