



PPA Committee wants to communicate and exchange its interests, works and activities with the psychoanalytic community all over the world.

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PPA Newsletter received a proposal from PPA's Committee North-American Co-Chair **Audrey Kavka MD** to discuss among the subscribers the following questions:

● How do you define old?

PPA Chair **Guillermo Julio Montero PhD** also proposes a second question to debate:

● When does true aging begin?

The underlying idea is to find a relatively shared definition from a psychoanalytic vertex, let's say: including a metapsychological perspective.

Different voices, multiple interests and disruptive thinking are especially welcomed. A selection of the answers received will be outlined and published in next July's #3 PPA Newsletter with the name of its autor.

Please, answers must be sent to the email address informed above.

(PPA Newsletter is sent individually and not as a distribution list to avoid *unwished or trash* email deliveries and automatic *reply to all* answers, hard to follow and to understand.)

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Family

When Does Someone Become "Old"?

It's surprisingly hard to find a good term for people in late life.
by Joe Pinsker, January 27, 2020 [The Atlantic]

This interesting article serves as a trigger to help in the understanding of *social representation* of the concept of "old", let's say in our words and without euphemisms and the so called common sense: about *being old*, which is not the same. The verb *to be* adds the nuance that worries most of people.

The discussion is *in the spirit* of the age and *in the world* and *in everybody's subjectivity* since ancient times till now, but a psychoanalytic answer seems to be lacking.

Let's give a chance to popular culture to express through this article some of its particularities in order to allow psychoanalysis to state its own voice.

The article tries to find a proper word to call old people, but we might find the reason why it's no so easy to call simply *old* to old people.

The challenge is set into motion for all our subscribers!!!

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Milan Kundera (b. 1929):

Immortality [Opening words]

How could we think this paragraph from a psychoanalytic standpoint?

The woman might have been sixty or sixty-five. I was watching her from a deck chair by the pool of my health club... She was alone in the pool, standing waist-deep in the water, and she kept looking up at the young lifeguard in sweat pants who was teaching her to swim... I watched her in fascination... When I was ready to observe her once again, the lesson was over. She walked around the pool toward the exit. She passed the lifeguard, and after she had gone some three or four steps beyond him, she turned her head, smiled, and waved to him. At that instant I felt a pang in my heart! That smile and that gesture belonged to a twenty-year-old girl! Her arm rose with bewitching ease. It was as if she were playfully tossing a brightly colored ball to her lover. That smile and that gesture had charm and elegance, while the face and the body no longer had any charm. It was the charm of a gesture drowning in the charmlessness of the body. But the woman, though she must of course have realized that she was no longer beautiful, forgot that for the moment. **There is a certain part of all of us that lives outside of time. Perhaps we become aware of our age only at exceptional moments and most of the time we are ageless.**



PPA Newsletter strongly suggests its subscribers to watch NYC cinema director and documentalist Lori Petchers' video: **The Midlife Project**. She interviewed women during their menopausal stage to know and talk freely about their feelings, worries, hopes and so. The outcome is superb because the documentary has the bright and clear sky of what's the result of a research that wasn't previous and beforehand thought as a psychoanalytic one. We can find several coincidences, deep disagreements and a lot of fresh information, something that makes us love it!!!

PPA Newsletter will be waiting for its subscribers feedback about this.

[The Midlife Project is available in Youtube and at Lori Petchers website: www.5Efilms.com]



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