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Objet: New England meeting

Yesterday, Saturday, July 13, 7 members of our ISPS-US-New England regional group met at the home of Hal Bursztajn with Dag Soderstrom who is president of ISPS of Switzerland. He presented concepts used by his group as well as artistic works that give representation to these concepts. He also explained how their patients receive individual and group therapeutic experiences, and that therapists also have individual and group supervisory experiences.

The linchpin of these conceptualizations is the idea of "representability," which is a real problem for people with psychotic problems because of their difficulties with a fragmented self, inclusion of traumatic introjects, and the experience of living, itself, as an ongoing trauma. There were a number of other interesting ideas that were presented and, frankly, nowhere near enough time to integrate them.

Dr. Soderstrom is interested in engaging in collaborative research that would expand our knowledge of how to best help people with psychotic problems toward recovery and would also provide an objective data base in support of psychotherapeutic approaches. He made the point that since we are all working with patients with these issues, it ought to be possible to collaboratively study our approaches.

The group spent some time discussing how to arrive at a researchable question, one that would lead to a research protocol that could give us some answers. Not enough time was available to get to common ground on this, but it was decided to continue looking at this at our regional meetings in the Fall and to remain in email communication with Dr. Soderstrom.

At the end there was a feeling of excitement and a desire to continue with this project.

Ron Abramson

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