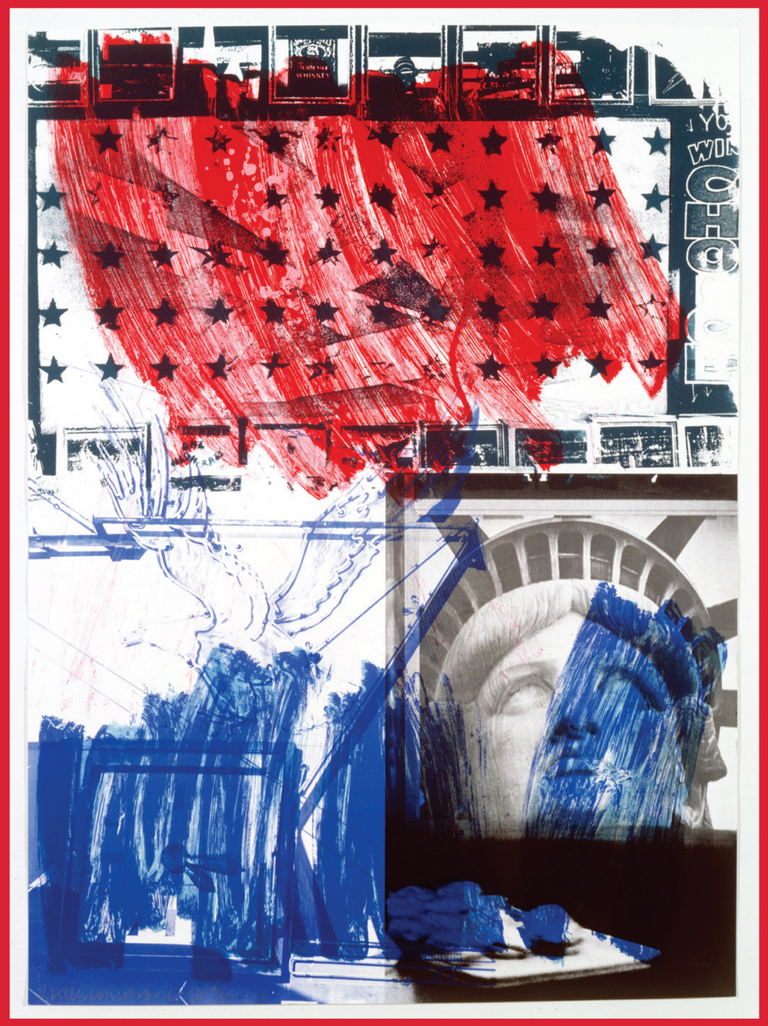
THE C.G. JUNG INSTITUTE
OF SAN FRANCISCO

POLITICS, CULTURE AND SOUL

A National Conference on the Psychology of the 2016 Presidential Election



OCTOBER 14-15, 2016

Our current election atmosphere is profoundly confusing and disturbing—filled with hope for a new order among many, despair at the existing order among most, and indifference in a growing percentage of the population. Everywhere we look, we are confronted with seemingly insoluble, urgent problems that defy rational and humane resolution: climate change, the growing discrepancy between rich and poor, the influence of money on political and cultural life, immigration trauma on an unimaginable scale, racism, sexism, consumerism, terrorism, war—to name just a few ingredients in our cauldron of corrosive conflicts.

Has the world always been this endangered with every generation imagining itself on the brink? In such times, politics, cultural values, and the soul of both individuals and groups get inextricably mixed up with one another and perhaps at no time is this more highlighted than in the garish glare of uninterrupted media attention during modern American presidential elections.

This is the 5th consecutive Presidential Election Year Conference hosted by the C.G. Jung Institute of San Francisco, beginning with the first of this series in 2000. It brings together scholars and psychoanalysts from across the country and abroad to share their observations and seek an understanding of how the democratic ideal of a country based on respect for differences has devolved to a new low in turning differences into divisiveness.

The program will put the nation's psychological state on the analytic couch to come up with a vision of what motivates it and how its dynamic processes create further division and separation that defies our hopes for reconciliation and wholeness. The goal of this conference is not to provide conventional wisdom, not to forecast results, not to campaign for one party or another—although that is often hard to resist—but to seek understanding of what all the sound and fury is about and what is happening to the American people and the soul of our democracy.

"People for the American Way" by Robert Rauschenberg, 1991
Lithograph and screenprint on paper 48 x 35-3/4 inches (121.9 x 90.8 cm)
From an edition of 75, published by Gemini G.E.L., Los Angeles, for People for the American Way

POLITICS, CULTURE AND SOUL: A National Conference on the Psychology of the 2016 Presidential Election

So, What Did You Expect? Personal and Depth Psychological Issues In Elections

Many of my American friends and colleagues have fulminated as never before about the 2016 electoral process, using emotive words like 'disgusting' to describe (for example) the distortions that the power of money brings. From an international perspective, this has surprised me. Don't they know there is a systemic problem always inherent in political life, and no reason to expect anything else? Such disillusionment heightens the usual dilemma for voters—psychological as much as political, and applying equally to 'progressives' and 'conservatives.' Should they vote for the 'least worst' candidate to keep out someone they consider truly dangerous? Should they stick to their ideals and either vote for a small third party whose policies are more to their personal taste, or not vote at all?

Andrew Samuels is a Jungian analyst and professor who has worked internationally as a political consultant. He is the founder of Psychotherapists and Counsellors for Social Responsibility (UK), Consultant Editor of *Psychotherapy and Politics International*, and co-editor of *Analysis and Activism: Social and Political Contributions of Jungian Psychology* (2016). Amongst other books, he is the author of *The Political Psyche* (1993), *Politics on the Couch* (2001), *Persons, Passions, Psychotherapy, Politics* (2014), and *A New Therapy for Politics?* (2015).

The Racial Shadow of American Politics

The Republicans rarely mention race—they leave that to the Democrats. Hidden behind all of the rhetoric of debate and polling battles is the ever-present misunderstandings that fuel issues of race in America. Our discussion explores racial issues and topics from an African-American perspective. Electing an African-American president has not decreased the racial fires. In fact, they have burned even brighter during the eight years of the Obama presidency. Racial progress—what does this really mean, and to whom? Is there somewhere further to go or are we living the best we can in contemporary American society in terms of race, politics and social justice? What kind of courage does it take to honestly explore the depths of our American political Soul, and do we as a collective possess this kind of courage?

Fanny Brewster, PhD, MFA is a Jungian analyst and writer practicing in New York City. She is a multi-genre writer who has written about issues at the intersection of Jungian psychology and American culture. *African Americans and Jungian Psychology: Leaving the Shadows* is her latest writing, forthcoming from Routledge Publishing, 2016.

Catastrophic Change: Cracked Social Containers and the Precarious Body Politic

The established order has been wracked by tectonic forces—globalization, convulsive capitalism, climate change, unprecedented migrations, technological accelerations. In the wake of such radical transformations, social containment has paid a price. Individual bodies are made precarious in the anxious pursuit of stability during a time of cataclysmic change, and the political body itself is dangerously marked by this precarity. To what do we belong? To whom do we owe allegiance?

Francisco J González, MD is a Personal and Supervising Analyst and Faculty at the Psychoanalytic Institute of Northern California. He serves on the editorial boards of *Psychoanalytic Dialogues and Studies in Gender and Sexuality*. His most recent publication is on the trope of immigration in psychoanalysis. Psychoanalytic Dialogues and Studies in Gender and Sexuality

Politics, Character, and the Socially Mediated Candidate

American political races always seem to fall short of the ideals they embody. But what happens when coming to know a candidate's character gives way in a contest with the candidate's persona? Is it more 'honest' to be observed while openly creating a unique persona through mainstream and social media than to be the 'best of breed' in the old-time virtues of experience, civility, wisdom, temperance and grace? If the idea of character is withering away, what happens to the idea of self or of soul? Can today's candidate inspire a generation to "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country"?

Betty Sue Flowers, PhD, is a professor emeritus and former director of the Johnson Presidential Library. She has moderated executive seminars at the Aspen Institute, consulted for NASA, CIA, and the US Navy. Her publications include four television tie-in books in collaboration with Bill Moyers, among them, the best-selling *Joseph Campbell and the Power of Myth*. In addition to two collections of poetry, her books include *Browning and the Modern Tradition*; *Presence: Human Purpose and the Field of the Future*; and, as editor, *Christina Rossetti: The Complete Poems* in the Penguin English Poets series.

WORKSHOP LEADERS
Andrew Samuels
Peter T. Dunlap, PhD

PANEL MODERATORS
Qi Re Ching, LCSW
Lynn Franco, LCSW
Steve Zemmelman, PhD

Living on the Edge of the Apocalypse: What ISIS, the Christian Right, and Climate Change Deniers Have in Common

The belief that the world is coming to an end is an ancient human experience, taking varied forms in vastly differing times and cultures. The archetype of the apocalypse now casts a long shadow over the coming national elections. The public is gripped by the fear of ISIS, which promotes a belief in the foundation of the Caliphate leading to world destruction, while less attention is now given to the Christian belief in the end of times and the coming Rapture. And, finally, the threat posed by climate change and environmental degradation represents the most scientifically-based threat to human life on Earth. Are those of us who fear it, as well as those who deny it, caught in the emotional grips of the same archetype? This talk will explore the historical and religious roots of the archetype of the apocalypse with the hope of bringing some psychological objectivity to the current political climate, as we face one of the most important elections in our history.

Richard Stein, MD is a psychiatrist and Jungian analyst who has been practicing in San Francisco for 40 years. In addition to his work as a clinician and supervisor, he has been a regular speaker in the public and analytic training programs of The C.G. Jung Institute of San Francisco, other Jung centers in the U.S., and elsewhere abroad. His teaching and writings include the transference countertransference field, Jung's alchemical discoveries, the intersection of analytical psychology and spiritual practices, and the Integral Yoga of Sri Aurobindo, as well as the archetypal roots of cultural and political reality.

Friday, October 14 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 15 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Unity San Francisco 2222 Bush Street
(near Fillmore)
San Francisco, CA 94115

REGISTRATION
http://politicsculturesoul.eventbrite.com

Presidential Elections and Cultural Complexes

Over the years I have become a bit less interested in the policies and personalities of the presidential candidates, although these factors are extremely important. My focus has shifted to a deeper level of the process, to consideration of how the current hot-button issues reflect processes in the collective psyche beneath the surface of the immediate issues. Where is the psyche of the culture? What are its complexes? How are they shaping the national elections? What can we glean of processes in the unconscious of the national psyche that, like tectonic plates, are shifting as the economic, social, and religious forces of the country are changing?

Thomas Singer, MD has spent the last several years researching the cultural complex theory in different parts of the world, including Australia, North America, Latin America, Europe, and a new project in Asia. He has co-edited *The Cultural Complex, Placing Psyche* (Australia), *Listening to Latin America*, and most recently, *Europe's Many Souls*. He is the President of the national board for ARAS, The Archives for Research in Archetypal Symbolism which explores symbolic imagery from all cultures since the beginning of human history.

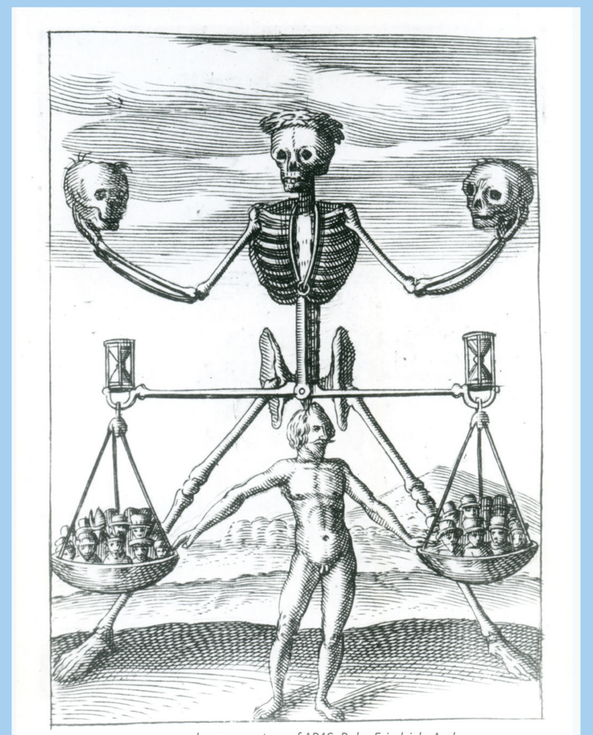


Image courtesy of ARAS. Pub.: Friedrich, Andreas. Emblemata Nova, das ist New Bilderbuch (Frankfurt, 1617)