



CMPS

Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies

Distance Learning Course

Ecopsychanalysis and the Psychology of Climate Change

Climate change is perhaps the single biggest threat our species has faced, but existing approaches to solving this problem largely focus on ecological issues without addressing the underlying psychological factors that shape our responses to them, including anxiety, denial, paranoia, apathy, guilt, hope, and despair. Ecopsychanalysis is a new interdisciplinary approach to thinking about the relationship between psychoanalysis, ecology, “the natural,” and the climate crisis. It draws on a range of fields, including psychoanalysis, psychology, ecology, philosophy, science, nonlinear dynamical systems theory (also known as chaos theory or complexity theory), aesthetics, and the humanities. Psychoanalysis has a unique role to play in solving the climate crisis, with its emphasis on the unconscious dimensions of our mental and social lives. However, despite being essential to studying environmentalism and its discontents, psychoanalysis remains largely a psychology without ecology. This course aims to bridge that gap.

This course will be taught via Zoom and is open to participants in New York as well as those outside the metropolitan area. The key required text for the course is Joseph Dodds’ *Psychoanalysis and Ecology at the Edge of Chaos* (Routledge, 2011). A range of other readings will be provided during the course.

**THIS COURSE IS OPEN TO PARTICIPANTS IN NEW YORK
AS WELL AS THOSE OUTSIDE THE METROPOLITAN AREA**

15 CE Credits for Licensed Psychoanalysts and Social Workers

WEDNESDAYS, FEBRUARY 5 - APRIL 15, 2020

10:00 - 11:30 AM (Eastern), via Zoom

CMPS, 16 West 10th Street, New York, NY 10011

212-260-7050 · cmps@cmps.edu · www.cmps.edu

TUITION: \$500

Joseph Dodds, PhD, is a psychoanalyst in private practice (Czech Psychoanalytical Society, International Psychoanalytical Association), a senior lecturer in psychoanalysis at the Anglo-American University, Prague, a psychology lecturer at the University of New York in Prague, and a chartered psychologist and associate fellow of the British Psychological Society. His research includes psychoanalytic approaches to art, film, neuroscience, society, and climate change.

CONTINUING EDUCATION INFORMATION

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Participants will be able to (1) summarize and contrast a range of psychological approaches to climate change and the environmental crisis, (2) describe ways of extending psychoanalytic and psychological models of the mind to include a broader engagement with the nonhuman world, (3) demonstrate basic knowledge and skills in the clinical practice of ecotherapy and ecopsychanalysis, (4) apply a transdisciplinary approach to psychosocial approaches to ecology, (5) describe three philosophical approaches to nature and their relevance to psychology and psychoanalysis – theoretical, clinical, and applied, (6) describe several anxieties and defenses related to climate change and their manifestations in the social and work environments and the wider culture, and (7) describe and be able to apply nonlinear dynamics and complex systems approaches to psychological, ecological, and social systems.

Licensed Psychoanalysts: The Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies is recognized by the New York State Education Department’s State Board for Mental Health Practitioners as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed psychoanalysts (#P-0032).

Social Workers: The Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies is recognized by the New York State Education Department’s State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers #SW-0206.