Awakening to the Existential Threat of Environmental Collapse
A New Imperative for Psychotherapists and Psychoanalysts

Friday, October 22, 2021
5:00-7:00pm EDT
and Saturday, October 23, 2021
10:00am-4:45pm EDT
7.5 Contact Hours/Credits
Live Program via Zoom

Sponsored by:
Contemporary Freudian Society
Washington Baltimore Center for Psychoanalysis
Washington School of Psychiatry

This conference is dedicated to the memory of Harold F Searles, MD

“My hypothesis is that man is hampered in his meeting of this environmental crisis by a severe and pervasive apathy which is based on feelings and attitudes of which he is unconscious. The lack of analytic literature about this subject suggests to me that we analysts are in the grip of this common apathy.” Harold F Searles, MD, 1972

Join the conversation as we explore how we, as human beings, came to be faced with a human-made existential threat, and how we must learn and change as citizens and mental health professionals if we are to sustain ourselves and sustain future generations. Scientists and other experts tell us that we possess the means to solve the environmental crisis. Many of the barriers to doing so are psychological—our area of expertise.
Three panels of knowledgeable and creative thinkers will share their expertise and ideas to stimulate numerous discussions. We’ll examine the unconscious processes underlying resistances to facing and solving the environmental crisis and we’ll explore how the crisis is intertwined inextricably with issues such as race, class, economics and politics. Additionally, we’ll contemplate ways in which our theories and models of practice could broaden their scopes to understand more deeply and reflect more accurately our indispensable relationship with the non-human natural world.

PROGRAM

Friday, October 22

5:00-7:00pm  Welcome: Carolyn Curcio, LICSW and Emily Schlesinger, LCSW
Tribute to Harold F Searles, MD by Richard M Waugaman, MD

“Facing the Reality of Our Impact on the Natural World: Psychoanalysis after Searles”

Panel: “The Green Gang”
Lindsay L Clarkson, MD
John Kress, PhD
Donald B Moss, MD
Lynne Zeavin, PsyD

Saturday, October 23

10:00am-12:00pm “Connecting the Dots: Racism . . . Classism . . . Neoliberalism . . . Environmental Collapse”

Panel:
Thimali Kodikara
Olufemi Taiwo, PhD
Sally Weintrobe
Mia Charlene White, PhD

12:00-12:45pm Break

12:45-2:45pm “The Greening of Psychoanalytic Theory and Practice”

Does the Mind Not Rebel? Tony Soprano, Narcissistic and Perverse States, and the Path to a Greener Psychoanalysis
Emily Schlesinger, LCSW

Discussants:
Chanda D Griffin, LCSW
Paul Hoggett
Lara Sheehi, PsyD
2:45-3:15pm  Break
3:15-4:00pm  Small Group Discussions
4:00-4:45pm  Large Group Discussion

REGISTRATION

Program Fee:  $160 Clinicians / $100 Non-Clinicians / $50 Candidates/Students/Fellows

Cancellation Policy: Full refund 7 days prior to the program start date.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Connie Stroboulis at connies3@aol.com or 732-446-4867.

PRESENTERS

Lindsay L Clarkson, MD is a psychoanalyst and psychiatrist living in Vermont where she has turned her attention to developing a psychoanalytic understanding of our relationship to the natural world with the hope that the inquiry might contribute to a more benign and preservative response to the warming crisis. She has also focused on the role of how affiliation or alienation from the natural world affects psychic equilibrium, and the relevance of this relationship in clinical work. A graduate of Harvard University (B.A. 1973) and Duke University School of Medicine, (M.D. 1978) she practiced in Chevy Chase, MD for over thirty years. She is an emerita training and supervising analyst at the Washington Baltimore Center for Psychoanalysis, and a member of the Psychoanalytic Studies group at Dartmouth. The Kleinian tradition has greatly informed her work as an analyst, supervisor, teacher, and person.

Chanda D Griffin, LCSW is a teaching, training, and supervising analyst at the Manhattan Institute for Psychoanalysis (MIP) and co-chair of the Committee on Race and Ethnicity at MIP. Additionally, she is a faculty member of the National Institute for the Psychotherapies (NIP) and teaching faculty at the Institute for Contemporary Psychotherapy (ICP) and an Adjunct Professor at the Silberman Graduate School of Social Work at Hunter College. Chanda is a member of Black Psychoanalysts Speak and is in private practice in New York City.
Paul Hoggett is a psychoanalytic psychotherapist and training therapist with the Severnside Institute for Psychotherapy. He is Emeritus Professor of Social Policy at UWE, Bristol, UK, where, with Simon Clarke, he was a Director of the Centre for Psycho-Social Studies. In 2000, with Larry Gould, he was founding editor of the journal *Organisational and Social Dynamics*, a forum for those working within the Tavistock Group Relations tradition. In 2012, with Adrian Tait, he founded the Climate Psychology Alliance (CPA) and was its first chair. He recently edited a collection of CPA research papers, *Climate Psychology: On Indifference to Disaster* (2019, Palgrave Macmillan). Previous books have included *Politics, Identity and Emotion* (2009, Paradigm) and *Partisans in an Uncertain World* (1992, Free Association Books).

Thilmali Kodikara is the series producer and co-host of *Mothers Of Invention*, a groundbreaking podcast on feminist solutions to the climate crisis. Thimali co-hosts the show with the first woman president of Ireland, Mary Robinson, and comedian Maeve Higgins, curating a thoughtful line-up of guests from every continent. *Mothers Of Invention* is regularly recognized as one of the top three climate podcasts. In addition, she advises global climate organizations on adopting intersectionally-feminist principles into communications strategies, and negotiates cultural and justice partnerships with diverse allies such as 350.org, Stella McCartney, and the American Museum of Natural History, NY. Recent speaking engagements include the Berlin Human Rights Film Festival, Original Thinkers Festival in Telluride, and she judged EarthX Film Festival 2020. Most recently, she consulted on BAFTA’s climate education program for British film and television professionals. Her work has been recognized by the New York Times, Columbia Journalism Review, and BBC World Service.

John Kress, PhD is Distinguished Scientist and Curator Emeritus at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History. He is currently Co-Chair of the Earth BioGenome Project, an international effort to generate complete genomes for all species of plants, animals, and fungi on the planet. Dr. Kress received his education at Harvard University (B.A., 1975) and Duke University (Ph.D., 1981) Dr. Kress was instrumental in developing the genetic tool known as “DNA barcoding” for plants. His current research focuses on biodiversity genomics, conservation, and the Anthropocene. He has published over 250 scientific papers and books and is currently writing *The Smithsonian Guide to Trees of North America*. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. As well as serving as Affiliate Faculty at George Mason University, he is Visiting Scholar at Dartmouth College and the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. He lives in Dorset, Vermont, with his wife Lindsay L Clarkson, MD.

Donald B Moss, MD is Chair of the Program Committee of the American Psychoanalytic Association. He is the author of six books, most recently (with Lynne Zeavin): *Hating, Abhorring and Wishing to Destroy: Psychoanalytic Essays on the Contemporary Moment*, publication date Sept. 2021, and the author of sixty articles, most recently, “On Having Whiteness” in the *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, Spring 2021. In addition, he is co-founder of the Green Gang, a four person collective working with climate change denial and the relation between the human and the natural worlds. Dr. Moss has been in private practice in New York City for forty years.
Emily Schlesinger, LCSW is a member of Contemporary Freudian Society, where she is co-chair of the Diversity Committee. Emily has taught and supervised at the Psychoanalytic Training Institute of CFS. She is also a North American Representative of the IPA Subcommittee on Addiction. She is in private practice.

Lara Sheehi, PsyD (she/her), is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology at the George Washington University’s Professional Psychology Program where she teaches decolonial, liberatory and anti-oppressive theories and approaches to psychoanalytically informed treatment, conceptualization, and community consultation. She is the secretary and president-elect of the Society for Psychoanalysis and Psychoanalytic Psychology (APA Division 39), and the chair of the Teachers’ Academy of the American Psychoanalytic Association. She is co-editor of Studies in Gender and Sexuality; co-editor of CounterSpace in Psychoanalysis, Culture, and Society; and on the editorial board of the Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association. Lara is on the advisory board to the USA–Palestine Mental Health Network and Psychoanalysis for Pride. She is co-author of the forthcoming book, Psychoanalysis Under Occupation: Practicing Resistance in Palestine (September, 2021, Routledge).

Olufemi Taiwo, PhD is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Georgetown University. He completed his PhD at the University of California, Los Angeles. His theoretical work draws liberally from the Black radical tradition, contemporary philosophy of language, contemporary social science, German transcendental philosophy, materialist thought, and histories of activism and activist thinkers. He is currently writing a book entitled Reconsidering Reparations that considers a "constructive" philosophical argument for reparations and explores links with environmental justice. He has published numerous academic articles as well as public philosophy, including articles exploring intersections of climate justice and colonialism. Recently published articles include, “Why The Environmental Movement Should Think Locally,” The New Republic (1/2021) and "Don't Treat Climate Change as a National Security Risk", The New Republic (2/2021).

Sally Weintrobe, BScHons, Chartered Clin. Psych., is a Fellow of the British Psychoanalytic Society. Sally chairs the International Psychoanalytic Association’s Climate Committee and is a member of the Climate Psychology Alliance. Formerly, she was a member of senior staff at the Tavistock Clinic London, Hon Senior Lecturer at the Psychoanalysis Unit, University College London and she chaired the Scientific Committee of the British Psychoanalytic Society. Her published areas of interest are entitlement attitudes and their relationship to grievance and complaint, prejudice, our relationship to nature and psychoanalytic reflections on the climate crisis. She is one of the 31 Global Commissioners from different disciplines for the (2021) Cambridge Sustainability Report. She edited and contributed to (2012) Engaging with Climate Change, short-listed for the International Gradiva Prize for contributions to psychoanalysis; and, she is the author of the recently published book, Psychological Roots of the Climate Crisis: Neoliberal Exceptionalism and the Culture of Uncare.
Mia Charlene White, PhD is Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at the New School in NYC, where she teaches courses on race, geography and space-making practices in communities of color (on leave Fall 2021-Spring 2022). Now residing and organizing in South Orange, NJ, Mia is proud to have roots in both Tarrytown, NY and Queens, NY. She is the parent of two very energetic school-age kids, lives with disability, and identifies as a Black woman of African American and Korean descent. Mia did her PhD in urban planning at MIT and her master of international affairs at Columbia. Mia has been recognized for trauma-informed teaching methods with a focus on social justice. She is currently working on her first book manuscript titled *Fugitive Planning: A Blues Epistemology from the Undercommons*, an ethnographic exploration of vernacular planning resistance in Brown and Black spaces. Mia has been featured in *Harpers, Glamour, AlterNet, HuffPost, Good Morning America*, and North Jersey local media; she can be reached at mia-white@newschool.edu.

Lynn Zeavin, PsyD is a training and supervising analyst at the New York Psychoanalytic Institute where she co-chairs the Committee on Racial Consciousness and teaches the work of Melanie Klein as well as a new course examining the role of the external world in psychic development. An Associate Editor of the *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, Dr Zeavin has authored numerous papers and book chapters on sexuality, misogyny and Race, as well as various aspects of Kleinian theory and technique. She is a co-founder of the Frankiel Fellowship sponsored by the Klein Trust which has offered training in Kleinian analysis for advanced candidates for a decade. Dr. Zeavin is a co-founder of Green Gang, a four-person collective engaged in the study of our human relationship with the natural world. She is the co-editor (with Donald Moss) of the forthcoming book, *Hating, Abhoring and Wishing to Destroy: Psychoanalytic Essays on the Contemporary Moment (NEW LIBRARY OF PSYCHOANALYSIS)*

**SMALL GROUP FACILITATORS**

Yulia Aleshina, PhD, Christian Churchill, PhD, Mauricio Cortina, MD  
Molly Donovan, PhD, Judith Felton, LCSW, Laura Hickok, PhD  
Nancy Ingraham, PsyD, Michael Krass, PhD, Karol Kullberg, LCSW-C  
Venus Masselam, PhD, Kathleen Miller, PhD, Lizbeth Moses, PhD  
Susan Munford, PsyD, Charles Parks, PhD, Jane Prelinger, LICSW  
Justine Kalas Reeves, DPscch, Lenore Shapiro, LICSW, Pavel Snejevski, PhD  
Betsy Spanbock, LCSW, Michael Stadtler, PhD, Linda Stern, PhD  
Cherian Vergheese, PhD, Barry Wepman, PhD, Nancy Wolf, LCSW

**PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Carolyn Curcio, LICSW (Co-Chair) - Emily Schlesinger, LCSW (Co-Chair)  
Maurine Kelly, PhD - Karyne Messina, EdD
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this program, participants will be able to:

1. Discuss the reasons why human beings increasingly have become disconnected from the non-human natural world.
2. Describe the defense mechanisms used to seek psychological equilibrium during an ever-worsening environmental crisis.
3. Discuss the role of colonialism as it pertains to systems of domination and hierarchy/class and its ongoing effects on the non-human natural world and on Black, Indigenous and People of Color.
4. Explain the connection between neoliberalism and unhealthy narcissism and how they relate to an acceleration of the environmental crisis.
5. Explain why mourning is a necessary component to facing the environmental crisis.
6. Explain the ways in which psychoanalytic theories have enabled dissociation from the non-human natural world.
7. Describe ways in which psychoanalytic theory could be modified to acknowledge human-kind’s dependence on the non-human natural world.
8. Describe ways in which psychoanalytic technique could be modified to acknowledge human-kind’s dependence on the non-human natural world.
9. Identify ways in which mental health professionals can transition from an individualistic mindset towards a more collective orientation, and work towards collective action.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The instructional level for this activity is advanced. Mental Health Professionals (psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, licensed professional counselors, e.g. LPs, LCATs, and pastoral counselors); those with an interest in psychodynamic and psychoanalytic thinking and clinical applications; and social scientists with an interest in the intersection of sociology and psychoanalysis.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

NY Social Workers: The PTI-CFS is recognized by the NYS Education Department’s State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers #0087

NY Psychoanalysts: The PTI-CFS is recognized by the NYS Education Department’s State Board for Mental Health Practitioners as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed psychoanalysts #P-0021.

NY Licensed Psychologists: The PTI-CFS is recognized by the NYS Education Department’s State Board for Psychology as an approved provider of continuing education for Licensed Psychologists #PSY-0017.

DC, MD and VA Psychologists: The CFS is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The CFS maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

DC, MD and VA Social Workers: The Social Work Boards of the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia will grant continuing education credits to social workers attending a program offered by an APA authorized sponsor.

Note: For all other disciplines and states, please check whether your state licensing board will accept CE credits for a program offered by an American Psychological Association authorized sponsor.
CE credits will only be granted to participants with documented attendance of the entire program and completed online evaluation form. No partial credit will be offered. It is the responsibility of the participants seeking CE credits to comply with these requirements. Upon completion of this program and online evaluation form, participants will be granted 7.5 CE credits.

Physicians: This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, and the Contemporary Freudian Society. MedChi is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians. MedChi designates this live educational activity for a maximum of 7.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. The Contemporary Freudian Society is authorized by MedChi to grant CMEs for this program.

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURE INFORMATION

None of the planners and presenters of this program have any relevant financial relationships to disclose.