

#WithUkrainianJungians

Walking alongside all colleagues caught up in war and facing erasure



Webinar 10 Tuesday 21st November 2023 18:00 - 19:45 GMT

Renos Papadopoulos & Larysa Kozyr

Collective Forms of Severe Adversity: narratives, traps, effects and therapeutic endeavours.

Chair: **Karin Fleischer**

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,

Our next webinar is on the topic of Collective Forms of Severe Adversity (CFSA). It could not be more timely. Not only does Russia's war against Ukraine continue to rage, but there is also now the war in Israel and Gaza. With the internet, there is no avoiding the horrors and the suffering that human beings are inflicting on one another in different places around the world.

Renos Papadopoulos, our keynote speaker, is in high demand around the world for his expertise - with refugees, those who have been tortured or trafficked and with the survivors of political violence and other major disasters. The scale of the severe collective adversity seems so overwhelming, the suffering so severe. What can we do when our communities and our clients suffer such extreme trauma? Renos's life has been dedicated to this work. We are very fortunate to have him come to speak to us.

Renos is convinced that we must not pathologise those who experience such trauma. He warns of the dangers of doing so. It is an easy trap for us to fall into. Rather, he has developed an Adversity Grid that is widely used as a resource, including by the UN for example, which he uses to teach another more constructive and enabling approach.

Renos repeatedly draws attention to the loss of complexity in situations of CFSA. The enormity and concreteness of destruction overwhelms, and we resort to over-simplifying and polarising. We lose our capacity to process; we act out; situations become increasingly stuck and we lose the capacity for an effective response.

Larysa Ko zyr writes to us whilst herself in the midst of a Collective Form of Severe Adversity. I don't want to reveal too much about her paper, but it includes a very interesting section on how CFSA manifests in the transference and counter-transference. To be able to write a paper whilst experiencing constant threat to life at both a personal and collective level demonstrates the extraordinary resilience of our Ukrainian colleagues. We continue to learn much from them and their experiences.

Karin Fleischer, our Chair, is from Argentina. I remember a trip there many years ago now and hearing from the daughter of one of the 'disappeared' from the time of state terrorism by the military junta. We were standing underneath a motorway flyover and she said it was believed that the bodies of some of the 'disappeared' had been entombed in the concrete columns supporting the flyover. Karin recently co-organised the IX Latin American Congress. Her presentation "*At the train station: the self, suspended in collective trauma*", delivered to Psychosocial Wednesdays, may be viewed free of charge on YouTube.

The experience of a supportive community is an important way to ameliorate the effect of Collective Forms of Severe Adversity. Please come and support all our colleagues who are caught up in war at this time, especially our Ukrainian, Israeli and Palestinian colleagues and all those suffering collective forms of severe adversity.

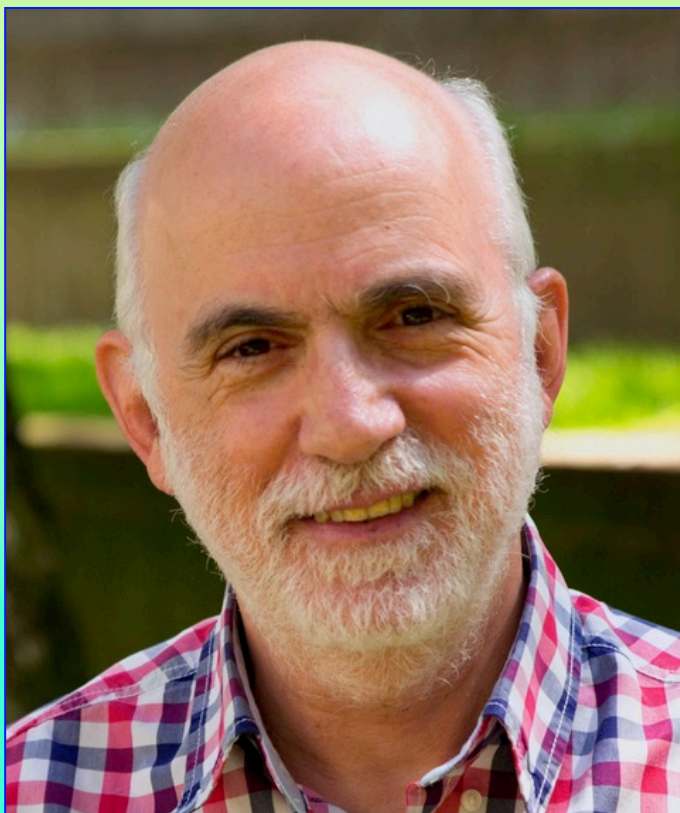
Warmly,

Catherine Cox

On behalf of the #WUJ Team

Renos Papadopoulos & Larysa Kosyr

Collective Forms of Severe Adversity: narratives, traps, effects and therapeutic endeavours.



Renos' personal statement:

Wars are the most destructive forms of human behaviour, not only because of the violence, devastation, and suffering that they, inevitably, bring about, but also because of the grotesque and polymorphous damage they inflict on everything that is uniquely human: thinking, feeling, morality, values, sense of beauty, sense of what is sacred, etc. Since the very first days of the war in Ukraine, I have been invited to assist many groups of various types of professionals, community workers, clergy and other helpers working with Ukrainians within the country, as well as in other countries where Ukrainians fled, including the UK. Also, I have been involved in many forms of direct therapeutic assistance –with individuals, families, groups of Ukrainians as well as those who work with them.

Nobody can get used to the enormity of the pain and suffering, and the persistence of the unanswerable questions about the nature of human destructiveness. Yet, sharing our humanity may be the only viable antidote.

Renos K Papadopoulos, PhD., is Professor in the Department of Psychosocial and Psychoanalytic Studies at the University of Essex, Great Britain. Founder and Director of the 'Centre for Trauma, Asylum and Refugees', founder and Course Director of the MA and PhD in 'Refugee Care'. A member of the 'Human Rights Centre', of the 'Transitional Justice Network' and of the 'Armed Conflict and Crisis Hub' all at the University of Essex. Honorary Clinical Psychologist and Systemic Family Psychotherapist at the Tavistock Clinic. He is a practicing Clinical Psychologist, Family Therapist and Jungian Psychoanalyst, who also has been involved in the training and supervision of specialists in these three spheres. As consultant to the United Nations and other organisations, he has been working with refugee people, tortured persons, trafficked people and other survivors of political violence and disasters in many countries. He lectures and offers specialist training internationally and his writings have appeared in 18 languages.

Author of many books, including '*Involuntary Dislocation. Home, Trauma, Resilience and Adversity-Activated Development*', which was translated and published in Ukrainian in 2023.

About this webinar:

Collective Forms of Severe Adversity (CFSA), such as wars, are not only destructive and dangerous but, due to their highly intricate complexity, create a wide range of predictable and unpredictable effects and consequences. Their evident effects are so concrete and painful that they easily deceive us into believing that we fully understand them and their impact.

This leads us into even more perilous positions of epistemological confusion, essentially, forgetting that far from being the authors of a story, in effect, we are the dramatis personae of a network of immensely powerful archetypal stories, much bigger than us. Moreover, the lethal 'archetypal radiation' that CFSA exert promote simplistic and polarised formulations that distort reality.

In this presentation, using Jungian insights along with my analytical and field experience, I will endeavour to identify some of these complexities, and will elaborate on how they directly affect everyone involved in CFSA, (i.e. sufferers and carers, commentators and bystanders), severely impacting on our therapeutic conceptualisations and approaches as well as on our very individual stance and identities.

Larysa Kozyr



Larysa writes:

I saw the topic of Renos's research book. I am interested in exploring how the theme of the therapist's loss of their own home, the loss of their normal life, can affect their ability to work in these difficult times.

How powerful can the processes of the collective unconscious be if the therapist and the client are in the same field of trauma? How does the guilt of Ukrainians (both therapist and client) affect the ability to live, work, and believe in a better future for themselves and the country?

Larysa Kozyr is an Analytical Psychologist with a psychoanalytic and analytical psychology degree. Until 2014, she lived in Donetsk, but In 2014, due to the invasion of Russian troops in eastern Ukraine, she moved to Kyiv, where she now lives and works, staying with her family in Kyiv throughout the full-scale invasion. Her parents and brother still live in the temporarily occupied Donetsk. Larysa is married with 2 teenage sons.

Larysa works with adults and children. And is in the process of planning her participation in the next year's Router programme at the Ukrainian Jungian Association.

Karin Fleischer



Karin writes:

Wars, with all their violence, also result in the tearing apart of social ties, through forced migration, exile, loss of loved ones and death. At the same time, in these darkest times, expressions of solidarity and support tend to emerge and become stronger. As the German poet, Friedrich Hölderlin, knew when he wrote, at the beginning of the 19th century: “But where the danger is, also grows the saving power.”

I think that the #WithUkrainianJungians project is a clear and profoundly moving example of this human capacity to create new life and new possibilities in adverse situations.

It is an honour for me to be able to participate and contribute to these series of meetings, accompanying on this occasion Reno Papadopoulos, who has a very extensive and internationally recognised trajectory in the field of analytical psychology and in his work with refugees and survivors of political violence, and Larysa Kozyr, who from her direct experience in today's Ukraine raises important questions about the implications of these traumatic experiences in the clinical work and in life itself.

Karin Fleischer is a licensed Clinical Psychologist (University of Buenos Aires), IAAP Jungian analyst, Training analyst, supervisor, & founder member of the Uruguayan-Argentinian Society for Analytical Psychology (SUAPA) and is on the executive board of CLAPA – Latin American Committee for Analytical Psychology. Master of Science in Dance Movement Therapy (California State University, East Bay, USA). University professor of graduate and post-graduate courses in Analytical Psychology. She has introduced Embodied Active Imagination / Authentic Movement, into several Latin American countries, teaching nationally and internationally on the Body and Active Imagination. She has published academic articles in the Journal of Analytical Psychology on topics related to developmental and collective trauma, dissociation, psychosomatic disorders, the body, and Active Imagination.

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To be as inclusive as possible, suggested minimum donations (by World Bank ranking) are:

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Israelis and Palestinians: Free

2.

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Renos Papadopoulos & Larysa Kosyr

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](#)

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

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





Image by Carola Mathers

Abstract 1, oil and ink on paper.

Carola is a UK based artist working with watercolour, oils and mixed media who has recently retired from clinical practicing as a Jungian Analyst.

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