

## Letter from the Editors

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Summer 2020

Dear Readers,

We are proud to present you with the seventeenth volume of the *New School Psychology Bulletin*, dedicated to the legacy of Dr. Jeremy Safran. Dr. Safran was a cornerstone both at the New School and in the psychotherapy research community for over 25 years. Among his wide range of achievements and interests, he is perhaps best known for producing several seminal works of clinical theory and empirical research that were focused on understanding and facilitating the repair of interpersonal ruptures in therapy. This shone through in his teaching and mentorship, as Dr. Safran advocated the importance of creating space for clients to speak and be heard, and for therapists to process and constructively address their own emotions.

Our work on this issue began in December 2018 at a small meeting table in our psychology department, only a few months after his tragic death. Dr. McWelling Todman and Dr. Adam Brown approached us with the idea to publish an issue with research and commentary in Dr. Safran's vein of psychotherapy research. It was a fitting gesture of tribute, as Dr. Todman worked with Dr. Safran and the founding editors to pull together the funding for the journal back in 2003. Dr. Brown, then a doctoral student, was one of those editors. Shortly after, we all convened alongside our faculty advisor, Dr. Howard Steele, and while conversation was brief, together we built an early blueprint of what the issue might look like.

Those of us who worked directly with Dr. Safran, or Jeremy as we referred to him, hold memories of participating in a wide range of lively discussions in his research lab, whether examining the latest in psychotherapy research, unpacking psychoanalytic theory, or discussing a training paradigm meant to help address moments of rupture in treatments. We still recall his inviting office space where we were invited to develop our research ideas, to pick his brain, or simply to speak openly about our experiences in the psychology department. We also remember fondly the annual holiday parties Jeremy hosted in his own home. We share an appreciation of Jeremy's genuineness, never afraid to share his thoughts while allowing for an open dialogue. As students working closely with him, he made us feel seen and heard.

Today, we consider Jeremy's approach to addressing interpersonal conflict in therapy and examining the larger context of the world we find ourselves in now: a period marked by uncertainty and division, with particular difficulty in finding social spaces where people can comfortably talk through difference. It speaks volumes that during a pandemic, the people of the United States are unable to collectively agree upon and follow public health guidelines. Meanwhile, the killing of George Floyd, one man amongst a list too long of extinguished BIPOC lives at the hands of the police, has sparked protests across the country. The Black Lives Matter movement has placed the impacts of systemic racism at the center stage of public discourse. As an institution with power, the field of psychology must embrace the moment to mindfully consider themselves within this context of turmoil, social tension and gross disparity. We must listen and respond to criticisms and concerns from communities of color about our practice. It is time to explore the wounds spotlighted by the present ruptures. Until members of the field do the work to repair these ruptures, we remain in a milieu of white privilege. What we need is a milieu of trust and respect for all human dignity. We will not have it until we are willing to listen with full attention. It is only then that we can reach our goals of understanding human behavior and treating the full breadth of issues

affecting one's mental health. We, as a journal, commit to taking on the important responsibilities of identifying, questioning, and assessing our deeply-held assumptions – about our knowledge, the way we perceive events and issues, our beliefs, feelings, and actions. We also pledge to create and maintain a culture of intersectional inclusivity within our editorial board, authorship, and subject matter.

We are thankful to the former students of Dr. Safran's Psychotherapy Research Lab for helping us put together this special issue with works representative of a wide range of interests held by his students and himself. Those who had a chance to work with him, whether as researchers, students, or supervisees, carry on his legacy. We join his family and loved ones in remembering him.

Sincerely,

Greg Weil  
Liam Bang  
Lorraine Afflitto  
Emily Weiss