



## Nominations Sought for ITAA Officer and Trustee Positions

The ITAA is seeking nominations for the following elected positions:

**Officers (nominations allowed from any region and elected at large by all ITAA voting members)**

- Vice President of Operations (2007-2009)
- Vice President of Research and Innovation (2007-2009)
- Treasurer (2007-2009)

**Regional Trustees; Term of Office 2007-2009 (only voting members from a given region may be nominated and only voting members from a given region will vote for the trustee to represent that region)**

- 1 from United States/Canada/Mexico
- 1 from Central/South America
- 1 from India/Asia/Africa

Nominations require the name and consent signature of the nominee (it may be yourself), the name of the person making the

Yolanda Sol, Mexico  
Nicholas Townsend, UK

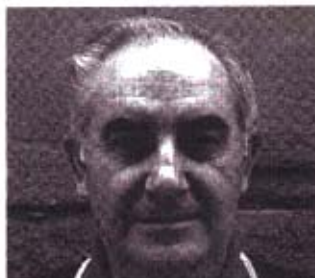
Massimo Redaelli, Italy  
Masako Suenami, Japan  
Avgusta Sutanovic, Slovenia

## Symposium in Spain Celebrates Eric Berne's Contributions

From 14-18 November 2005, a special course commemorating the 35th anniversary of Eric Berne's death was offered by Madrid's Complutense University (UCM) as part of a cycle dedicated to communications. The course, "Eric Berne, 35 Years Later," was attended by more than 50 mostly graduate-level students. It was directed by Felicísimo Valbuena de la Fuente, professor of information sciences at the university, which is Spain's largest (98,000 students) and one of its oldest and most prestigious. The aims of the course were:

1. To debate the principal themes of transactional analysis
2. To examine potential contributions of transactional analysis to different areas of human activity
3. To develop a plan for publishing works on transactional analysis in Spanish, including a special anthology underwritten by Liberty Insurance featuring all the lectures and colloquia presented during the course

The main themes addressed during the 5-day course were the influence that the figure of Berne and his theories have had on teachers and professionals in diverse spheres. In addition, presentations examined the large corpus of theoretical literature that transactional analysis has generated over the last 35 years. The introductory paper, "Eric Berne as a Person," was presented by Francisco Massó, author and director of



Felicísimo Valbuena de la Fuente, director of Berne Symposium

the Psychology and Transactional Analysis Group in Madrid. After a brief overview of Berne's life, Massó spoke about Berne's Martian character—he knew how to observe certain aspects of the world without preconceived ideas—and about Berne as an Abandoned Child, Storyteller, Creator, and Existential Philosopher.

Following this, Rafael Sáez Alonso, professor of education at UCM, whose doctoral thesis described common games played by students in the classroom, presented the first part of the course's survey on "The Evolution of TA's Main Concepts." The first day's introductory presentations were completed with a roundtable discussion comparing and contrasting transactional

analysis with other theories and schools and analyzing the reasons for the difficulties transactional analysis has had in gaining permanent acceptance internationally at the university level. Participants included José Luis Martorell, professor at the National University of Education at a Distance (UNED); Lluís Casado, ex-president of the Catalan Association of Humanist Psychology; and Miguel Angel Santed, professor of Psychopathology at UNED.

During the next four days the course evolved along several fronts. The interpretive potential of transactional analysis was addressed by several people: José María Román, professor of evolutionary psychology and education at the University of Valladolid, spoke about transactional analysis as a tool for textual commentary. Valbuena de la Fuente, in a presentation titled "The Communicative and Educational Potential of Berne's Theory of Games," demonstrated the pedagogical method that he and fellow professor of information sciences at UCM Eva Aladro Vico employ in their classes, illustrating transactions and games with fragments from movies. With a team of colleagues, they hope to create a course book that will be made available to teachers at various grade levels, one incorporating transactional analysis concepts as a didactic basis for literary and film interpretation. A debate on the subject, "Applying the Four Levels of TA to Literary and Film Studies," was

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## Course in Spain

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also held, in which Elena María García Fernández offered her personal interpretation of fairy tales and Pablo Pascual Bécas offered his ideas on how to reconstruct a script based on personal ads.

Among the highlights of the course was the presence of renowned Spanish philosopher and former professor at Oviedo University Gustavo Bueno Martínez. Valbuena de la Fuente had sent Bueno, the founder of philosophical materialism, a copy of Berne's *What Do You Say After You Say Hello?* and asked for his comments, precisely because Bueno was not familiar with transactional analysis. Bueno's "Philosophical Reflections on Eric Berne's Script Theory" presented a lively and original vision of transactional analysis and received prolonged applause. Especially striking was Bueno's comparison of Berne to Newton. In his lecture and the roundtable that followed, Bueno opened new paths of research for transactional analysts, although not completely free from controversy, as he diverged critically from some of the conclusions proposed by moderator Josep Lluís Camino, president of the Catalan Transactional Analysis Association.

It is well known that one of Eric Berne's principal interests was researching the cultural aspects of mental health and mental health care in non-Western and underdeveloped nations. He traveled extensively from the 1930s right into the 1970s visiting hospitals in cities and rural areas all over Asia, the South Pacific, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, India, Eastern Europe, Turkey, and many other countries, and wrote extensively about his findings. This aspect was reflected in a colloquium moderated by María Ángeles García Sánchez on the contributions of transactional analysis to the study of intercultural communication.

A historical/interpretive perspective on transactional analysis was offered by Elvira García de Torres, professor of humanities and communication at San Pablo-CEU University in Valencia. She examined key incidents of historic negotiations, such as the Congress of Vienna and Talleyrand's diplomatic talents, as well as more recent models of negotiation that have arisen over the last several decades.

Other theoretical and practical aspects of transactional analysis were presented by José María Jiménez Ruiz, specifically, on communication in the relationships of couples (and the four main causes of separation among couples that he has observed in his practice); by José Luis Martorell, author of *Scripts for Living and The Life Script*, on the theory and models of life scripts; by D. Antonio Ares Parra, transactional analyst and professor at UCM, on "Leadership and New Information Technologies through TA"; and by Jorge Oller Vallejo, whose articles on emotion and transactional analysis are widely published in English.

This survey of the varied topics covered during the UCM's special symposium in memory of Eric Berne should give a good idea of the broad sweep and relevance of transactional analysis theories at the university level in Europe today. It is especially significant that the course originated not in the psychology department, but in the communications department of a major European university. Given the overwhelming importance of communications in today's globalized culture and economy, the interest in transactional analysis from this sector may be taken as a sign not only of the current relevance of transactional analysis but its future relevance as well.

Our thanks to Terry Berne for his help in preparing this report.

## 2006 WORLD TA CONFERENCE

26-29 JULY 2006  
ISTANBUL, TURKEY



### TRUST AND UNCERTAINTY IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

Organized by The International Transactional Analysis Association (ITAA) and the Turkish Transactional Analysis Association (TAD)  
Supported by ASAM Child and Family Development Center

Preconference Institutes: 25-26 July  
BOC Exams (CTA/TSTA): 26 July  
Training Endorsement Workshop: 30-31 July

#### Call for Proposals

The conference program committee invites proposals for workshops from transactional analysts and other professionals and practitioners in education, counseling/therapy, and organizations. Please design your presentations in keeping with the conference theme of "Trust and Uncertainty in the 21st Century." Proposals should be no more than 200 words and submissions should include a resume of no more than 100 words describing the presenter or presenters. Please provide the following details on the cover page of your proposal: name of presenter(s), credentials of presenter(s) (TA certification and other), title of presentation, duration (1.5 hours/3 hours), seating arrangement (circle/theater/other), audiovisual aids needed (board/flip chart/LCD projector), and group size limitations.

Last date for submitting proposals: 15 March 2006

Send proposals and any conference questions to [info@ta2006.org](mailto:info@ta2006.org)  
Visit the conference Web site at [www.ta2006.org](http://www.ta2006.org)