PRESENTATION

Drs. Arlene and Arnold Richards began their foray into China ten years ago when they were invited to give lectures at the Wuhan Hospital for Psychotherapy. They were subsequently invited to establish a psychotherapy training program which has now completed its third year. There is an American faculty, as well as Chinese lecturers, and the American faculty continues online sessions with Chinese mental health professionals between meetings. Prior to COVID-19, the group met in China twice per year for ten days at a time, but last year’s sessions were conducted virtually due to the pandemic. As a result of the program, these mental health professionals have increased their interest in what they call “personal experience” and what we call psychotherapy.

In this presentation, the Richards will describe their experience establishing their psychotherapy training program within the Chinese culture. They will address the particular reception of psychoanalytic ideas in a largely secular society, how decades of a one-child policy impacts psychoanalytic conceptions of the family in a society largely without siblings, and how psychoanalytic ideas can help to address unique gender dynamics with which Chinese culture must contend. Their presentation will also explicitly address the impact of COVID-19 from Wuhan and beyond.

PRESENTERS

Dr. Arnold Richards was Editor of JAPA from 1994 to 2003 and, prior to that, Editor of TAP. He is a member of the Contemporary Freudian Society and an honorary member of the Karen Horney Clinic. Dr. Richards is currently on the faculty at Tongji Medical College of Huazhong University of Science and Technology at Wuhan, China. He is planning a series of five volumes of his selected papers, the first two of which have been published: Volume I: Psychoanalysis: Critical Conversations, Volume 2: Psychoanalysis: Perspectives on Thought Collectives, Volume 3: The Psychoanalyst at Work, Volume 4: The Peripatetic Psychoanalyst, Volume 5: The World of Psychoanalysis and Psychoanalysts. He is also writing a memoir, Unorthodox: My Life in Psychoanalysis, and he has co-edited four books. Dr. Richards is the publisher of internationalpsychoanalysis.net and ipbooks.net. He teaches in the US and China and is retired from private practice. He is living in Palm Beach, Florida.


OBJECTIVES

At the end of this presentation:

1. To familiarize participants about the initiation and development of a Chinese-American psychotherapy teaching program.
2. To discuss cross-cultural interactions with mental health professional.
3. To explore the impact of COVID-19 on China and on the program.