



Editorial

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As I publish this issue, there is some great news and some sad news.

The sad news is that Roberto Kertész, a long-time IJTARP Reviewer, has died. An Obituary for him appears on the next page.

I know that Roberto would have been delighted by the great news, which is that this is a Special Issue containing three brand-new papers by Stephen Karpman.

Written in Steve's own inimitable style, I was prompted as I read them to recall how Eric Berne's books were so full of brilliant nuggets. When Steve reminded me that he was a former *Transactional Analysis Journal* Editor, I was intrigued to see his writing style – and soon realised that he personifies Berne's Rule No. 4 - *Write in layperson's language* (Look in the first article to see all 5 Rules). I did have to do some editing, however, partly to factor in that some of our readers will be using Google translate so we need to minimise colloquial terms, and partly because his references to poker playing meant nothing to me – I must have come upon the TA scene too late.

What is particularly exciting about this Special Issue is that Steve pulls together his contributions over the years AND presents significant new ideas, thus honouring Berne's legacy and abiding by Rule No. 5 - *Always keep inventing*.

He also more than meets Rule No. 1, which is *Don't say anything that you cannot diagram*. I was amazed

at how many variations there can be of the insightful, invaluable and widely known, drama triangle – with each adding an extra perspective.

As Editor, I agreed with Steve that it is appropriate in this issue to be flexible around Rule No. 2 – *Don't say anything that has ever been said before*. Because these articles are retrospectives as well as new material, it clearly makes sense to repeat some information rather than expecting readers to go back to original references, especially when they may not have easy access to previous publications. There is also some overlap between the three articles, done so that each one will stand alone in the future.

That just leaves Rule No. 3 - *Always apply Occam's razor*. You will see various examples of Steve's thinking about this – and I was intrigued to learn that it was this rule that meant the drama triangle had only three roles.

I will finish this Editorial by reminding all of you that IJTARP is listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (www.doaj.org); that authors retain their copyright and can put their papers on Academia (www.academia.edu), which now indicates that it is accessed by almost 90 million academics; that you can help us raise the profile of TA generally by alerting your colleagues to the existence of this free access journal; and please consider making a donation when you finish reading so that we can keep publishing.