

RAMCOA: Working on the Cutting Edge
October 3, 2019 | 12:00 PM – 7:00 PM EDT



Susan Pease Banitt, LCSW



Susan Hykes



Colin Ross, MD



Michael Saffer, PhD

Navigating Countertransference with Ritually Abused Clients
12:00pm – 1:30PM EDT

Presenter: Susan Pease Banitt, LCSW

Presenter Biography: Susan Pease Banitt, LCSW is a psychotherapist and author who specializes in the treatment of severe trauma and PTSD. She has worked in the field of mental health for more than four decades and has written two award-winning books: *Wisdom, Attachment and Love in Trauma Therapy: Beyond Evidence-Based Practice* (Routledge, 2018) and *The Trauma Tool Kit: Healing PTSD From the Inside Out* (Quest, 2012). Susan lives and practices in Portland, Oregon.

Abstract: Survivors of ritual abuse and mind control are stepping forward in unprecedented numbers on social media and revealing themselves in therapy settings. These clients are almost universally engineered with techniques that involve creation of polyfragmented Dissociative Identity Disorder. Treating such clients requires a high degree of skill, especially in forming and maintaining a caring treatment relationship. In many cases these clients have been conditioned to accept that they are unloveable and untreatable. Their experiences are extreme and highly traumatic. In some cases their handlers (abusers) have even mimicked psychologists and/or psychiatrists creating aversive conditioning to therapy itself.

Therapists of these clients are challenged with intense visceral reactions to both disclosures of unimaginable abuse and the extreme dysregulation these clients can display in and out of sessions. Their stories and behavior will push all the countertransference buttons from extreme maternal sympathy to horror and revulsion. This is advanced practice!

Ideally therapists help these dissociative clients develop a strong attachment to their treater that can weather the ups and downs of extreme trauma work. Yet each therapist has thresholds of affect tolerance and belief that affect their clinical ability to stay connected to clients and help process catastrophic experiences. This workshop focuses on: growing relational ability in the therapist, techniques to hear and respond effectively to extreme trauma disclosures, and increasing mindfulness of countertransference reactions from moment to moment without shutting down or acting out. Effective therapeutic apology and other reparative strategies are presented for working through the inevitable ruptures of attachment in trauma therapy when countertransference gets away from us.

Objectives

Upon Completion of this webinar, participants will be able to:

- Name three common ways that therapists compromise patient attachment in trauma treatment
- Identify and utilize evidence-based session rating metrics in their clinical practices
- Deliver an effective apology that rehabilitates and strengthens attachment in the therapy setting
- Respond compassionately to traumatic or unbelievable disclosures in a way that does not rupture the attachment to the treater and facilitates a greater holding environment for the treatment

- Identify areas of countertransference that include thresholds of belief, spirituality and horror in themselves and neutralize reactivity that could cause a rupture in attachment in treatment.

Resourcing the Therapist and Preventing Burnout

1:45pm – 3:15pm EDT

Presenter: Susan Hykes

Presenter Biography: Susan Hykes is a spiritual director and a registered psychotherapist who is listed in the State of Colorado database and authorized by law to practice though not licensed. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan with a BA in mathematics and a teaching certificate. She has been in private practice since 1989 and has accrued over 1500 hours of continuing education in professional workshops since that time. Her previous professional experience includes system analyst, management consultant, and Executive Director of a treatment center for recovering alcoholics. She has had extensive experience counseling others since 1970 and has empowered many people to find growth and wholeness. Her experience includes individual, family, and couples counseling, grief counseling, co-dependency and addiction recovery, and post-traumatic stress recovery, including dissociative disorders. She has presented at national conferences on the subjects of Narcissism, Professional Ethics, and the CoMorbidity of Autistic Spectrum Disorder and CPSTD.

Abstract: The goal of this webinar is to resource the listener so that the listener can avoid Vicarious Traumatization, Secondary Traumatic Stress and burnout while experiencing compassion satisfaction and professional growth. We will do that through suggestions for self-assessment, contrasting diagnosis with attunement, personal mindfulness, some reconceptualization of the client's and the therapist's roles in therapy. In addition we will devote attention to recognizing symptoms of overload before it is too late to recover. We will also enumerate the vicarious gifts of working with this population.

Objectives

Upon Completion of this webinar, participants will be able to:

- Recognize 3 symptoms of Vicarious Traumatization
- Identify at least 3 protective practices that combat/relieve symptoms of Vicarious Traumatization.
- Differentiate between Vicarious Traumatization and Secondary Traumatic Stress.

The Documented Reality of CIA and Military Mind Control

3:45pm – 5:15pm EDT

Presenter: Colin A Ross, MD

Presenter Biography: Colin A. Ross, M.D completed medical school at the University of Alberta and his psychiatry training at the University of Manitoba in Canada. He is a Past President of the International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation, and is the author of over 225 papers and 31 books. He has spoken widely throughout North America and Europe, and in China, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand. He has been a keynote speaker at many different conferences, and has reviewed for over 30 different professional journals. Dr. Ross is the Director of hospital-based Trauma Programs in Denton, Texas, Torrance, California and Grand Rapids, Michigan. He has been running a hospital Trauma Program in the Dallas area since moving to Texas in 1991. Dr. Ross' books cover a wide range of topics. His clinical books focus on trauma and dissociation and include: *Dissociative Identity Disorder. Diagnosis, Clinical Features and Treatment of Multiple Personality, Second Edition* (1997); *Schizophrenia: Innovations in Diagnosis and Treatment* (2004); *The Trauma Model: A Solution to the Problem of Comorbidity in Psychiatry* (2007); *Trauma Model Therapy: A Treatment Approach for Trauma Dissociation and Complex Comorbidity* (2009); *Structural Dissociation: A Proposed Modification of the Theory* (2013); and *Treatment of Dissociative Identity Disorder: Techniques and Strategies for Stabilization* (2018). Dr. Ross has published a series of treatment outcome studies in peer-reviewed journals, which provide evidence for the effectiveness of Trauma Model Therapy. Many of his papers involve large series of cases, with original research data and statistical analyses, including a paper entitled "Trauma and Dissociation in China" in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*. Besides his clinical psychiatry interests, Dr. Ross has published papers and books on cancer and human energy fields, as well as literary works including essays, fiction, poetry and screenplays. He has several different hobbies including travel.

Abstract: The CIA was formed in 1947: the first documented CIA mind control program was Project BLUEBIRD, which was authorized by the Director of the CIA in April, 1950, three months before the beginning of the Korean War. In this talk, Dr. Ross will review the documented history of CIA and military mind control experimentation from World War II onwards. This will include Project BLUEBIRD, Project Artichoke, MKULTRA, MKSEARCH, MKNAOMI and other programs. The experiments involved hypnosis,

many different drugs, sensory deprivation and isolation, brain electrode implants and other techniques. Documents demonstrate conclusively that Manchurian Candidates have been used operationally by the US military since World War II. The purpose of reviewing this history will be to help therapists assess and respond to claims by patients that they have been victims of CIA and military mind control experimentation. Although such claims can rarely be validated objectively, they are usually consistent with many of the techniques described in CIA documents. The information provided should help therapists maintain therapeutic neutrality while treating patients who describe organized ritual abuse or mind control experimentation.

Objectives

Upon Completion of this webinar, participants will be able to:

- Describe the history of CIA and military mind control experimentation
- Describe how to assess and educate patients in therapy
- Describe how the information provided can be used to maintain therapeutic neutrality

Malignant trauma and the invisibility of ritual abuse

5:30pm – 7:00pm EDT

Presenter: Michael Salter, PhD

Presenter Biography: Dr Michael Salter is a Scientia Fellow and Associate Professor of Criminology at the University of New South Wales. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons 1) from the University of Melbourne and a PhD in public health from the University of New South Wales. His research is focused on child abuse and gendered violence, including primary prevention, complex trauma and technologically-facilitated abuse. He is the author of two books, *Organised Sexual Abuse* (Routledge, 2013) and *Crime, Justice and Social Media* (Routledge, 2017), and a range of papers on child abuse and gendered violence. A/Prof Salter sits on the Board of Directors of the International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation, who awarded him the 2018 Morton Prince Award for Scientific Achievement. He is an Associate Editor of the journal *Child Abuse Review* and expert advisor to the Canadian Centre for Child Protection. Current projects include a study of parental involvement in the manufacture of child sexual abuse material funded by the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation, and a study of multi-sectorial responses to women with complex trauma funded by Australia's National Research Office for Women's Safety.

Abstract: This presentation draws on psychoanalytic theories of malignant trauma to explain the invisibility of ritual abuse. Ritual abuse refers to the misuse of rituals in the organised sexual abuse of children. Despite expanded recognition of the varieties of child maltreatment, ritual abuse remains largely invisible outside the trauma and dissociation field as a specific form of sexual exploitation. Presenting qualitative data from interview research with ritual abuse survivors and mental health specialists, this presentation argues that the trauma of ritual abuse and its invisibility are co-constitutive. The perpetration and denial of ritual abuse occur within a relational matrix of perpetrators, victims, and bystanders structured by the presymbolic dread of vulnerability and dependency. The simultaneity of perpetration and disavowal creates the conditions for the malignancy of ritual abuse, including the invisibility of victims and the intergenerational transmission of extreme abuse. The presentation examines how the provision of care to ritual abuse survivors can become contingent on its erasure, and reflects on the role of therapists and others in interrupting the metastases of malignant trauma and crafting cultural and moral frameworks to transform the dread at the core of ritual abuse.

Objectives

Upon Completion of this webinar, participants will be able to:

- Identify the underlying psychological mechanisms for the intergenerational transmission of sexual violence
- Critically assess social responses to ritual abuse through object relations theory
- Develop new insights into the treatment of ritual abuse within service systems that may not recognise ritual abuse as a specific form of sexual exploitation

Can't Make it?

If your schedule won't allow for you to attend, the webinar will be recorded and made available for purchase approximately two weeks after the live event. The recordings cost is \$25 for ISSTD members and \$45 for non-members. The webinar recording can be accessed on the CE-Credit.com website or in ISSTDWorld for ISSTD members. Exam fees for Continuing Education credits start at an additional \$10.46.

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