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GROUP FOUNDATION
FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH
INTERNATIONAL BOARD FOR
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGPA CONNECT 2019 “BUILDING BRIDGES OF CONNECTION THROUGH GROUPS”
PLENARY RECORDINGS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON YOUTUBE

NEW YORK, May 8, 2019- The American Group Psychotherapy Association branded channel on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/agpa01> provides a wealth of information for clinicians, the public-at-large as well as media seeking expert information on the use of groups.

Select Plenary events from the recent 2019 AGPA Connect in Los Angeles are now available on the channel as follows:

Dr. Irvin Yalom was interviewed by Dr. Melyn Leszcz at the **Group Foundation Luncheon**. The interview, “[How our Life Shapes our Life’s Work](#),” covered several themes discussed in Dr. Yalom’s most recent book, a personal memoir, *Becoming Myself*. Themes included Dr. Yalom’s career as a group therapist, researcher, and educator, the important influences in his professional development, and his transition into a creative writer using narrative as a teaching modality.

Dr. Joyce Slochower presented “[Trying Not to Look Ahead](#),” at the **Anne and Ramon Alonso Plenary Address**. Therapists think a great deal about the impact of early loss, trauma, and conflict on patient and analyst’s experience in the present. Dr. Slochower discussed the impact, personal and theoretical, of aging as a therapist and explores how aging may inform therapist’s relationship to the work they do.

Dr. Allan Schore presented “[Forging Connections in Group Psychotherapy Through Right Brain to Right Emotional Communications](#),” at the **Conference Opening Plenary Address**. Dr. Schore drew upon his latest book, *The Science and the Art of Psychotherapy*, and on one of his next two volumes, *Right Brain Psychotherapy*, to apply Regulation Theory to the change processes of group psychotherapy. He discussed how right brain communications of conscious and especially unconscious affects occur beneath the words of the group member’s narratives, and how this system of nonverbal communication is implicitly embedded in group processes.

Dr. Marco Iacoboni presented “[Like a Thought That is Also a Feeling: The Betweenness of Empathy](#),” at the **Mitchell Hochberg Memorial Public Education Event**. He discussed how the interactions between the mirror neuron system and executive control systems in the brain facilitate empathy and prosocial behavior. The studies highlighted in the presentation used functional brain imaging, non-invasive brain stimulation guided by imaging data, and behavioral assessment. They demonstrate that mirroring brain activity predicts prosocial decision-making, that image guided brain stimulation can modulate generosity, and that mirroring brain activity also predicts decisions in thorny moral dilemmas.

“We are so fortunate to have nationally renowned speakers present at AGPA Connect,” said Marsha Block, CAE, CFRE, AGPA Chief Executive Officer. “Each presentation provides an opportunity to explore the connection of current issues in society with the field of group therapy.”

For more information on the channel or on group psychotherapy, or to find out how to participate on the channel, contact AGPA at (212) 477-2677 or visit our website at www.agpa.org

About AGPA

The American Group Psychotherapy Association is the foremost professional association dedicated to the field of group psychotherapy, operating through a tri-partite structure: AGPA, a professional and educational organization; the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, its philanthropic arm; and the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists, a standard setting and certifying body. This multidisciplinary association has approximately 2,000 members, including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, clinical mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, pastoral counselors and creative arts therapists, many of whom have been recognized as specialists through the Certified Group Psychotherapist credential. The association has 21 local and regional societies located across the country. Its members are experienced mental health professionals who lead psychotherapy groups and various non-clinical groups. Many are organizational specialists who work with businesses, not-for-profit organizations, communities and other "natural" groups to help them improve their functioning.

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