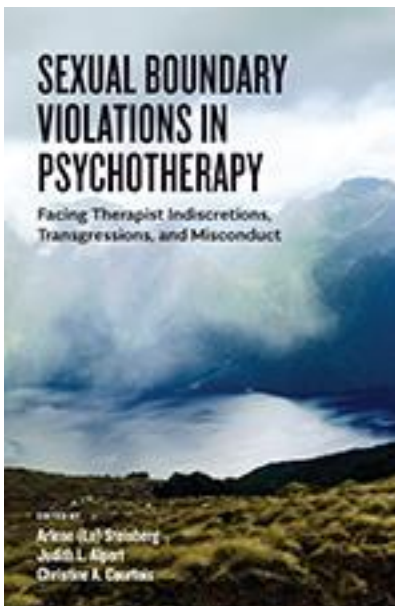


We are pleased to announce the upcoming publication of our edited book on sexual boundary violations in psychotherapy which can be pre-ordered via Amazon.



Steinberg, A., Alpert, J. L., & Courtois, C. A. (Eds.) (May 2021). *Sexual Boundary Violations in Psychotherapy: Facing Indiscretions, Transgressions, and Misconduct*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association

The book was designed to be different from other published books on sexual boundary violations (SBVs) in psychotherapy. We set out to reach a broad audience of mental health professionals and lay audiences and to cover topics that have previously received little or no attention. The text begins with an historical overview of the topic of SBVs by psychotherapists by Ken Pope in his foreword and by the co-editors in the introductory chapter. These are followed by a chapter on the evolution of the APA ethics code and the ongoing development of legal statutes followed by one on boundary challenges and the ethics of professional conduct and misconduct.

By deliberate design, victim/survivor clients are given center stage in this book, with consideration of why those who report are typically treated poorly, with suspicion, or outright disbelief. We suggest the need for compassionate and respectful response to them as individuals and for increased understanding of the confusion/ambivalence they often express due to the betrayal trauma inherent in this form of misconduct. We extend the concept of betrayal trauma from the individual therapist/abuser to colleagues and others who remain bystanders or collaborators and to organizations and their attempts to cover-up such complaints. We suggest what might be done differently going forward to give victims the care and attention they deserve.

In another contemporary approach to the topic, we consider sexual boundary violations as discussed and proscribed (or not) in various theoretical orientations and their training programs (e.g., cognitive behavioral, sex therapy, gestalt therapy, feminist therapy, psychoanalytically oriented psychotherapy). We consider boundary violations in a variety of settings (e.g., pastoral counseling, private practice, college counseling centers, and community mental health centers) involving new contexts (e.g., digital and social media mechanisms) and with various populations (e.g., racial and cultural and sexually diverse dyads). The most common dyad until recently has been the older male therapist and the younger female client; however, reports of abuse by female therapists are now on the rise as are those that involve dyads of various intersectionalities. The special vulnerabilities of those previously traumatized clients (especially those who experienced child sexual abuse and incest) are addressed as to how they play out in reenactment dynamics. The often-convoluted dynamics of such abuse, the therapist's character, and the range of serious aftereffects to the victim and therapist and to a variety of others who suffer collateral damage are also given consideration. An interview with Dr. Andrea Celenza provides a further focus on common transference and countertransference issues and perpetrator dynamics. Survivor testimonies and interviews elucidate these various dynamics in strikingly personal, detailed, and tragic ways.

The book contains chapters on treating previously abused clients in subsequent therapy and the challenges involved, and treatment and supervision of therapists who have engaged in sexual misconduct, with an eye towards whether rehabilitation is possible or recommended. In the epilogue, major themes are identified as well as directions for prevention and intervention.

In his preface, Dr. Ken Pope, a pioneer researcher, author, and victim advocate within professional psychology, provides an historical introduction to the issue of SBVs in psychotherapy. The text includes chapters by some of the other major contributors to the sexual boundary violations literature including Andrea Celenza, Philip Hemphill, Mark Gold, Gary Schoener, Laura Brown, Linda Campbell, Stephen Levine, Elizabeth Goren, and Sue Grand.