



The XXV Annual Meeting of the Caracas Psychoanalytic Society,
Times of Authoritarianism: What is the psychoanalytic view?
Submission, Resentment, Grief and Forgiveness

Online conference April 23rd-24rd 2021

Speakers

FRIDAY, APRIL 23rd.

1.-Conference by Dr. Jonathan Sklar of the British Psychoanalytical Society. (BPAS). He lives in London, UK. Title of the lecture.
Authoritarianism and dancing bears: Implications for a new beginning.
Simultaneous translation English-Spanish.

Discussion and comments by:

a.- Dr. Margaretha Hargitay. President of the Venezuelan Association of Psychoanalysis (ASOVEP). She lives in Caracas, Venezuela.

b.- Dr. Luisa Elena Alvarez of the Psychoanalytical Society of Caracas (Didactic member of SPC), resides in Caracas, Venezuela.

Dr. Sklar in his interesting reflection on authoritarianism spoke about the corruption of language in the sense of deceit that occurs in these regimes through political discourse; the origins of sadomasochism, Kafka's relationship with his father as an example of an authoritarian bonding. He also brought up Sandor Ferenczi's concept of Confusion of Tongues, and the split that occurs in the individual mind and in societies when a dynamic of abuse is exercised by those in power. A dynamic that goes from seduction to the search for complicity and the projection of guilt, leaving the victim alone, wounded and confused. With the case of the Bulgarian dancing bears, as an example of submission and identification with the aggressor, he highlighted the long time it takes for citizens and societies damaged by authoritarianism and totalitarianism to regain trust again.

2.-Presentation by Dr. Carlos Rasquín. (Didactic member of the SPC)
Populist disease. Resides in Caracas, Venezuela.



Discussion and comments by Dr. Daniel Benveniste (PhD. in Psychology and Honorary Member of the American Psychoanalytic Association).

Resides in Seattle, USA.

Starting from Freud's work. Mass Psychology and Analysis of the Ego, Dr. Rasquín delved into the psychological characteristics of the populist leader and his relationship with the masses.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24rd

1.-Round table *On Resentment and Forgiveness*. Simultaneous translation Spanish-English.

Participants/speakers:

-Psychoanalyst Dr. Alberto Cabral. Member of the Argentine Psychoanalytic Association (APA). Lives in Buenos Aires, Argentine.

- Psychoanalyst Adrián Liberman. Didactic member of the SPC. He lives in Miami, Florida.

-Dr. Maria Sol Perez Shell (Dr. in Political Science and Master in Sociology from the University of Paris VII). Lives in Paris, France. -MPhil Daniel Esparza (M.A. in Religion from Columbia University, NY and PhD Candidate in the Department of Religion at Columbia University. He lives in New York, USA.

The discussion focused on the concepts of resentment and forgiveness as worked out by various psychoanalytical authors. Julia Kristeva, Orna Ophir, Cynthia Fleury and Alberto Cabral himself, who has recently published a book on the subject.

2.-Conversation about the book *Viaje al poscomunismo* (Journey to post-communism) between its authors: Psych. Ana Teresa Torres (SPC titular member) and Yolanda Pantín (poet), with Psych. María del Carmen Míguez (SPC didactic member).

They talked about resentment, fear, the tendency to standardise the individual and his or her needs in these regimes, as well as the process of mourning that it has meant for its citizens.

FRIDAY 30 APRIL. Clinical seminar.

On this day Dr. Jonathan Sklar gave a clinical seminar on Psychoanalytic Assessment to our 11 candidates in training. Simultaneous English-Spanish translation was provided.



-Themes and concepts worked on.

Authoritarianism. Authoritarian language. Oedipus. Sadomasochism. Identification with the aggressor. Confusion. Death drive. Aggression. Idealisation. Leader. Subjugation. Individualisation. Symbolisation. Mass psychology. Resentment. Envy. Hatred. Forgiveness as a third way. Sublimation, Mourning. Performance-revenge.

-Publicity Efforts.

Several flyers were made to publicise the main subject theme, its special guests and also the event's programme, so it could be spread out through the Society's social media accounts. The main flyer was sent to be posted on the Events' section of the IPA website.

Invitations to the Event as well as its programme were sent to all the scientific secretaries of the different associations that are part of Fepal. We also sent emails with the Event information to our Events database, our list of students in extension courses, diploma courses, etc. Each of the SPC members and candidates shared the information in their personal accounts and among their contacts.

Information about the Event and its programme was sent to local journalists for promotion.

-Audience - who and how many people came, and how they received the programme.

We had an average audience over the two days of 110 people-accounts. As it is a virtual event each login to the platform can correspond to more than one person. The attendance was composed of psychoanalysts from different societies (mainly the two Venezuelan societies, Argentinians and Spaniards), candidates from the two Venezuelan societies, students of our diploma courses and psychology students from Venezuelan universities. Friends of the speakers, Venezuelans from the diaspora trained in different areas.

Results and impact of the event after it had already taken place. The XXV Annual Event has been one of the best attended in many years. We have received many emails from people interested in receiving the link to



the recording of the event, who were unable to attend it. That is why we posted the recording on our Youtube channel one week ago, which already has 58 views. We did a review of the event for our website and the Revista Trópicos has collected the papers presented for an upcoming publication.

Recommendations for other societies based on your experience.

This was our first annual virtual event. Last year we had several scientific activities through Zoom but they were smaller and more local. This event and the support of CAPSA to expand the platform and to have simultaneous translation, gave us the opportunity to invite Dr. Sklar and other psychoanalysts and specialists residing outside Venezuela, who otherwise would not had been able to participate or would had been too expensive to invite.

We were able to demonstrate that quality events can be held through this platform. The role of the moderators was very important, as they made it possible to include the questions asked by the participants in the chat, which broadened and enriched the discussion.