

Between Hours/Interdisciplinary Dialogues,

Applied Psychoanalysis Programme of the **Toronto Psychoanalytic Society** presents the

23rd ANNUAL DAY IN APPLIED PSYCHOANALYSIS

SATURDAY, November 5, 2022

9:15AM TO 3:15PM

This will be a Zoom Conference Event

(pre-registration required)



The Face of Ethnic Conflict:

Revenge or Reconciliation in the Aftermath of War

A timely screening of Allan King's classic documentary *The Dragon's Egg* (1998) followed by psychoanalytic dialogue on the interplay between the urge to fight and the trauma of violence

with international speakers:

Vamik Volkan MD Psychoanalyst/Psychiatrist (Virginia)

Colleen Murphy Playwright (Toronto)

Endel Talvik Psychoanalyst/Psychologist (Estonia)

Cyril Levitt PhD Psychoanalyst (Toronto)

Now well into the 21st century, intractable conflict is seemingly everywhere. Hostility. Death on a massive scale. Ruined cities. Forced migration. Wars from within and without. Is there a place for hope in such despair and devastation? Are we primed to aggress? To protect? Are we eternally doomed to be a world at war, trapped in its endless consequences?

Enter Allan King's 1998 masterpiece, *The Dragon's Egg*. King is recognized as one of Canada's greatest documentary filmmakers. Unmatched for capturing the Unconscious on film, his "actuality dramas," as he called them, are intimate, cinema verité observations, without interviews or narration, that influenced generations. *Warrendale* (1967), about a home for emotionally disturbed children, won the Prix D'Or at Cannes. *A Married Couple* (1969) was a ground-breaking exposé of modern marriage. *Dying at Grace* (2003) and *Memory for Max, Claire, Ida and Company* (2005) are captivating studies of aging and mortality.

The Dragon's Egg captures psychoanalysis in action on a grand scale: in an attempt to understand and work through the intractability of ethnic conflict, a group of American scholars, led by the world-renowned Psychoanalyst Vamik Volkan, offers a charitable grant to a group of Russians and Estonians – if they can work together for a common goal. The film takes place in the Estonian village of Klooga, an abandoned army base left in a state of rubble after the collapse of the Soviet Empire.

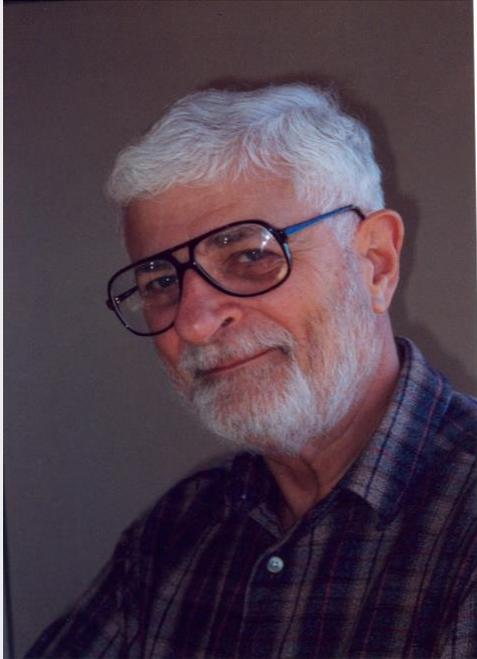
One third of Estonia's people are Russian, most of them put there by Stalin. As one Estonian says, "It's like having a dragon's egg laid in your nest: you wait in fear for it to hatch!" The Russians in Klooga are struggling to build a community with their Estonian neighbours. Estonians would rather not give them citizenship, residence or even jobs; they would rather they go home. But for these Russians, Estonia *is* home. Twenty Russians and Estonians in Klooga form a committee to build a community centre for their children. If they can work together, despite their mutual enmity, they will get \$50,000 to pay for the project. *The Dragon's Egg* chronicles the complex, funny and touching struggle of these brave people to create a new life together. Can they overcome their hate and the wounds of the past working for the common good? Or will the project collapse into rubble as well?

This year's interdisciplinary symposium will explore conflict both within and between people; it will look at how psychoanalytic thinking about large group dynamics can bring about healing and reconciliation in the aftermath of war and will offer ideas about conflict prevention and peace-making.

In the morning session, attendees will view *The Dragon's Egg*, introduced by Colleen Murphy, who was married to Allan King until his death in 2009 and now runs Allan King Films with their son, August. Our keynote speaker, Vamik Volkan, will discuss his involvement in the film and focus on the process of conflict resolution. Colleen and Vamik will relate experiences around the making of the documentary, with Colleen highlighting the therapeutic and problematic aspects of creativity itself, and both will describe what was learned in the process of the group relations initiative captured in the film.

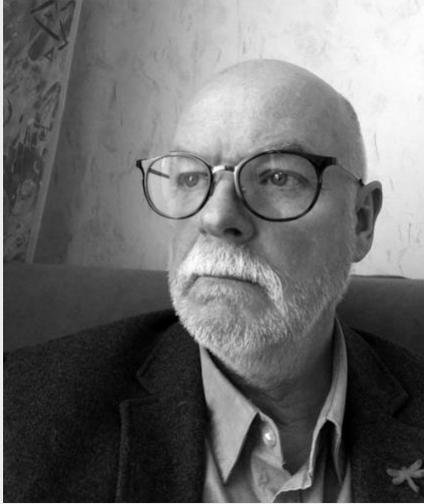
The afternoon session will focus on the seeming intractability of conflict, the interplay of internal and external forces, how the lightness and darkness of humanity infiltrates ethnic group tensions. Endel Talvik will draw on his experience in the making of this documentary in outlining his understanding of group conflict and large group identity. Cyril Levitt will look at conflict in the individual psyche and at ethnic violence as drive derivatives and will bring for discussion some of Freud's seminal thoughts, as outlined in *Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego* and *Civilization and its Discontents*.

Join us for a stimulating, evocative and timely, inter-disciplinary discussion.



Vamik D. Volkan MD, DLFAPA

Renowned Psychiatrist and Psychoanalyst, Vamik Volkan is the founder and President Emeritus of the International Dialogue Initiative and the author of dozens of books, including *Blind Trust: Large Groups and Their Leaders in Times of Crisis and Terror*, *Bloodlines: From Ethnic Pride to Ethnic Terrorism*; and *Enemies on the Couch: A Psychopolitical Journey Through War and Peace*. Born to Turkish parents in Cyprus, Dr. Volkan received his medical education in Turkey before coming to the U.S. in 1957. He is an Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Virginia and an Emeritus Training and Supervising Analyst at the Washington Psychoanalytic Institute, Washington, DC. In 1987, he established the Center for the Study of Mind and Human Interaction (CSMHI), which applied a growing base of knowledge to issues of ethnic tension, racism, large-group identity, terrorism, societal trauma, immigration, mourning, transgenerational transmissions and other aspects of national and international conflict. Dr. Volkan was the Senior Erik Erikson Scholar at the Erikson Institute of the Austen Riggs Center in Stockbridge, Massachusetts for ten years. He has served on the editorial boards of numerous international professional journals. An expert on ethnic tension, national identity, racism, and transgenerational transmission of trauma, he was an integral member of the Working Group on Terror and Terrorism of the International Psychoanalytical Association. The recipient of many prestigious awards, including the 2021 Gravida Best Book Award, and the 2015 *Mary S. Sigourney Award* for his role as a “seminal contributor to the application of psychoanalytic thinking to conflicts between countries and cultures,” Dr. Volkan was nominated on several occasions for the Nobel Peace Prize.



Endel Talvik is a psychoanalyst of the Estonian-Latvian Psychoanalytic Society and member of the International Psychoanalytical Association. He is president of the Estonia Psychoanalytic Psychology Association. He was trained at the Psychoanalytic Institute for Eastern Europe of Han Groen Prakken. Endel's participation in Allan King's documentary, *The Dragon's Egg*, involved facilitating psycho-political dialogue between local Russian-Estonian communities. His research interests expand to Greek mythology and thinking and his publications include, *Echo and Narcissus - Myth and Analysis* (2013) and *Greek Mythology - Thoughts about Myths and Thinking* (2020). Endel Talvik currently works in private practice in Estonia. He is Deputy Director of the European Psychoanalytic Institute of Han Groen Prakken (formerly, the Psychoanalytic Institute of Eastern Europe, where he was trained).



Colleen Murphy is a playwright and librettist. She is a two-time recipient of the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama, and of the Carol Bolt Award for Outstanding Play. Selected plays include: *The Society For The Destitute Presents Titus Bouffonius*; *Pig Girl*; *The December Man / L'homme de décembre*; *Armstrong's War*, and *I Hope My Heart Burns First*. Operas include *Fantasma* with composer Ian Cusson; *Oksana G.* with composer Aaron Gervais, and *My Mouth On Your Heart* with composer (and son) August Murphy-King.

Colleen has been Playwright-in-Residence at Finborough Theatre in London UK; at Necessary Angel Theatre and Factory Theatre in Toronto, and at the University of Regina. She has been the Mabel Pugh Taylor Writer-in-Residence at McMaster University; Writer-in-Residence at the University of Guelph; the Edna Staebler Laurier Writer-in-Residence at Wilfrid Laurier University; the Lee Playwright-in-Residence at the University of Alberta, and Writer-in-Residence at the University of New Brunswick. She teaches playwriting at Queen's University in Kingston. Her epic play, *The Breathing Hole / AGLU* - shortlisted for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize in the U.S. - will be produced at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa in December 2022.



Cyril Levitt PhD trained as a psychoanalyst at the Toronto Institute of Psychoanalysis. Professor Levitt has a longstanding interest in race and ethnic conflict. In his co-edited book, *Under the Shadow of Weimar*, he gives serious consideration to the use of criminal and civil law against racial incitement in different countries. As a co-author of *The Riot at Christie Pits*, with William Shaffir, he presents the background of an antisemitic riot in Toronto during the summer of 1933. Professor Levitt was chair of the Committee on Prejudice and Racism, Including Antisemitism of the IPA, 2009-2013 and editor of *Hostile and Malignant Prejudice*, to which Vamik Volkan contributed a chapter. Professor Levitt was a former chair of the Department of Sociology at McMaster University where he has taught since 1976. He is also a psychoanalyst in private practice in Toronto.

Program

- 9:15 Welcome and Introductions, Vivienne Pasieka
PhD, Chair
- 9:20 Introduction to Documentary, **Colleen Murphy**,
Allan King Films
- 9:30 Screening, ***The Dragon's Egg***
- 11:10 Coffee Break (15 minutes)
- 11:25 **Vamik Volkan MD**, Keynote Speaker
- 11:55 Colleen Murphy in conversation with Vamik
Volkan
- 12:15 Open Discussion with Audience
- 1:00 Lunch break (30 mins)
- 1:30 **Endel Talvik**
- 1:50 **Cyril Levitt PhD**
- 2:10 Dialogue between speakers
- 2:30 Coffee Break (10 minutes)
- 2:40 Open Panel and Audience Discussion
- 3:15 Closing Remarks

Registration

On-line: www.torontopsychoanalysis.com

Registration deadline: October 24, 2022

Or email: info@torontopsychoanalysis.com

Early Registration (before September 12, 2022) \$125
(after September 12, 2022) \$140

Full-Time Students \$75 early bird, or \$90 after September 12, 2022 (Proof of 2022/2023 status in universities/colleges is required)

Registrants will receive an access link to the film one week prior to the event.

This event is eligible for Section 1 CME credits (0.5 credits/hour) It is an accredited group learning activity (section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certificate Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, approved by the Canadian Psychiatric Association (CPA). The specific opinions and content of this event are not necessarily those of the CPA, and are the responsibility of the organizer(s) alone.

Refunds must be requested in writing 2 weeks prior to the beginning of the event, after which fees cannot be returned. A handling fee



Organizing Committee Vivienne Pasieka PhD Chair,
Gavril Hercz MD, Karen Dougherty MA, Simran Chahal MA,
Michael Blugerman MSW.

Cover Image: Courtesy of Allan King Films