

#WithUkrainianJungians

Walking alongside our Ukrainian colleagues and all those facing erasure

Webinar 12 Tuesday 16th January 2024 18:00 - 19:45 GMT

Tom Singer & Daria Kunchenko

*The Mythopoetic Imagination and the Creative Unconscious in
Uncertain and Dystopian Times*

Chair: **Pi-Chen Hsu**

ALL ARE WELCOME

Book HERE

In association with **GAP** (Guild of Analytical Psychologists), **WorldlyWise**, **ARAS** (Archive for Research in Archetypal Symbolism) & **Sanctus Media**

Welcome

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The word 'dystopia' comes from the Ancient Greek **δυσ** (*dus*) 'bad', and **τόπος** (*tópos*) 'place'.

Wikipedia defines a dystopia this way:

"Dystopias are often characterised by fear or distress, tyrannical governments, environmental disaster, or other characteristics associated with a cataclysmic decline in society. Themes typical of a dystopian society include: complete control over the people in a society through the usage of propaganda, heavy censoring of information or denial of free thought, worshiping an unattainable goal, the complete loss of individuality, and heavy enforcement of conformity"

Dystopian societies may be depicted in works of fiction, often post-apocalyptic and set in the future. George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is an example. More recently many of us have perhaps, like me, been chilled at Margaret Atwood's depiction of society in the future in her book *"The Handmaid's Tale"*. The prophets of today warn us in no uncertain terms.

As we enter 2024 we might be forgiven for feeling pessimistic about the outlook for the human race. We may well feel deep alarm at those who hold power in our world today and at the support for them in the collective.

Ann Ulanov, in her immense presentation in #WUJ's **December webinar**, provided us with a roadmap for engaging in a profound way with what we are experiencing today. Katerina Sarafidou, in her brief response to Ann's presentation, noted: *"your reflections and the threads that you weave into your talk [individuation, the interface between personal and collective, and the feminine] offer us perhaps a "flickering light in the darkness" as Jung says, by connecting us to his work in the Red Book and the Black Books. I believe that this work, which he was writing during and around the first World*

War offers a symbolic framework that can provide meaning and sustenance to the human spirit under the most difficult hardships.”

We start the New Year with Tom Singer and Daria Kunchenko similarly offering us hope and inspiration as they, too, turn to mythopoetic imagination - absolutely vital in Jung's experience.

Even Margaret Atwood is not without hope. She was scheduled to go on a birdwatching trip to Ukraine in March 2022, which she only cancelled at the last minute, not believing that Russia would do something so “stupid” as to invade the country. She has attended rallies in solidarity with Ukraine and has now set up a project called Practical Utopias aimed at providing building blocks for a better society. She asserts: *“There isn't “the future” that we're doomed to enact. There are all kinds of possible futures. And which one we're going to get is going to depend on what we do now.”*

This quote struck me as perhaps a good note on which to start the new year.

We invite you to continue to stand with our Ukrainian, Israeli and Palestinian colleagues caught up in war, and also with all those of the three Abrahamic faiths who face persecution and discrimination. Our colleagues must grapple with immensely difficult emotional and psychological material. They need our support. Jung would say that we, too, have psychological work to do, if the world is to build a more promising future.

Our Chair for this webinar, Pi-Chen Hsu, is from Taiwan. On 13th January Taiwan holds elections. If Taiwan votes for democracy, it risks war with China. So we think of our colleagues in Taiwan and China, too, at this time.

We send our very best wishes to everyone for 2024 and especially to our colleagues caught up or affected by the current wars.

Warmly,
Catherine Cox

12 Tuesday 16th January 2024 18:00 - 19:45 GMT

Tom Singer & Daria Kunchenko

The Mythopoetic Imagination and the Creative Unconscious in Uncertain and Dystopian Times

Chair: Pi-Chen Hsu



Tom writes:

Everyday, I think about the wars in Ukraine and Israel/Palestine. I find it very difficult to imagine the horror of living under such daily assault, as I experience the psychic numbing which goes along with so much suffering, witnessed second and third hand. To those of you enduring this first hand, my heart goes out to you and all your loved ones.

I also worry every day about how a dystopian mood seems to have taken possession of the global psyche and how that mood paralyzes the imagination in its ability to creatively envision a better future, or even any future. I have given thought to how Jung's notion of the creative unconscious offers a way to think about the different forms that psychic energy takes to break through this massive obstruction.

Thomas Singer, M.D., is a psychiatrist and Jungian analyst in private practice in San Francisco. Dr. Singer's newest book is entitled *Mind of State: Conversations on the Psychological Conflicts Stirring U.S. Politics and Society* which has been co-edited with fellow contributors to *The Dangerous Case of Donald Trump*. Dr. Singer is the editor of a series of books exploring cultural complexes in different parts of the world, including *The Cultural Complex*, Australia (*Placing Psyche*), Latin America (*Cultural Complexes of Latin America*), Europe (*Europe's Many Souls*), North America (*Cultural Complexes and the Soul of America*), and Southeast Asia (*Cultural Complexes in China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan*). In addition he has edited *Psyche and the City*, *The Vision Thing*, co-edited the Ancient Greece, Modern Psyche series and co-authored *A Fan's Guide to Baseball Fever*. Dr. Singer currently serves as the President of National ARAS which explores symbolic imagery from around the world.

About this webinar

A deep sense of unease has taken hold of the global psyche with multiple serious threats that range from climate change, to economic downturn, to the threat of pandemics, to the rise of authoritarianism, and the outbreak of war in many conflicted areas.

The increasing uncertainty of finding security anywhere in the world has led to a dystopian mood that is a killer of being able to imagine a better world in the future. Is there anything that a Jungian perspective has to offer as an antidote to the paralysis of the ability to imagine a better future that is a natural consequence of the dystopian mood?

Daria Kunchenko

Daria writes:

Participation in this project is very important to me because in times of war, in times when ties are broken and the sense of security is lost, it is important to find alternative ways and means of rebirth. Creating new connections through our large international Jungian community reminds me of a system of roots that keeps us alive and nourished. Remembering the words of Scarlett O'Hara, when her cotton plantation was destroyed by war and all seemed lost, she said: "The roots are still alive, so we can rebuild everything!"

And despite the severe destruction taking place on the surface of the earth, I believe that by strengthening our roots, we will preserve life.

About the topic of the webinar:

Reflecting on the topic of the webinar, I plunged very deeply into the memories of my journey during these almost two years of war. As if stringing beads, I was pulling out memories of my creative manifestations during this period. The first desire I had in the first week of the war was to make a rag doll and teach my children this art. I also remembered the creative revelations of my clients, who discovered new meanings through drawing, clay art, painting, embroidery, making jewellery from beads, wooden beads, feathers, etc. During the war, Ukrainians created an incredible number of new songs, poems, films, new paintings, architectural works that warmed us in the coldest and darkest times. And it is creativity that has become the unifying factor for the Ukrainian nation that helps to sustain life.

As C.G. Jung said, "Sometimes the hands can solve a riddle against which the intellect is powerless." Similarly, the process of creation helps us to cope with the irrationality that our consciousness cannot comprehend in these dark times.

War forces us to transform ourselves through pain, death and loss, but remembering the Middle Ages as one of the bloodiest periods in history, I always hold the image of the Renaissance, which I believe will certainly come in Ukraine..



Daria Kunchenko was born and raised in Kyiv in a family of young doctors. All her life she saw herself as a doctor in the future. And so she did, entering medical school in 2006. Along with her studies, she worked for almost 3 years in oncology intensive care, but traditional medicine raised more and more questions, and the search for answers to which led her to psychology after almost 4 years of studying medicine. After moving to Drahomanov University, she simultaneously began studying child and then family psychology and psychotherapy. She has been running a private psychological practice since 2011. In 2018, she began her journey of becoming an analytical psychologist. She works with adults and children.

Since the beginning of the war, Daria has moved to Hamburg, where she also works with Ukrainian IDPs.

Chair: Pi-Chen Hsu

Pi-Chen writes:

In February 2023, I came across #WUJ webinar recordings via ARAS's YouTube channel. During the intermission of the webinar, the screen showed "#WUJ needs more help! If you would like to get involved, please email..." This line seemed to be a calling, and after finishing watching Joe Cambray and Inna Kyryliuk's presentation on Synchronicity and Trauma, I responded to the calling by sending an email to #WUJ expressing my wish to get involved. It might look like I am here to help, but deep in my heart, I know that I am here to find a community in which I can hold faith in humanity.



In the email to #WUJ, I stated "being a Taiwanese, I can very much relate to the experience of Ukrainian and the threat of erasure of our 'being and identity.'" Since the beginning of Russia's invasion, there has been fake news and misinformation all over social media, and there also has been fear of "Today Ukraine Tomorrow Taiwan " in my country. The destructiveness of a war and the authoritarianism' threat of erasure seem so far away but also so close by. Our collective culture upbringing reinforces the attitudes of self-preservation, glossing-over, and "as long as we keep silent and not stand up to bullies, they will leave us alone." I hope my small contribution of translating #WUJ materials into Chinese can serve as a form of counteracting the mass destructiveness and the banality of evil in the collective consciousness.

Whenever I receive #WUJ event flyers and cover emails for translation, I feel a sense of warmth. I am deeply touched by the thoughtfulness and gentleness of Catherine and the #WUJ team. Through the sharing of our Ukraine colleagues and senior analysts, I gain courage and strength to hold the unanswerable questions about human destructiveness and collective evil. The #WUJ is one proof of humanity, and I am honoured to have the opportunity to be part of this shared humanity, as Dr. Papadopoulos states "sharing our humanity may be the only viable antidote" to the nature of human destructiveness.

Pi-Chen Hsu, Psy.D., is a counselling psychologist in Taiwan, a clinical psychologist in California, and an analyst member of the Taiwan Society of Analytical Psychology. Dr. Hsu received her doctoral degree from California Institute of Integral Studies, and she received analytical psychology training through the International Analytical Psychology Scholar Program of C. G. Jung Institute of San Francisco.

Pi-Chen's areas of interests are attachment, infant observation, and symbolic representation of psyche. In 2021, she co-authored the article of "The House Imago and the Creation of Order," in K. Nakamura & S. Carta (ed). *Jungian Psychology in the East and West: Cross-Cultural Perspectives from Japan*. Oxon: Routledge. Her doctoral degree dissertation is on Mother-Child Separation and Second Generation Attachment Representation—A Case Study of a Taiwanese Hakka Family. In addition to her clinical practice, she also devotes her time and energy in translating analytical psychology books into Chinese. The following Jungian books have been translated and published by PsyGarden publisher in Taiwan: "Children's Dreams: Notes from the Seminar given in 1936-199", "Inner Work: Using Dream and Active Imagination for Personal Growth," "Trauma and the Soul: A Psycho-Spiritual Approach to Human Development and its Interpretation," "Shadow and Evil in Fairy Tales," "The Problem of the Puer Aeternus," "The Interpretation of Fairy Tales, Revised Edition," and "Jungian Life."

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Ukrainians & those working on the front line with Ukrainians: Free

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2.

Book your ticket

- **Webinar 12: January** [HERE](#)
Tom Singer & Daria Kunchenko

Recordings

All webinars are recorded.

The webinars are always available in **English** and **Ukrainian**.

Some webinars are available in other languages, including **Chinese, German, French, Italian, Spanish & Portuguese**.

We are grateful to **ARAS** for hosting the recordings, enabling colleagues in other time zones to participate and providing a resource for the Jungian community and general public..

As well as providing support to all those colleagues in fear of erasure, the webinars are intended to raise funds for those colleagues in Ukraine who are suffering severe financial hardship. Whether you attend live or join us via a recording, please do consider donating a gift to our Ukrainian colleagues.

Would one hour's fees be possible?

To view a recording, please click: [HERE](#)

To make a donation, please click: [HERE](#)

We usually play a slideshow whilst people arrive in the Zoom room.

To watch the slideshows, please click: [HERE](#)





More about the image, (of which this is a small section): **[HERE](#)**