

# NEWSLETTER

## Today's Quote:

"One of the first conditions of happiness is that the link between man and nature shall not be broken."  
(Leo Tolstoy)

## ENVIRONMENT AND PSYCHOANALYSIS

By looking at the ecological disaster that is happening before our eyes, it is probably safe to assume that mankind has successfully broken the link with Nature and reaps the consequences thereof. In this issue, we are going to look at the subconscious processes at work in the resulting ecological madness and those that inhibit our ability to confront ourselves to this new reality.

There are many different viewpoints concerning ecological madness and the most obvious one being that of the object relations where the earth ; nature, holds a subconscious representation of our own inner object. The Ego entertains an ambivalent relationship to the object which in time, will lead him to individuation.

However, mankind seems to be in its most archaic stages of this process and somewhat maintaining a schizo paranoid approach : destroying the object so as not to be destroyed by the object. But this idea assumes a Jungian concept of collective unconsciousness where a transitional space would allow the separation / individuation process to happen in something that transcends the ego and that could resemble Jung's notion of Self. We could also notice that our modern civilization, dominated by men or rather, by the Animus, reflects the destructive behaviour towards Nature which holds a female representation in the collective unconscious.



## Featured Profile

ISAP welcomes Vladimir MEDVEDEV founder of the Saint Petersburg Pscyhoanalytical Center, creator of the "Russian Imago" project and writer.



<http://medvedevvladimir.ru>

<http://russianimago.com>

<http://spbanalytic.ru>



These two elements certainly would warrant further examination in order to extract the underlying conflicts that could explain our subconscious desire to control and therefore annihilate Nature.

But what I would like to point out here specifically is another observation: when we talk about ecology and the environment, there is a certain all mightiness in our belief that we, as a species, would have that kind of power! Indeed, we are harming Nature greatly in extensive ways but our mistake is to believe that we can dominate it.

Nature will adapt and survive us, it will however, no longer be viable for mankind. Therefore, we are not killing Nature, we are killing ourselves. This is what takes us to this other perspective that brings about a completely different conversation on Eros and Thanatos. Life drive vs death drive. Along this train of thought, the question now becomes “why are we self destructing”? Clearly our attitude towards this environmental madness is anything but rational or intelligent. However, the omnipresent guilt ridden discourse concerning each individual's responsibility affects our ability to react accordingly and pushes us further into our defence mechanisms of denial and splitting. And so, going back to Tolstoy's quote, does our survival not simply depend on reconnecting with Nature and all that it represents within our own unconscious and that of the collective unconscious which would allow us not only to survive but to grow as individuals and as a “collective civilization”.

D. Mascarene de Rayssac

## Upcoming Event on the Topic of Environmental Madness :

The poster features a teal background with white text. At the top left is the 'Innovation in mind' logo. At the top right is the logo for 'The Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust'. The main title is 'Ecology, Psychoanalysis and Global Warming: Present and future traumas'. Below the title is a photograph of bare tree branches against a light sky. To the right of the photo, the dates are listed: 'Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th December 2018'.

Innovation in mind

The Tavistock and Portman **NHS**  
NHS Foundation Trust

**Ecology, Psychoanalysis and  
Global Warming:**  
Present and future traumas

Dates  
Saturday 8th  
& Sunday 9th  
December 2018

More information here :

<https://tavistockandportman.nhs.uk/training/conferences-events/ecology-psychoanalysis-and-global-warming-present-and-future-traumas/>



## *What is your involvement within the Psychoanalytic Centre of Saint Petersburg ?*

The St. Petersburg Psychoanalytical Center is a research and educational organization that was founded by me and a group of my colleagues to promote a number of projects in the field of applied psychoanalysis. I myself in this Center are engaged in organizing and conducting educational and training programs. Programs for integrating psychoanalytic theory and methodology with those areas of professional activity where this integration is effective: psychoanalysis in management and organizational consulting, psychoanalysis in the pedagogical process, psychoanalysis in business and in working with market psychodynamics, psychoanalysis in TV and electronic media, psychoanalysis of the political process and political consulting, psychoanalysis of artistic creativity, etc.

In addition, in the Center, under my supervision, projects that are less traditional for applied psychoanalysis are being implemented: the development and implementation of psychoanalytic technologies of working in Internet communication ("WEB-analysis" project), the study and application in psychoanalytic practices suspicions of the Russian national type of organization of the unconscious (project "Russian Imago").

The educational programs of the Center are conducted both in the mode of advanced training of specialists of profiled professions (teachers, managers, businessmen, etc.), and in the form of training professionals in the field of applied psychoanalysis as a bachelor's degree in psychology (together with the National Research University "Higher School of Economics" and the St. Petersburg Institute of Humanitarian Education).

## *What brought you to psychoanalysis ?*

I was led to psychoanalysis by thinking about human nature and the by desire to somehow compensate for the apparent practical meaninglessness of my original philosophical education.

*Can you tell us about your book  
"Psychoanalysis of Psychoanalysis"?*

My last book is an attempt to psychoanalyze psychoanalysis itself. The subject of consideration are the special kind of organization of the psyche of the analyst himself ("psihoanalitichnost" in Russian); and psychoanalytic practice with its attributes, rituals and myths; and the social mission of psychoanalysis; and its role in modern culture. Separate chapters are devoted to safety in psychoanalysis as an "impossible profession," as well as the history and prospects for the development of psychoanalysis in Russia.

*What would you describe as being the greatest difficulty  
of practicing in Russia?*

The nearly hundred-year history of Russian psychoanalysis gives us a clear lesson: in Russia, neither exclusively clinical (psychiatric and psychotherapeutic) psychoanalytic practice, nor exclusively applied (managerial and ideological) is possible. Their synthesis is needed, where clinical experiments would provide a basis for sociocultural work. And the difficulty here lies in the radical difference between the Russian mentality and the European one, that the results of such experiments require for their interpretation a completely different, different from the usual and traditional, explanatory model of the Unconscious.

*What do you love about being a psychoanalyst ?*

If only talking about me (which is natural for a psychoanalyst), then I will say so: for me to be a psychoanalyst is to understand myself and accept myself with all the peculiarities and oddities. And turn these features and oddities into a working tool, applicable where other people have difficulties or sufferings.

*What do you think about the place of psychoanalysis  
in modern Russian society?*

Today, unfortunately, this place is officially marginal. Psychoanalysis is not legalized either as a psychotherapeutic method, or as a methodology of humanitarian knowledge, or as an algorithm for crisis management. Not legalized, nor already prohibited. Gradually, psychoanalysis is gaining ground in intellectual communication, in psychotherapy, and in professions, the effectiveness of which depends on the ability to use the unconscious resources of the individual, group and mass psyche.

*Thank you Vladimir Medvedev*