



## Editorial

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My usual exciting time in preparing an issue has been very much tinged with sadness this time – you will see below that I include two Obituaries of my colleagues and friends within the TA community – plus my own article refers to wars and I am very conscious that wars are ongoing that impact on my colleagues and friends in several countries.

However, this is still an exciting issue to bring to readers.

We begin with the third article in our series from Carol Remfrey Foote. Carol is conducting a huge research project about investigating the use of outcome measures as a contribution to TA diagnosis, contracting and treatment planning. She is providing us with a series of articles so we can really follow what she is doing, critique it, quote from it – and maybe copy it!

Carol introduced her project in 2023 and earlier this year she provided a detailed account of the research methodology. We are an open access journal so you can easily read these, free, on the website.

This issue she has provided us with detailed analyses of what she discovered from a Certified Transactional Analysis (CTA Psychotherapy) who is one of the research participants. The original analysis was done earlier this year for submission to the university but the research methodology requires it to be done again at a later stage – so she has allowed us to publish both versions to show how the methodology works and what changes as she gets further through the research process. In other words, how she analysed the participant she started with, and how her analysis changed after she had considered the data from several other research participants.

Again, Carol has provided enough information that anyone can copy what she is doing – and we look forward to the final instalment (or instalments) in 2025.

Next, we have another fascinating set of ideas from Tony White. This time he prompts us to think about how we understand the impact of childhood developmental stages on the therapeutic alliance, by deconstructing the therapeutic alliance.

Tony gives us a useful overview of how Ellen Bader and Pete Pearson work, made even more useful because they do not appear to have published since many years ago. He also invites us to consider what kind of TA theory we apply in the sense of: redecision TA where we assume the locus of control is within the client; classical TA where script change comes from the therapist doing something to the client; or relational TA where the change comes from the client and therapist relating.

The third article is by me. As part of my series of free books that I am issuing as reviews and critiques, I am constantly reviewing new material to update them. I have been getting increasingly concerned about material appearing that appears to imply that TA can 'cure' neurodiversity and 'prevent' wars. I am therefore proposing that we need a new school of TA – biological – to reflect that everything is not scripted. We have known for many years that some early TA beliefs about the brain, addiction, homosexuality, and so on, are not scripted. Increasingly we learn we are human animals. I am proposing that we need to take biology and genetics into account more.

Biology is also associated with the final two items in this issue – the Obituaries for Ian Stewart and Mark Widdowson. Whatever our script says, and even if we have adopted the positive script that Fanita English (1988) suggests, we cannot avoid the biological impact on our health. Two big losses to the TA community.

### References

English, Fanita. (1988). Whither Scripts? *Transactional Analysis Journal*, 18(4), 294-303.  
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