

Freud Café Canada

FREE public talks on psychoanalytic ideas by Canadian psychoanalysts with an open discussion about their impact on our lives today.



Contagion of the Mind: Truth, Trust and Sanity in the Digital Age: A Psychoanalytic Exploration of Mental Illness Weaponized through Technology, as viewed through Ron Ruskin's 2026 Novel, *The Walls of Jericho*

Saturday, November 7, 2026

10:30 to 12:00am (ET)

Live at Caversham Booksellers

262 B Geary Ave, Toronto, ON M6H 2C5 <https://luma.com/u3aikyne>

also via Zoom: zoom pre-registration required at admin@torontopsychoanalysis.com Zoom registration closes one week prior

What if social and mental disorders are increasing? What if our connection to one another is degraded by 'virtuality'—expanding mindlessness, speciousness, divisiveness, misinformation? What if our health care system, government, and support networks are unable to contend with this fractured social world?

In Ron Ruskin's novel, *The Walls of Jericho*, a psychiatrist in a downtown Manhattan hospital sees a startling increase in the number of aggressive and violent patients affiliated with anarchic groups set on destroying civil order and society brought to the E.R. suffering from paranoid disorders.

Join us for a stimulating talk with **Ron Ruskin MD**, psychoanalyst, author of *The Walls of Jericho*, in conversation with **Alireza Taheri PhD**, psychoanalyst, on the interface between the individual mind, society and the digital world.

Ron Ruskin MD, FRCP is a Toronto writer, associate professor of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto, psychiatrist at Mt Sinai Hospital, and training analyst at the Toronto Institute of Psychoanalysis. One of the founding editors of *Ars Medica*, he has published widely on psychoanalysis and fiction and co-edited texts on psychotherapy supervision, the humanities and medicine. His latest novel, *The Walls of Jericho*, is a conspiracy thriller, diagnosing the digital age as a contagious terminal illness.

Alireza Taheri PhD is a Toronto psychoanalyst and clinical supervisor who teaches at the Toronto Psychoanalytic Institute and Society, Persepolis Psychoanalytic (Iran), and the Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis. He writes on philosophy, psychoanalysis, film and literature. His published monograph, *Hegelian-Lacanian Variations on Late Modernity: Spectre of Madness*, develops a novel dialectical theory based on Hegel, Lacan and Žižek. His current research focuses on the importance of negation in psychoanalysis.

Moderator: **Vivienne Pasieka PhD**, psychoanalyst



Between Hours / Interdisciplinary Dialogues, Toronto Psychoanalytic Society
www.torontopsychoanalysis.com/between-hours

Community Bridges, Canadian Psychoanalytic Society www.en.psychoanalysis.ca



Freud Café Canada Planning Committee: Vivienne Pasieka PhD, Chair, Endre Koritar MD, Elizabeth Wallace MD, Gordon Yanchyshyn MD, Simran Chahal MA and Vesna Krstich MA.

With community participation: www.cavershambooksellers.com