***Journal of Analytical Psychology***

**XVI International Conference**  
11 - 14 April 2024. Essex University, Colchester, UK, & Online

**Co-sponsored by** [**The Society of Analytical Psychology**](https://www.thesap.org.uk/) **& Essex University**

**CROSSING BORDERS:**  
**Clinical, Theoretical, Cultural and Political Implications in our Changing World**

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Artist: Lindsey C. Harris

**PLENARY ABSTRACTS**

**SUNDAY 14th APRIL**

**Borders Around Identity:**

**Working Within and Across Different Faiths**

**10.00-11.00: Les Stein (US/AU)**

**The Unifying Self in all Faiths and Beliefs**

Jung’s idea of the Self is echoed in every religion under different names: the Atman of Hinduism, the Holy Spirit in all forms of Christianity, Jabril in Islam, Ruach ha-kodesh in Judaism, the Ruh of Sufism, Shekinah of Kabbalah, the Jiva of Jainism, what Ralph Waldo Emerson calls the Oversoul and Borges calls the Aleph. It is, as Jung put it, “specific yet universal” (*Letters, Vol. II,* p. 977). The Self is part of an essential structure for theistic religion and is the primary psychological construct that applies to all faiths and beliefs.

This paper explores how these postulates of different faiths and beliefs can increase the receptivity to unconscious processes, how this manifests in clinical work, and why its promise of peace is ignored.

**11.30-12.30: Murray Stein (US/CH)**

**The Faithless Analyst** (via Zoom)

In an earlier paper, I wrote of “the faith of the analyst” and spoke of the conviction, based on experience, that the unconscious will guide the process of analysis toward individuation. The analyst practices without specific goals or intentions for the patient and relies on direction from the patient’s unconscious in the form of dreams, projections and active imagination and on the relational process that develops and deepens in the therapeutic relationship.

In this lecture, I wish to speak about “the faithless analyst.” This is an analyst without fixed religious notions, without specific preferences with regard to religious faith and practice, without religious commitments or attachments of the kind that would influence the course of the analysis. Is this possible?

Analysts like everyone else grow up in specific cultures that are founded on religious traditions—Europe and the Americas on Christianity, Japan on Shinto and Buddhism, China on Taoism, Buddhism and Confucianism, the Middle East on Islam, India on Hinduism, Israel on Judaism. Analysts from these cultures would be expected to show typical habits of thought and feeling that reflect their background. And within each of these large cultural fields there are isolated enclaves of intense religious affiliation—denominations, orthodox communities, Amish areas, etc. Many analysts have grown up in families that are strongly religious, and many continue to live in communities that are religiously attuned.

Can analysts shed this formation when they enter the consulting room? Should they? Values come with religious faith and practice. Should the analyst shed such religiously-based values for the sake of absolute neutrality?

I want to think about such faithlessness as an impossible ideal for analytical practice and how to work with failures to remain thus faithless in the presence of different faiths or the absence of faith among patients.

**12.45-13.45: Closing Conference Plenary**

**…………..**

As well as the plenaries, we have two **Break-out Sessions** on Friday afternoon, and two on Saturday afternoon, an optional **Social Dreaming Matrix** will be heldon three mornings (8am-9am), a **Cocktail Reception** on Friday night, and on Saturday night we invite you to attend our **Gala Dinner and Dance** at stunning venue “The Barn”. We end with a **Conference Plenary Session** Sunday lunchtime.

***Programme details:***

<https://thejap.org/conferences/essex-2024-programme>

***Registration link: (Early Bird discount till 31st January)***

<https://www.essex.ac.uk/events/2024/04/11/journal-of-analytical-psychology-international-conference-2024>

***Accommodation suggestions:***

<https://thejap.org/conferences/essex-2024-accommodation>

***Travel:***

<https://www.essex.ac.uk/visit-us/plan-your-visit/travel-to-colchester>

***Colchester tourist info and images:***

<https://www.visitcolchester.com/things-to-do>

***We hope to see you at what promises to be a rich, engaging and challenging four days!***

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