

# WAR

*A psychoanalytic  
exploration of  
the intrapsychic,  
the interpersonal and  
the intersocietal.*



Brussels in-person and online  
3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> October 2024

9<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN  
PSYCHOANALYTIC  
CONFERENCE FOR  
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS



When in 1932, after the devastating and terrible effects of the First World War, Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud had a legendary correspondence dialogue, one of the most relevant experiences of ethical-political debate in history was born. It was about one of the most complex and inextricable issues of our civilisation: *Why war?* For Einstein the fundamental question was: "Is there a way to free human beings from the fatality of war?" A question which, together with our wish and need for peace in the world, summons us once again with strength, almost a century later, in this privileged context of the EPCUS, in order to think together about "the most important question posed to civilisation (Einstein, 1932)".

The most intrapsychic primitive instinctual impulses, which are expressed and deployed on the interpersonal plane and, more broadly, on the intersocietal, are neither good nor bad in themselves, but acquire this quality according to the destination or end towards which they are directed. In this sense, the intervention of the social environment and, specifically, of the parental figures or their representatives, are basic for the constitution and elaboration of these motions.

In this way, it is not a question of eliminating human aggressive tendencies, but of trying to divert them, so that they do not need to seek their expression in war. Everything that establishes affective bonds between human beings acts against war, just as everything that establishes significant solidarities awakens this type of common feelings: *identifications*, on which the structure of human society is largely based (Freud, 1932). These identifications are established on the basis of emotional ties that open up feelings of responsibility and interest in other human beings, which allow us to put ourselves in the other's place through identification in order to understand them as they are and as they feel (Klein, 1937).

Through the valuable instruments that psychoanalysis provides us with to think and release ourselves from suffering we will have the possibility to reflect together on the internal and external wars that take hold of human beings and are at the root of the terrible wars that tear our humanity apart.

On behalf of the European Psychoanalytical Federation  
Charlotta Björklind, Mercedes Puchol, Martin Teising

# PROGRAMME

Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024

- 18:00 Arrival and registration  
18:30 **Welcome address** with **Jan Abram**  
18:45-20:15 **Visible and invisible wars against hope: challenges for contemporary psychoanalysis** by **Anna Christopoulos**  
20:30 Dinner

Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> 2024

- 09:00-10:30 **Racism in the warring mindset** by **Fakhry Davids**  
10:30-11:00 Coffee Break  
11:00-12:30 **Diplomacy and War in the Psychoanalytic Process**  
by **Natalia Kigai**  
12:45-13:45 Lunch  
13:45-15:15 Discussion groups  
15:30-17:00 **Why war? Introspective reflections of an Israeli Psychoanalyst** by **Gaby Shefler**  
17:00-17:30 Coffee Break  
17:30-19:00 **Film "La grande illusion" of Jean Renoir** (English version)  
by **Anne Patterson**

Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> 2023

- 09:00-10:30 **War, fear and depression : How children cope with violence**  
by **Johannes Döser**  
10:30-11:00 Coffee Break  
11:00-12:30 **When the common ground collapses. Psychoanalytic reflections on what leads to genocide and war.**  
by **Sverre Varvin**  
12:45-13:45 Lunch  
13:45-15:15 **Does contemporary psychoanalysis answer Freud's question 'Why War'?** by **Jan Abram**  
15:30-17:00 Discussion groups  
17:00-17:30 Coffee break  
17:30-18:15 Closing plenary



## PRESENTERS

**Jan Abram** is President of the European Psychoanalytic Federation. She is a training analyst of the British Psychoanalytical Society and in private practice in London; and Visiting Professor of the Psychoanalysis Unit, University College London. Jan Abram has published several books and articles.

**Charlotta Björklind** is a training analyst and adult- and child psychoanalyst, member of the Swedish Psychoanalytical Association. She works in private practice with adults, adolescents and children, and as a lecturer at Stockholm University. She was a member of one of the previous EPF executive and director of training of the Swedish Psychoanalytical Institute.

**Anna L. Christopoulos** is a Professor Emeritus of Clinical Psychology of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. She is a full member of the Hellenic Psychoanalytic Association and the International Psychoanalytic Association; a core member of the European Psychoanalytic Comparative Clinical Methods (CCM) moderators' group. She is also an associate board member of the International Journal of Psychoanalysis.

**Fakhry Davids** is a psychoanalyst in clinical practice. He is training Analyst of the British Psychoanalytic Society, where he chairs the Scientific Committee. Professor in the University College London and the University of Essex, and a Visiting Lecturer at the Tavistock Clinic. He is on the Editorial Boards of Psychoanalytic Dialogues and the International Journal of Psychoanalysis. Served on the Board of Partners in Confronting Collective Atrocities, was on APsaA's Holmes Commission for Racial Equality in American Psychoanalysis and is a member of the EPF Forum on Migration and Cultural Identities.

**Johannes Döser** is a psychoanalyst for adults, children and adolescents (German Psychoanalytic Association DPV/IPA) in private practice. Training analyst Chair of the training committee for child and adolescent psychoanalysis of the DPV/IPA. Various interdisciplinary projects on themes from poetry, music, painting, film, religion and politics.

**Natalia Kigai** is a training analyst (IPA) and one of the founding members of the Moscow Psychoanalytic Society (MPS) and a long term member of the MPS Ethics Committee. She has also been Executive secretary and Editorial Board member of the Russian IJP Annual and has presented and published multiple papers. She has been member of international committees on research on sciences and humanities as well as on civic society and human rights. She has been working with adult and adolescents in Moscow till 2022, and currently she lives and works in Scotland.

**Anne Patterson** is a Fellow of the British Psychoanalytical Society (BPAS) and a psychoanalyst in private practice in London. She is co-director of the European Psychoanalytic Film Festival (EPFF) and of a monthly film club in South London.

**Mercedes Puchol** is a clinical psychologist, full member and training psychoanalyst of Madrid Psychoanalytical Association (APM-IPA) and past president of APM. Works in private practice in Madrid with adults, children and adolescents.

**Gaby Shefler** is a Clinical psychologist and training analyst. Chairperson of the Appeal committee for Ethical issues at the Israel Psychoanalytic Society, member of IPA. Professor Emeritus, Sigmund Freud Professor of Psychoanalysis and head of Post graduated Clinical Psychology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Currently dean of the Faculty of Psychology, Social and human Sciences, at Achva Academic College, Israel.

**Martin Teising** is a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, training analyst of the German Psychoanalytic Association (DPV), Past President of the DPV, Past President of the International Psychoanalytic University Berlin. European Representative in the Board of the International Psychoanalytic Association.

**Sverre Varvin** is a training analyst of the Norwegian Psychoanalytic Society. He is professor emeritus at Oslo Metropolitan University. He is working clinically and with research on traumatisation and the treatment of traumatised patients, especially in the refugee field.

9<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN  
**PSYCHOANALYTIC**  
CONFERENCE FOR  
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS



This conference is of interest for university students and recent graduates, especially in medicine, psychology and other cultural or language sciences.

All presentations will be in English.

The conference is held from Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October - Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2024.

Two possibilities to participate in the conference are offered:

- participating in-person at the EPF House in Brussels
- participation online

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

The fee of 50€ is the same for in-person participants at EPF House in Brussels and online participants.

The information about conference registration and payment is available on the EPF website **[www.epf-fep.eu](http://www.epf-fep.eu)**.

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## European Psychoanalytical Federation ASBL

This conference is organised by the EPF, the European Psychoanalytical Federation ASBL. It unites approximately 5500 analysts from all over Europe and some other countries.

It is a non-profit organisation, fully independent and fully self-supporting. Its major aim is to promote psychoanalysis and organises many activities such as yearly conferences.

For further information please have a look at the EPF website:

**[www.epf-fep.eu](http://www.epf-fep.eu)**



The EPF House Brussels



3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> October 2024

For all students and recent graduates in psychology, medicine and other fields who want to know more about psychoanalytic theory and practice.



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