



PRESS RELEASE

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Kevin Groark, Ph.D. wins American Psychoanalytic Association CORST Prize

Groark to present an ethnic study of dreams and their dreamers in the Mayan culture

New York, NY -- The Committee on Research and Special Training (CORST) of the American Psychoanalytic Association (APsAA) has announced Kevin Groark, Ph.D. as the recipient of its 2006 Essay Prize. The winning paper, entitled, "Placing the Self: Dreaming, Discourse, and Disavowed Volition among the Tzotzil Maya of Highland Chiapas, Mexico" resulted from a year of fieldwork by Dr. Groark in San Juan Chamula and San Cristobal de las Casas. The paper contributes to a multicultural understanding of an individual's subordination to his/her dreams in the Mayan culture in contrast to the Western cultural perspective that the responsibility for a dream lies within the dreamer.

Dr. Groark will present his paper on Thursday, January 18, 2007, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon during APsAA's Winter 2007 Meeting, which will be held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City, from Wednesday, January 17 through Sunday, January 21, 2007. More than 2,000 psychoanalysts, students and other mental health professionals are expected to attend. Dr. Groark is a research assistant professor in occupational science and occupational therapy at the University of Southern California and a 2006-2007 APsAA Fellow.

CORST annually awards a \$1,000 prize for the best essay on psychoanalytically informed research in the bio-behavioral sciences, social sciences, arts, and humanities. The winning author presents the paper at a special session of the Winter Meeting and the paper is reviewed for publication in The Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association (JAPA). Chair of the CORST committee is Vera J. Camden, Ph.D., (Cleveland Heights, Ohio).

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Founded in 1911, APsAA is a professional organization of psychoanalysts throughout the United States. The Association is composed of Affiliate Societies and Training Institutes in many cities and has approximately 3,500 individual members. APsAA is a Regional Association of the International Psychoanalytic Association.

CORST Prize for Essays on Psychoanalysis in Culture Marks 10th Anniversary

Vera J. Camden



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The Committee on Research and Special Training (CORST) of the American Psychoanalytic Association celebrated its 10th anniversary at the winter meeting by awarding

the 2007 prize to Elise Miller for her paper, "Narrating Trauma: Autobiography and Healing." Miller is a literary scholar and a psychotherapist, whose winning paper demonstrated both her sensitivity as a clinician to effects of trauma and her skillful reading of Dave Eggers's autobiographical novel, *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*. Our judges appreciated the ways in which psychoanalytic theory and practice as well as her expertise in the field of autobiography informed her interpretation of this best-selling work. These strengths were on display as Miller led a "master class" in her presentation at the CORST lecture in New York, evoking a lively and rich discussion from the audience. The complex strategies of Eggers in writing about his parents' deaths, to which he bore painful witness as caretaker, raise important issues for psychoanalytic witnessing and listening to survivors.

Inaugurated at the winter meeting of the Association in 1996 to foster psychoanalytically informed research into the biobehavioral sciences, social sciences, arts, and humanities, the CORST Essay Prize has become one of APsA's most distinguished prizes. Most of its winning essays have been published in the

Vera J. Camden, Ph.D., is professor of English at Kent State University, training and supervising analyst at the Cleveland Psychoanalytic Center, and assistant clinical professor at Case Western Reserve University. The founding chair of the CORST Essay Prize, she is co-editor of *American Imago*.

Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association (JAPA), which has rights of first refusal on all CORST winners. The winners over the past 10 years comprise an impressive array of scholarly and interdisciplinary distinction.

Fulfilling the mission of the CORST Prize as first articulated by the committee under the leadership of Peter Loewenberg, the following list of winners exemplifies the interdisciplinarity and sheer erudition of the prize winners. Such accomplishment and range of knowledge bear forth the theory and practice first enunciated by Sigmund Freud. His wide-ranging vision of diverse fields, from art history to philosophy, from neuroscience to law, from religion to clinical anesthesiology, must continue to be embraced by the theory and technique of contemporary psychoanalysis if we are to meaningfully interpret our culture and make a difference in the lives of our patients.

The following list testifies to the enduring richness of the field:

1997—"Exploring the Frontier from the Inside Out: The Art of John Sloan," Janice Coco, Ph.D.

1998—"Diagnosing the English Patient: Contributions to Understanding Schizoid Fantasies," Norman Doideal, M.D.

1999—"Melancholia's Cure or Resurrection by Poetry," Laura Mandell, Ph.D.

2000—"The Role of Patronage in Melanie Klein's Clinical Work," Joseph Aguayo, Ph.D.

2001—"Mourning Beyond Melancholia: Freud and Loss," Tammy Clewell, Ph.D.

2002—"Negotiations of Surface: Archeology within the Early Strata of Psychoanalysis," Diane O'Donoghue, Ph.D.

2003—"Psychoanalysis and the Ideal of Reasoned Deliberation in Constitutional Law," Anne Dailey, J.D.

2004—"Lusting for Death: Some Unconscious Meanings of Martyrdom Traditions," Naomi Janovitz, Ph.D.

2005—"Toward a General Theory of Unconscious Processes in Psychoanalysis and Anesthesiology," George Masour, M.D.

2006—"Placing the Self: Dreaming, Discourse, and Disavowed Volition among the Tzotzil Maya of Highland Chiapas, Mexico," Kevin Groark, Ph.D.

2007—"Narrating Trauma: Autobiography and Healing," Elise Miller, Ph.D.

I am proud to have served as chair of the CORST Prize Committee for the past 10 years and appreciative to have had the assistance of Dottie Jeffries and the eminent juries who have been drawn from the ranks of CORST, including Peter Loewenberg, Volney Gay, Robert Paul, Jonathan Lear, Allen Stern, Mel Lansky, Nancy Chodorow, Laurie Wilson, Nellie Thompson, Jeffrey Prager, Lewis Kirshner, Paul Schwaber, Bert Cohler, Humphrey Morris, Sherwood Waldron, and Steve Levy. The hard, cheerful work as well as the brilliance of the juries over the years have added to the luster of the prize and will insure its continued success.

It is a particular pleasure to welcome Lewis Kirshner as the new chair of the CORST Prize Committee in 2008-09. We all eagerly anticipate another decade—and beyond!—of sustained success under his leadership. This prize is a natural expression and outgrowth of the mission of CORST to extend the vision of psychoanalytic thought to the full range of human learning and to bring to bear upon this evolving theory of the mind that same range of knowledge and insight. Such reciprocal exchanges enrich the clinical and cultural soil of our psychoanalytic frontiers from which grows the new and transformative research and writing represented each year in the winning CORST essay.

APsA