



Partners in Confronting
Collective Atrocities



DEMOCRACY UNDER FIRE

CITIZENS FIGHTING FOR THEIR VALUES

A PCCA ONLINE EXPERIENTIAL CONFERENCE
IN THE TAVISTOCK GROUP RELATIONS TRADITION

OCTOBER 20-22, 2023

13:00 HRS TO 19:00 HRS BST (UK TIME)

DIRECTOR: MIRA ERLICH-GINOR

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR: OLYA KHALEELEE

DEMOCRACY UNDER FIRE: CITIZENS FIGHTING FOR THEIR VALUES

“Bad men need nothing more to compass their ends than that good men should look on and do nothing.”

John Stuart Mill 1867

PREAMBLE

The aftermath of WWII saw an increase in democratic-liberal tendencies. This trend which lasted several decades has now changed course: more and more countries are turning towards authoritarian regimes. Over the last 30 years, this has resulted in 2.8 billion citizens living in countries with more autocratic than democratic governments. Covid 19 and the need for many countries to lock down provided an opportunity for more authoritarian regimes to limit the fundamental rights of their citizens and to suppress criticism. In effect this more authoritarian leadership has resulted in attacks on democracy with its inherent values of truth, freedom, equality, integrity, and civil rights. At the same time, those who are alert to these trends towards authoritarianism are putting up a strong fight in favour of retaining those same values inherent to democracy.

Because of behaviour in which some governments and political groups have clearly lost their sense of responsibility in relation to human rights and moral values, we also see little of the expected shame and guilt fundamental to an inherent sense of knowing what is right and wrong, or what is ethical and unethical. This loss of moral compass generates a feeling of deep confusion in society about our moral standing as well as uncertainty about what is real and what is fake, which leads to a sense of chaos and the spread of corruption.

The fundamental institutions and symbols that guarantee democracy are visibly being harmed or manipulated through vandalism and crime; through cynical exploitation of the legitimate channels of democracy; and through sophisticated control over the social network. Thus, fake news appears in the same form as genuine news, and false narratives and confabulations pervert and distort our sense of reality.

The attack on democracy inherently represents intolerance towards differences within 'us' and in the 'other'. It attacks the existence of different agencies that balance each other (in the mind of an individual, in the state's institutions and in society) in favour of a monolithic control enforcing one picture of reality, which inhibits variability in freedom of choice, speech, and way of life. This generates a

split and polarized world in which 'otherness' is demonized, and basic rights are denied.

An attack on democracy can be seen as an attack on linking and thinking, constituting an attack on our sanity, as individuals and as a society.

As humans, we struggle with allaying our anxieties by trying to have our dependency needs met versus shrugging off those residual dependent feelings and searching for the freedoms of more mature autonomy. In today's world dominated by worries about the potentially annihilating impact of climate change and war in Europe and the Middle East, anxieties are even higher. This draws many of us into the wish for a strong, containing leadership, that at best allays such anxieties, but at worst, can lead to more autocratic regimes and a reduction of democratic freedom.

Others, aware through their parents' experiences of the dangers of populism resulting in fascism, as they experienced it before and during World War II, retain an even stronger drive for the autonomy of maintaining democratic values. Such citizens will fight for their rights and are prepared to risk their health and lives in their own countries or in undertaking dangerous journeys to live their lives elsewhere, holding in their hearts the ideals of democratic freedom.

The ability to mobilize one's personal authority, as embodied in the role of the active citizen, is therefore of major importance whichever choices are made.

Given this context we are holding a working conference on *Democracy under Fire, Citizens fighting for their values*.

The aim of this conference is to provide a space to reflect on the attacks on democracy and the increase in autocratic trends, their sources in the individual and the group, as well as their effect on and implications for our lives as citizens.

PCCA, Partners in Confronting Collective Atrocities will host this conference.

Partners in Confronting Collective Atrocities (PCCA) was founded in 2007. The aim of the organization is to work through the effects of the Holocaust and of past and present national and international conflicts that lead to destructive escalation, in the service of a better understanding among national groups worldwide (see <https://p-cca.org/>).

PCCA is the recipient of the 2019 Sigourney Award.

Primary Task

The Primary task of this conference is *to explore, share and reflect together on the conscious and unconscious effects of current political trends on us as individuals, on our roles as citizens and on our societies.*

Who is This Conference For?

This conference is for those who are concerned and affected by recent political developments in their countries and who feel that they want to understand the external realities as well as their own inner reality.

No previous experience of PCCA events and conferences is needed, only the desire to face the reality of the present, taking into account the past and considering the future.

Registration implies a commitment to participate throughout the Conference.

Program and Events

Plenaries

Plenaries involve all members and staff. There will be an Opening and a Closing Plenary at the beginning and end of the conference.

The opening plenary introduces the conference and provides an opportunity to explore the experience of crossing the boundary into it. The final plenary is designed for work on the process of ending.

Small Groups

The groups will be composed of 8-12 members (depending on registration numbers) with one consultant.

These groups will provide opportunities to explore, share and reflect on personal and social experiences. Members will be allocated to the same groups for the entire conference.

Large Group (LG)

This group brings together the entire membership with several consultants. The task of this group is to study the 'here and now' of the large group process as it unfolds while working on the primary task of the conference.

Societal Event (SE)

All participants are involved, and staff takes part in the event. It is an opportunity for participants to form groups to explore relevant subjects and to examine how political trends are influencing their roles as citizens in conscious and unconscious ways.

Follow up meeting

A follow up meeting will take place on November 25, 2023, 13:00 hrs to 16:00 hrs BST (UK time).

Timetable

Events: Plenaries, Small Group (SG), Large Group (LG), Societal Event (SE)

Time Zone: BST (UK Time)

DAY 1 - OCT 20	DAY 2 - OCT 21	DAY 3 - OCT 22
12:45 Opening Doors	12:45 Opening Doors	12:45 Opening Doors
13:00 - 13:30 Opening Plenary	13:00 - 14:00 Large Group	13:00 - 14:00 Large Group
13:30 - 13:45 Break	14:00 - 14:15 Break	14:00 - 14:15 Break
13:45 - 14:45 Large Group	14:15 - 15:15 Societal Event	14:15 - 15:15 Societal Event
14:45 - 15:00 Break	15:15 - 15:30 Break	15:15 - 15:30 Break
15:00 - 16:00 Small Group	15:30 - 16:30 Societal Event	15:30 - 16:30 Societal Event
16:00 - 16:15 Break	16:30 - 16:45 Break	16:30 - 16:45 Break
16:15 - 17:15 Societal Event	16:45 - 17:45 Societal Event	16:45 - 17:45 Small Group
17:15 - 17:30 Break	17:45 - 18:00 Break	17:45 - 18:00 Break
17:30 - 18:30 Small Group	18:00 - 19:00 Small Group	18:00 - 19:00 Closing Plenary
		Farewell

STAFF - Directorate



Mira Erlich-Ginor | Director and Consultant

MA | Training and Supervising Analyst, Israel Psychoanalytic Society, Founding Member and past-Chairperson, OFEK | Initiated and participated in the “Nazareth Project”, working with trans-generational transmission of trauma in Israelis and Germans, Founding Member and Secretary, PCCA| Co-author of “Fed with Tears, Poisoned with Milk”. Directed conferences on behalf of OFEK in Israel and on behalf of PCCA. Past European Representative, IPA Board | Chair, Steering Committee, IPA in the Community and the World. Israel.



Olya Khaleelee | Associate Director and Consultant

is a corporate psychologist and organisational consultant with a particular interest in leadership, and organisational transition and transformation. She was director of OPUS: an Organisation for Promoting Understanding of Society from 1980–1994, is a professional partner of the Tavistock Institute and was the first female director of the Leicester Conference on the theme of Authority Leadership and Organisation. She has published extensively in the areas of leadership and system psychodynamics in organisations, and beyond, into society. She co-authored two books with Halina Brunning, the first entitled: “Danse Macabre and other stories – A psychoanalytic perspective on global dynamics”, published in 2021, and this year, 2023, they have co-edited a second book entitled “The Covid Trail - Psychodynamic Explorations”, both published by Phoenix. London.



Carlos Remotti-Breton | Administrator, Technology Director and Consultant

M.A., Organisational & Leadership Consultant, c3 + Partners; Strategic Leadership Module Lead, Durham Business School; Part-Time Professor IAE Business School, Director and Board Member of OPUS: an Organisation for Promoting Understanding in Society. Training Candidate British Psychoanalytic Association (BPA); Member of the A. K. Rice Institute for the Study of Social Systems and ISPSO. Fellow of Harvard Institute of Coaching. London.



Ollie Burton | Technical Assistant

is a UK based serial-entrepreneur, working within retail, hospitality and property. Ollie has a deep passion for understanding and managing people to deliver positive organisational growth across a variety of sectors and international regions. Ollie is the grandson of the late Dr Eric Miller renowned for his work in group relations and as organisational consultant and Policy Adviser of Opus: Organisation for Promoting Understanding of Society. London.

Consultants



Louisa Diana Brunner

PhD | Course Lead Tavistock and Portman Professional Doctorate (D10D) and Certificate (D10C) in Consultation and the Organisation | Leadership and Management Consultant | Executive Coach | Member OFEK, OPUS; ISPSO | Founding Member PCCA (Partners for Confronting Collective Atrocities) | Honorary Member Il Nodo Group | Fellow FFI (Family Firm Institute) | Italy.



Shmuel Erlich

PhD | Training and Supervising Analyst and former President of the Israel Psychoanalytic Society. He was Sigmund Freud Professor of Psychoanalysis and Director of the Sigmund Freud Center at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is Founding Member of OFEK and PCCA and has directed many of their conferences. He has published on group and organizational dynamics and authored two books: *The Couch in the Marketplace: Psychoanalysis and Social Reality*, and *Fed with Tears, Poisoned with Milk: The German-Israeli Group Relations Conferences*. Israel.



András Gelei

PhD | Associate professor at Corvinus University of Budapest, a senior consultant and executive coach at ICG Integrated Consulting Group and currently he is co-president of the Hungarian Organization Development Society. His fields of expertise include organization development, organizational learning and systems-psychodynamics of organizations. He is a member of ISPSO and OPUS. Hungary.



Oren Kaplan

PhD, MBA | Clinical Psychologist, Economist | Associate Professor | Former President, College of Management, Israel | PCCA Board Member | Israel.



Iwona Soltysinska

Psychologist (MA, Jagiellonian University), OD Consultant (MA, Tavistock & Portman NHS Foundation Trust), psychodynamic therapist (KCP) and certified coach (PCC, ICF), member of Hanna Segal Institute of Psychoanalytic Study, supporting member of PCCA, consultant to experiential groups and group relations conferences, PL and abroad, Poland.



Nadine Tchelebi

Ph.D. Systems-Psychodynamics of Organisations and Groups / Organisational Development Consultant/ Expertise: group decision-making processes in organisations / Visiting Lecturer Bristol Business School, INSEAD Fontainebleau / Editor "Organisational & Social Dynamics" / Tavistock group relations consultant / Member of ISPSO (International Society for the Psychoanalytic Study of Organisations), DGGO (German Society for Group and Organisational Dynamics). Germany.



Dorothee von Tippelskirch-Eissing

PhD | Psychoanalyst working in private clinic in Berlin, Training analyst, Supervisor, Lecturer, Former Chair of the Berlin Psychoanalytic Institute (BPI), Incoming President of the German Psychoanalytic Association (DPV), Member of the International Psychoanalytic Association (IPA), Chairperson of PCCA e.V. Germany.



Kathleen Pogue White

PHD, Educator, and Reflective Practitioner, is a Clinical Psychologist/Psychoanalyst. She is a Supervising Analyst, Post-Doctoral Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis, at NYU, Systems Psychodynamics Consultant, and a Group Relations Practitioner. Kathy is a Founding Member of the William Alanson White Psychoanalytic Institute Organization Program, Founder of The Chocolate Salon, Co-Founder and Co-Chair of Black Psychoanalysts Speak, Co-Founder of The Gould Center, Institute for Psychoanalytic Training and Research. Also, Kathy is a Distinguished Member of the International Society for the Psychoanalytic Study of Organizations, a Fellow of the Institute for the Study of Social Systems, and a Fellow of the Institute for Psychoanalytic Training and Research. New York.

Sponsoring Organizations:



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Supporting Organizations:



European Psychoanalytical Federation



Conference Fees (in Euros)

Early Bird fee - Until September 20th, 2023: € 320

Full fee - from 21st September to 13th October, 2023: € 400

Reduced fee - Students: € 100

Scholarships are available upon request. To apply for a scholarship, please fill out the Registration Form and send request no later than September 30th 2023.

Cancellation charges:

- Until 20 September, € 100
- 21 September - 13 October, € 150
- After 13th October € 200

Bank transfer payment

Payment can also be made by bank transfer to
"Partners in Confronting Collective Atrocities e.V."
Kantstr. 106, 10627 Berlin, Germany

IBAN: DE73 3006 0601 0008 1100 81

BIC: DAAEDEDXXX

Bank: Deutsche Apotheker- und Aerztebank eG
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For further information contact Conference Administration at
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