

In Memoriam: David A. Kipper, PhD, 1939–2010

Adam Blatner¹

David Kipper was one of the more prominent professionals in the fields of psychology, group psychotherapy, and psychodrama, nationally and internationally. Raised in Israel, he obtained his bachelor's degree from Bar Ilan University in 1964. He then joined the Department of Psychology at the University of Durham, England, where he obtained a PhD in 1969. Kipper trained with J. L. and Zerka Moreno at the Moreno Academy for Group Psychotherapy and Psychodrama in Beacon, New York, on and off from October 1966 through May 1967.

He had a rich academic career. Some of the more prominent roles included being a professor in the Department of Psychology at the Bar Ilan University, Israel (1980–1991), and, for the last 15 years, he was a Research Professor of Psychology and Director of the Institute of Group Research and Training at Roosevelt University, Chicago, Illinois. Other academic roles included being a Professor at the School of Social Administration at the University of Chicago in 1985–1986, and the Director of Behavior Simulation Program, Division of Management of Professional Education, Office of Continuing Education, the University of Chicago, 1984–1986.

Kipper, a Fellow of the American Psychological Association, was a licensed clinical psychologist in Illinois, and a licensed clinical psychologist and supervisor of psychotherapy in Israel. A diplomate of the American Board of Professional Psychology, 1999, he was also certified by the National Registry of Certified Group Psychotherapists in the United States, by the Moreno Academy at Beacon, New York, as a Director, and by the American Board of Examiners in Psychodrama,

1 Author, widely-used books on psychodrama. Correspondence to Adam Blatner, MD, 103 Crystal Springs Drive, Georgetown, TX 78633. E-mail: Adam@blatner.com.

Group Psychotherapy and Sociometry as a Trainer, Educator, and Practitioner.

Kipper's publications were extensive, starting in 1967 and continuing until 2010. He was the sole author of some 40 articles and co-author of another 40 on subjects relevant to psychology, group psychotherapy and psychodrama—especially regarding the nature of spontaneity. His book, *Clinical Role Playing in Psychotherapy* (1986), a classic text that discusses the theoretical and practical implications of our work, was published in 1993 in Russian and in 2001 in Bulgarian. He was a frequent presenter of papers and workshops at national and international professional conferences.

Kipper was a founding member of *Psychology, The Journal of the Israel Psychological Association* (in Hebrew, 1988–1989), and also served on the editorial boards of a number of journals, such as *Small Group Research: An International Journal of Theory, Investigation, and Application* (Sage Periodicals, 1990–1997); *Group Dynamics: Theory, Research, and Practice* (American Psychological Association, 1997–2008); *The Journal of Social Psychology* (in 2002); *The Group Psychologist* (the newsletter of APA's Division 49); *Group Psychology and Group Psychotherapy* (1994–1996); *Small Group Behavior: An International Journal of Therapy, Counseling, and Training* (Sage Publications, 1978–1989); and *GROUPE*, journal of the Eastern Group Psychotherapy Society (2009–2010). Kipper was a remarkable scholar for the psychodrama field, serving as executive or a consulting editor for the *Journal of Group Psychotherapy, Psychodrama, and Sociometry* for over twenty years. He also edited *Psychodrama Network News* in the early 1990s. Kipper taught psychodrama internationally, his work taking him to Moscow (1991), Israel (of course), and to many other areas in Europe. Many of our colleagues in Europe appreciate this training—all this in addition to his roles as therapist and consultant to management.

In the area of psychodrama, Kipper served as President of the American Society of Group Psychotherapy and Psychodrama (ASGPP) from 1989–1991, and was active in the organization throughout the 1980s and 1990s. In 1994 Dr. Kipper received the J. L. Moreno Award for “Distinguished Life-long Contribution to the Field of Psychodrama” from the ASGPP. That year, Kipper generously established the David A. Kipper Award for “outstanding writing and scholarship in psychodrama” to be awarded annually at the annual meeting of the ASGPP.

Kipper was a Fellow of the AGPA and held various offices in that organization; he further served in leadership roles in the IAGP over the last 15 years, such as being on that organization's Board of Directors. He was the Co-Chair of the International Psychodrama Section, 1993–1998, and held various other leadership roles. He earlier on had been the General Manager of the Israel Psychological Association (IPA) 1970–1972. He was active in many other professional organizations over the last 30 years, such as the American Academy of Group Psychology.

Kipper's life was diversified and included the cultural milieu where he lived.

For example, he was active on many community boards of directors, at colleges, arts programs, organizations that promoted positive international relations, and so forth. He was especially interested in the Joffrey Ballet in Chicago, of which he was a Founding Director and guiding light from the mid-1990s. A full description of his many publications and presentations may be found on his website: www.davidakipper.com.