



LAISPS Presents:
AMERICAN POLITICS IN THE AGE OF TRUMP:
A PSYCHOANALYTIC TOWN HALL

With

Peter Wolson, Ph.D.

January 12, 2019

1:00 – 4:00 pm

3 CME/CE Credits

Community West Treatment Center
 1990 So. Bundy Drive, #320
 Los Angeles, CA 90025



THE LOS ANGELES INSTITUTE AND SOCIETY FOR PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDIES
 A COMPONENT SOCIETY OF THE INTERNATIONAL PSYCHOANALYTICAL ASSOCIATION
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This logo is derived from a manuscript of Freud's and the method commonly used to abbreviate psychoanalysis

Description

For the last two years of the Trump administration, Americans have been jarred daily by a shocking barrage of tribal warfare between Republicans and Democrats and by virulent expressions of hatred, including homicidal violence. Flagrant misogyny, racism, anti-Semitism, gender bashing, tariff wars, and scurrilous attacks on the press, immigrants and Muslims have proliferated in a regressive political climate of character assassination, conspiracy theories and lies. Yet the economy appears to be booming, and President Trump remains extremely popular among Republicans and his base. In contrast, Democrats are struggling to find strong leaders.

How can we explain Trump's popularity in light of his flagrant narcissism and insulating behavior while being investigated for collusion and obstruction of justice? What psychodynamics have motivated this frightening regression of America's morality, ethical integrity, and reality testing?

Dr. Peter Wolson believes that a psychoanalytic perspective is essential to illuminate these crucial issues in the public political dialogue. Since 1972, he has ventured beyond the couch and published numerous psychoanalytically-informed op-ed pieces for the *Los Angeles Times* and journal blogs for the *Huffington Post*, *Thomson Reuters* and *CounterPunch* on the "breaking news of the day." These articles are included in his new book, *Psychoanalysis Enters The Political Fray*, in which he demonstrates the enduring, repetitive nature of unconscious political psychodynamics. In his book, he encourages mental health professionals to join him in deepening public awareness by sharing their psychological wisdom with the American public through opinion pieces in newspapers and blogs. Dr. Stefano Bolognini, Past-President of the International Psychoanalytical Association, said "Peter Wolson has been a pioneer and is now a master in looking at political characters and issues with a psychoanalytic perspective. He courageously goes into a new important area in the psychoanalytic exploration of human reality, and starts a potentially revolutionary contribution of our science to the community culture and life."

Program Committee

Chair: Thomas P. Helscher, Ph.D.
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About the Presenter

Peter Wolson, Ph.D. is a training and supervising analyst and faculty member of the *Los Angeles Institute and Society For Psychoanalytic Studies (LAISPS)*. He has served as LAISPS's President and Director of Training, is a co-founding member of the *Confederation of Independent Psychoanalytic Societies (CIPS)* and was President of the Los Angeles Society of Clinical Psychologists. He is on the resident faculty of the Wright Institute Los Angeles and in private practice in Beverly Hills. In addition to his political opinion pieces, he has published professional papers on adaptive grandiosity, the existential dimension of psychoanalysis, the relational unconscious, analytic love, and political power.

Goals and Objectives

Upon completion of this activity participants should be able to:

- Identify unconscious psychodynamics motivating the political psyche.
- Demonstrate how psychoanalytic understanding can deepen awareness of political issues.
- Apply psychodynamic concepts to explain issues such as political gridlock, misogyny, the appeal of the strongman, contempt for a caretaking government, racism and hatred of the "other," the political use of insults vs. reason, etc.



Important Disclosure: None of the planners or presenters of this CME/CE program has any relevant financial relationship to disclose.

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Board of Behavioral Sciences: The California Board of Behavioral Sciences accepts courses approved by the APA for Continuing Education for LCSW, LMFT, LPCC and LEP licenses.

Target Audience

This program meets the needs of all mental health professionals, including psychiatrists, psychiatric nurses, psychologists, social workers, and marriage and family therapists. We also welcome kindred professionals in political science, history and sociology

Cultural Sensitivity

The workshop will focus on diverse political and cultural perspectives.

Schedule

- 12:30-1:00 Registration
1:00-1:10 Introduction
1:10-2:15 Contemporary Political Analysis, **Dr. Peter Wolson**
2:15-2:30 *Coffee Break*
2:30-3:45 Political Town Hall Discussion*.
3:45-4:00 Concluding Reflections

* Method of the Town Hall

After sharing his analysis of American politics past the midterms, Dr. Wolson will moderate a psychoanalytic "town hall." He will provide a brief description of each political issue and then facilitate discussion. The organic flow of the Town Hall will continuously vacillate between the expression of political opinion, feelings and beliefs and then return to a more neutral, objective state of mind for the purpose of speculating about deeper psychodynamic implications.



American Politics In The Age Of Trump

3 CME/CE Credits

Early Registration

Before Jan. 1st \$50 After Jan. 1st \$60

Students with ID

Before Jan. 1st \$25 After Jan. 1st \$35

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