

Welcome Address

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Dear friends and colleagues,

I had the privilege, as President-Elect of the IAAP, to give the welcome address to the International Analysis and Activism/Presidency conference on the current political climate from the perspective of depth psychology and activism. The conference was a combination of the 6th quadrennial San Francisco Jung Institute Presidency Conference prior to the November 3, 2020 US Presidential election and the 4th Analysis & Activism conference. It is now my great pleasure to warmly welcome this publication of the conference-papers.

First, I would like to wholeheartedly congratulate and thank the Program Committee consisting of Stefano Carta (Italy), Lynn Alicia Franco (US), Emilija Kiehl (UK), Andrew Samuels (UK), and Tom Singer (US) for making this event such a big success. I know how hard you all worked to create the most interesting and relevant program for all participants – and you have even had to do a dramatic reorganization due to the pandemic. It is commendable that you found a way forward for this important event to be held online, and on this special time and place: in the US with the upcoming election. The title itself “The Reality of Fragmentation and the Yearning for Healing: Jungian Perspectives on Democracy, Power, and Illusion in Contemporary Politics” was so relevant and needed right at the time for the conference. We now know the outcome of the election, but this has obviously not stopped the fragmentation and the necessity for healing.

Secondly, I want to give my many thanks to ARAS which has taken responsibility for editing and publishing this publication, which comprises papers on so many of the important subjects connected with analysis and activism. The papers include Jungian perspectives on violence, non-violence, racism, slavery, democracy, power, dictatorship, nationalism, collective psychosis, protests, as well as AIDS and

Covid19, climate crisis etc. Some papers are also particularly concerned with how we, as Jungians, can understand the phenomena through our theories about splitting vs integration, on how we can bridge differences and on how media plays an increasingly dominant role. The papers in this publication address the issues from various angles and will be an asset for further studies in the years to come.

Personally, this was my 4th Analysis & Activism Conference. I attended the first one in London, the second in Rome, the third in Prague and most recently this fourth virtually in San Francisco. I am sure that many like me had been looking forward to visiting San Francisco for this event, but this must be at another time, hopefully before long.

As President-Elect of the IAAP I strongly support conferences like this about analysis and activism. I find it to be an important part of our Jungian identity to be involved in psychological areas outside the traditional classical form and content of individual analysis. We need to leave our comfort-zone and reach out to other areas, geographically, clinically, and theoretically.

Since the foundation of the IAAP in 1955, the organization has undergone a huge geographical change from an organization based in Western Europe and North America to a world-wide organization with representation in all continents of the world (except Antarctica). And although Jung himself was very interested in other cultures, the growth of our organization has added a large amount of cultural understanding to our theories and practices. This extension has not come by itself; on the contrary the development has been fostered by pioneers who have made personal sacrifices in order to assist in building up new societies in areas where there had not been Jungian societies before. For the last 20 years this activity has been gradually systematized via the IAAP Education Committee which has resulted in a

remarkable growth of both new societies and new members. For me personally it has been and still is very meaningful to work for the dissemination of education to places where it is not accessible, and to assist in making education within our field possible for persons who did not have the possibility before. This extension has not only added to the numbers, but it has also added to our understanding of diversity within our members.

It was a pleasure for me to see that several of the presenters and a good number of the participants at the conference were from the “new” continents. And it is likewise a pleasure to see this reflected in the papers for this publication. They bring in important cultural and political views from areas outside the Western European and North American parts of the world. Such influence is crucial for the renewal of our Jungian community organizationally, theoretically, and clinically.

Holding the conference online has in fact facilitated the participation of members from our community who would not have been able to attend in person, for financial, geographical or for other reasons. This is something we need to think seriously about for the future, including possible hybrid solutions. Although it is wonderful to meet our colleagues from around the world in person (and I so much look forward to doing so again when it is safe), I have actually met people during the pandemic via online media whom I have previously corresponded with by email but whom I have not met “in person” online. It has been a true pleasure to see the faces of these people and hear their voices.

From its very first meeting in London in 2014, the Analysis & Activism conferences have systematically facilitated presentations on what Jungians can do and think when they are not confined to their classical analytical thinking and setting. This has resulted in a valuable extension of our theoretical and clinical field.

Some of the papers in the present publication address this and show us the way out of our clinics and into sociopolitical and environmental involvement where we, with our analytical background, can contribute actively by reinforcing positive development.

The IAAP certainly wants to back up the future Analysis & Activism conferences and to signalize being an organization which takes responsibility for social and environmental issues. In accordance with this policy, we support projects with psychological care for victims of natural disasters, and we also support activities to meet the challenges of climate change. I also want to mention, that we, for a long time have had the Non-Discrimination Policy posted in the “About the IAAP” folder on the website, but by autumn 2020 we extended the text and moved it to the frontpage of the website to underline its importance.

I had not myself attended any of the San Francisco Presidency conferences before, but it was a privilege and pleasure to attend it in the autumn of 2020. I have with interest followed the groundbreaking theoretical innovations within the Jungian tradition coming from San Francisco, and at the Vienna Congress in 2019 I was very moved when hearing the presentation on the long-term integrative work on diversity as well as by the personal conversations I had with members of the San Francisco Institute at this Congress and before that.

For me, the international Analysis and Activism/ Presidency Conference on the current political climate, from the perspective of depth psychology, and activism turned out to be an inspiring, thought-provoking, and innovative experience. I am so pleased that the hard work from the program committee, the organizers and the presenters now results in a publication of this quality. I am sure that it will prove to be of great importance for our community. Enjoy!

Misser Berg (Denmark). Education as Jungian Analyst 1985 - 1991 in Denmark, London and Berlin. Individual Member of IAAP in 1992. Co-founder of the Danish Society for Analytical Psychology, DSAP and president of DSAP from 2000 - 2005. Director of training at the C.G. Jung Institute, Copenhagen from 2005 - 2019. Member of the executive committee of the IAAP from 2010 - 2013. Honorary Secretary for President Tom Kelly from 2013 - 2016. Vice-President of the IAAP from 2016 - 2019. President-Elect from 2019. Chair of the IAAP education committee. Misser Berg has a private practice north of Copenhagen. Besides this she teaches and examines in both Denmark and abroad.