

The Michigan Psychoanalytic Society
46th Annual Symposium

*Psychoanalysis,
Climate Change, and
a Culture of Uncare:
Listening to Our Patients
and Our Communities*



Guest Speakers:
Sally Weintrobe

Lise Van Susteren, M.D.

Laura Carter Robinson, Psy.D.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Virtual

5 CME/CE Credit Hours



**Michigan Psychoanalytic
Institute and Society**

32841 Middlebelt Road, Suite 411
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

For change that lasts:
www.mpi-mps.org

Introduction and Practice Gap/Need:

The MPS 46th annual symposium brings together three distinguished scholars and practitioners who will invite us to consider the widespread psychological roots and impacts of climate degradation on our hearts and minds and appear, often traumatically, in our clinical practices. Throughout what promises to be a deeply moving and informative day, our speakers will engage in a series of brief presentations and conversations with one another and offer challenges to small discussion groups to consider the ways in which the socio-political and the psyche interpenetrate in the subjectivities of our patients and ourselves, bringing the climate crisis inevitably into the clinical space.

Invited Speakers and Their Presentations:

Sally Weintrobe (London, England)

“Our Culture of Uncare and Exceptionalism”

Lise Van Susteren, M.D. (Washington, D.C.)

“Educating about the Crisis Climate and its Impacts on Mental Health”

Laura Carter Robinson, Psy.D. (Ann Arbor, MI)

“Finding the Climate in Our Patients’ Stories”

Jane Hassinger, L.C.S.W., D.C.S.W.

Moderator

EDUCATION OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Describe the extent of climate degradation at this time in history.
- 2) Identify the psychological roots of climate degradation based on the psychoanalytic concepts of disavowal, splitting, and Weintrobe’s (defensive) exceptionalism.
- 3) Explain the connection between the external facts of climate crisis and certain forms of suffering and psychological symptoms that we see in our consulting rooms.
- 4) Identify reverberations of the climate crisis in the narratives of our patients.
- 5) Identify technical challenges associated with our role in helping patients work through disavowal, shock, grief, and recognition of our shared implication in the causes and remedies for climate crisis.
- 6) Describe the moral case for therapists to relinquish a stance of neutrality and encourage patients toward a greater degree of engagement with the outside world.

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OUR GUEST SPEAKERS:

British Psychoanalyst **Sally Weintrobe** is a widely recognized expert on the psychological roots and ongoing impacts of climate change. She is editor of *Engaging with Climate Change: Psychoanalytic and Inter-disciplinary Perspectives* (2012), author of *Psychological Roots of the Climate Crisis: Neoliberal Exceptionalism and the Culture of Uncare* (2021), and co-author of *Climate Psychology: A Matter of Life and Death* (2022). She believes that, as psychoanalysts, as citizens, and as human beings, waking up to the climate change emergency involves working through a series of shocks, beginning with a shocking encounter with the extent of our climate's degradation, the legacy of 40 years of neoliberal economics and social policy and our complicity with what she calls 'the culture of uncare.' Weintrobe notes the growing presence of 'eco-anxiety,' traumatic symptoms, and moral injury in patients' accounts, and she challenges us to radically re-evaluate our sense of ourselves as healers and citizens as we emerge from disavowal and dissociation to become able to help.



Lise Van Susteren, M.D., is a general and forensic psychiatrist and expert on the physical and psychological impacts of climate change. Van Susteren is Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry at George Washington University and has been a consultant to the US government profiling world leaders. She received her medical degree from the University of Paris, and has practiced medicine in West Africa, and at community health centers and homeless shelters. In addition to community organizing, Van Susteren serves on the boards of Earth Day Network and Physicians for Social Responsibility. She is a co-founder of the Climate Psychiatry Alliance which promotes action on climate from a mental health perspective. In 2009 she co- convened "*The Psychological Effects of Global Warming – Why the US Mental Health System Is Not Prepared.*" Van Susteren is the expert witness on the psychological damages to young people in *Juliana v United States* and in *Held v State of Montana*. She is a frequent contributor on television, radio and in the print media. In 2006, Dr. Van Susteren ran for the US Senate in Maryland. Her book, "*Emotional Inflammation – Discover Your Triggers and Reclaim Your Equilibrium During Anxious Times*" was published in April 2020.



Laura Carter Robinson, Psy.D., is a clinical psychologist with a specialty in climate-related work. In her private practice, Humanity & Planet, she sees patients in Ann Arbor and, via teletherapy, in several states regularly subject to extreme climate events. She received her doctorate in 2011 from the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology (GSAPP) at Rutgers University with a psychoanalytic concentration, completing her predoctoral internship at the University of Michigan. In 2014, Dr. Robinson founded a grassroots nonprofit organization that stopped the fossil fuel industry from drilling locally and in several cities, townships, and watersheds throughout Michigan. She has testified in front of the Michigan Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Environment, and the Great Lakes and is the recipient of several environmental awards for her activism. She has been a guest speaker around the state and in the news media, and currently speaks on psychological aspects of the climate crisis. Dr. Robinson is a psychologist-advocate on climate change and mental health for the American Psychological Association and is the Chair of Regional Coordinators for the Climate Psychology Alliance of North America.



Jane Hassinger, L.C.S.W., D.C.S.W. is a Psychoanalyst in Ann Arbor, Michigan and retired faculty member in Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Michigan. She is a member of the Michigan Psychoanalytic Society Board and Executive Committee and on faculty of the Psychoanalytic Institute of Northern California's Group Relations program. As a community psychoanalyst, Jane has worked throughout the US, Africa, South America, and Southeast Asia on projects focused on significant global challenges such as abortion, gender-based violence, and cross-cultural perspectives on mental health. In 2014, Jane co-founded (with Billie Pivnick, Ph.D.) the Psychoanalytic Community Collaboratory, a web-based seminar and project incubator for community-based initiatives, now a part of the PsiAN (Psychotherapy Action Network). Her publications include "*The Community Turn: Relational Citizenship in the Psychoanalytic Community*" (IJP, 2022, with Billie Pivnick) and "*Twentieth Century Living Color: Racialized Enactments in Psychoanalysis*" (PCS, 2014). Her book, *Women on Purpose: Resilience and Creativity of the Women of Phumani Paper* (with Kim Berman, M.F.A., Ph.D.) was published in 2012.



SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE:

Remarks and Introductions:

- 9:00 am – 9:05 am: **Susan Flinders, Ph.D.**, President, Michigan Psychoanalytic Society
 9:05 am – 9:30 am: **Jane Hassinger, L.C.S.W., D.C.S.W.**
 Introduction to 46th Symposium and Speakers.
 9:30 am – 10:20 am: **Sally Weintrobe**
 "Our Culture of Uncare and Exceptionalism"
 10:20 am – 10:35 am: BREAK
 10:35 am – 11:25 am: **Lise Van Susteren, M.D.** "Educating about the Crisis Climate and its Impacts on Mental Health"
 11:25 am – 12:00 pm: Discussion Groups (Directive #1)
 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm: LUNCH
 1:00 pm – 1:30 pm: Report from Discussion Groups and Speaker Responses
 1:30 pm – 2:20 pm: **Laura Carter Robinson, Psy.D.**
 "Finding the Climate in Our Patients' Stories"
 2:20 pm – 2:30 pm: BREAK
 2:30 pm – 2:50 pm: Discussion (Directive #2)
 2:50 pm – 3:00 pm: Report from Discussion Groups
 3:00 pm – 3:40 pm: Speakers in Conversation, Interactions with Participants.
 3:40 pm – 4:00 pm: Concluding Remarks: Where Do We Go from Here?"

****LOCATION:** Watch from the convenience and safety of your home or office.
 Feel free to meet with friends who have registered.

Symposium Planning Collaboration:

Jane Hassinger, L.C.S.W., D.C.S.W., Rebecca Mair, Ph.D., Marc Hirsch, Ph.D., Co-Chairs
 Monica Evans, Program Administrator

CME and CE Credit Information:

PHYSICIANS: This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of American Psychoanalytic Association and Michigan Psychoanalytic Society. The American Psychoanalytic Association is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The American Psychoanalytic Association designates this Live Activity for a maximum of 5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)/TM (1 credit equals 1 hour). Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURE INFORMATION FOR ALL LEARNERS: None of the planners and presenters for this educational activity have relevant financial relationship(s)* to disclose with ineligible companies whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.

**Financial relationships are relevant if the educational content an individual can control is related to the business lines or products of the ineligible company. Updated July 2021*

PSYCHOLOGISTS: The Michigan Psychoanalytic Society is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Michigan Psychoanalytic Society maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

SOCIAL WORKERS: The Michigan Psychoanalytic Society is an approved provider with the Michigan Social Work Continuing Education Collaborative.

If you have registered indicating you want to receive CME or CE, you must be present during the entire symposium and will need to complete an evaluation form after the presentation.

The views of the speakers do not necessarily represent the views of the Michigan Psychoanalytic Society.

MPS MEMBERS REGISTRATION

ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AT
mpi-mps.org/events/symposium

NON MPS MEMBERS ONLINE REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT
 Go to Eventbrite and search Michigan Psychoanalytic Society Symposium or submit registration form to MPS postal address below **

ATTENDANCE FEES

- \$150 Mental Health Professionals** (includes 5 CME/CE credit hours)
- \$85 Academics and Interested Public**
- \$60 Full Time Students/Medical Residents**

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Payment options are mailing a check or using this registration form to send in your credit card information; Call Monica Evans (248) 851-3380 with questions.

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Email: [Monica at mevans@mpi-mps.org](mailto:Monica@mevans@mpi-mps.org)
 Phone: 248-851-3380 or Fax: 248-851-1806

If interested in becoming an MPS member for the 2023-2024 membership year, contact Monica Evans (mevans@mpi-mps.org).

Disclosure: This Brochure will be our last.
 Fall 2023 all advertising for MPS programming is going paperless.