

Brussels in-person and online
2nd – 4th October 2025



Loss & HOPE

10th EUROPEAN
PSYCHOANALYTIC
CONFERENCE FOR
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS



LOSS & HOPE

We live in a time in which our lives and the future are affected by continual and intense changes. New technological developments offer unprecedented possibilities for growth in every sphere of life. At the same time, armed conflicts and unremitting ecological crises pose a significant threat to our existence. A secure perspective for the future that has guided our actions for decades has been lost. How can we find hope in this threatening global situation? Loss and hope are of central interest and concern from societal, interpersonal and intra-psychic perspectives in the psychoanalytic sphere. The experience of multiple losses is of central importance in this regard. Every change invariably involves loss. The experience of loss begins with birth. The first need that arises, the experience of hunger confronts us with the need and thus the search for something that has been lost. Moreover, every individual must come to terms with being limited in self-determination as well as with needing and being dependent on others. Old age brings about new perspectives but on the other hand unavoidable losses,

through increased bodily frailty, illness and inevitability of death. Freud described a way of dealing with loss and the fears associated with loss, as well as the hope of regaining what has been lost with the well-known Fort/Da game of his grandson. He threw a spool of thread away again and again in order to pull it back towards him by the thread attached to it. This enabled him to transform what he passively experienced, namely the loss of his mother, into active action and make what he had lost available to him again through his own agency. This game is about loss and hope, topics to which we would like to devote ourselves intensively at this year's EPCUS conference.

On behalf of the European Psychoanalytical Federation
Charlotta Björklind, Anna Christopoulos, Anssi Peräkylä, Mercedes Puchol, Martin Teising

PROGRAMME

Thursday, October 2nd 2025

- 18:00 Arrival and registration
- 18:30 **Welcome address** Charlotta Björklind with Mercedes Puchol, Martin Teising, Anna Christopoulos, Anssi Peräkylä
- 18:45-20:15 **The dynamics of loss and hope - a developmental perspective** by Johannes Lehtonen
- 20:30 Dinner

Friday, October 3rd 2025

- 09:00-10:30 **Reflexions on Loss and Hope in little children. Pawel, a three years old boy of few words.** by Alberto Carrión
- 10:30-11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:00-12:30 **Experiencing loss and vulnerability, yet still hoping** by Hans-Jürgen Wirth
- 12:45-13:45 Lunch
- 13:45-15:15 Discussion groups (in person/online)
- 15:15-15:45 Coffee Break
- 15:45-17:15 Student's plenary discussion

Saturday, October 4th 2025

- 09:00-10:30 **Existence in time: Development or Catastrophe** by David Bell
- 10:30-11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:00-12:30 **Loss and Retrieval in Music** by Johannes Picht
- 12:45-13:45 Lunch
- 13:45-15:15 Discussion groups (in person/online)
- 15:15-15:45 Coffee break
- 15:45-17:15 Round table **"Loss and Hope" and 10th EPCUS anniversary**
Jan Abram, Heribert Blass, Alexander Janssen, Jasminka Šuljagić and former organizers of EPCUS
- 17:15-18:00 Closing plenary & photos
Charlotta Björklind, Mercedes Puchol, Martin Teising, Anna Christopoulos, Anssi Peräkylä



PRESENTERS

Prof. Jan Abram, Ph.D. is President of the European Psychoanalytic Federation. She is a training and supervising analyst of the British Psychoanalytical Society and in private practice in London as well as Visiting Professor of the Psychoanalysis Unit, University College London. Jan Abram has published several books and articles notably: *The Language of Winnicott*, first published in 1996; *The clinical paradigms of Melanie Klein and Donald Winnicott: comparisons and dialogues* (with R.D. Hinshelwood, 2018) and *The surviving object: psychoanalytic clinical essays on psychic survival-of-the-object* (2022).

David Bell is a past president of the British Psychoanalytic Society. He retired in 2021 after 25 years from his post at the Tavistock, where he developed and led a special service for more seriously disturbed patients. He lectures and publishes on psychoanalytic theory on the work of Freud, Klein and Bion. Throughout his career he has been deeply involved in interdisciplinary studies such as psychoanalysis and literature, philosophy and socio-political theory. He is a leading psychiatric expert in immigration/asylum/human rights. He has been very engaged in the debate over gender dysphoria in children and adolescents, trying to maintain thoughtful and psychoanalytic perspective in a highly toxic and politicized climate. He has published papers and given many lectures on this subject. He currently delivers regular online courses on *The Development of Psychoanalysis/Psychoanalysis and Culture*.

Charlotta Björklind is a training analyst and adult- and child psychoanalyst, member of the Swedish Psychoanalytical Association. She works in private practice with adults, adolescents and children, and as a lecturer at Stockholm University. She was a member of one of the previous Executive of the European Psychoanalytical Federation and until recently director of training of the Swedish Psychoanalytical Institute.

Dr. med. Heribert Blass is a training and supervising psychoanalyst for adults, children and adolescents, also specialist in psychosomatic medicine and psychotherapy, psychiatry. Member of the German Psychoanalytical Association and the IPA. He is working in private practice in Düsseldorf, Germany. From 2020 – 2024, he has been the President of the European Psychoanalytic Federation, currently IPA President elect, taking office as IPA President in August 2025. He has published several articles on male identity and sexuality, the image of the father in human mental life, the relation between internal and external reality, on psychoanalytic supervision, and other fields.

Alberto Carrión García de Parada is a clinical psychologist and training psychoanalyst of the Madrid Psychoanalytical Association (APM). He is also a child and adolescent psychoanalyst, and has a special interest in parent-infant psychotherapy. He has directed the Children and Adolescents Department and he is currently president of the Madrid Psychoanalytical Association.

Prof. Anna L. Christopoulos, Ph.D. is a Professor Emeritus of Clinical Psychology of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, in Athens, Greece. She is a full member of the Hellenic Psychoanalytic Association, the European Psychoanalytic Federation and the International Psychoanalytic Association. She is a core member of the European Psychoanalytic Comparative Clinical Methods (CCM) moderators' group. She is also an associate board member of the International Journal of Psychoanalysis. She is the author of two books *Introduction to adult psychopathology* and *Research in psychoanalysis* both published by Motibo Books (in Greek) as well as numerous articles and book chapters.

PRESENTERS

Dr. Alexander Janssen, is a psychiatrist – psychoanalyst. He works in private practice and is a training analyst of the Dutch Psychoanalytical Society of which he is a former president and director of training. He has had many positions in the European Psychoanalytical Federation, was co-founder of EPCUS. He chaired two task forces in the International Psychoanalytic Association on digital technique in psychoanalysis and training which resulted in two comprehensive reports. His main fields of interest at the moment are: shame, intergenerational transmission of war trauma's, metapsychology.

Anssi Peräkylä is Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Helsinki. He is member of the Finnish and Polish Psychoanalytic Societies. Using conversation analysis, he has investigated interaction between psychotherapists and patients, emotion in interaction, and the manifestations of narcissistic personality in social interaction.

Johannes Picht is a psychoanalyst in the German Psychoanalytical Association and works in private practice and is a member of the Freiburg Psychoanalytic Seminar. He was trained as a pianist before he turned to medicine. He specialized in Internal Medicine and Psychosomatics before he became a psychoanalyst. He was editor of various psychoanalytic journals, such as PSYCHE. He has written publications on music, psychosomatics, on the theory of the psychoanalytic situation as well as on Freud and Winnicott.

Mercedes Puchol is a clinical psychologist, full member and training psychoanalyst of the Madrid Psychoanalytical Association (APM-IPA) and past president of the Madrid Psychoanalytical Association. She works in private practice in Madrid with adults, children and adolescents. She is an associate book review editor of the *International Journal of Psychoanalysis* and member of the Organising Committee of the Spanish Language Psychoanalysts Encounters.

Jasminka Šuljagić is a training and supervising analyst of the Psychoanalytical Society of Serbia, previous president of this Society, and a member of the former Executive Committee of the EPF, as General Editor. She works in private practice in Belgrade. Over the previous years she has been engaged in many EPF and IPA tasks, including the organisation of the EPCUS, from 2016 to 2022. Currently, she is chair of the EPF Archive Committee and of the Institutional Matters Forum, with a recently published book *Dynamics of Psychoanalytic Institutions*. She has many presentations and publications in seven different languages.

Prof. Dr. Martin Teising, is a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, training analyst of the German Psychoanalytical Association (DPV), Past President of the DPV, Past President of the International Psychoanalytic University Berlin. He is co-organizer of the Summer University of Psychoanalysis at the University of Frankfurt. He is currently a European Representative on the Board of the International Psychoanalytic Association.

Prof. Dr. Hans-Jürgen Wirth is a psychologist and psychoanalyst. He is a Professor of Social Psychology at Goethe University Frankfurt and founder of Psychosozial-Verlag. He is co-organizer of the "Summer University of Psychoanalysis" at the University of Frankfurt. In numerous publications on the psychosocial aspects of political processes and social crises. His latest book, *Gefühle machen Politik. Populismus, Ressentiments und die Chancen der Verletzlichkeit (Emotions make politics: populism, resentment, and the opportunities of vulnerability)*, was published in 2022.



10th EUROPEAN **PSYCHOANALYTIC** CONFERENCE FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

This conference is of interest for university students and recent graduates, especially in medicine, psychology and other cultural or language sciences.

All presentations will be in English.

The conference is held from Thursday 2nd to Saturday 4th of October 2025.

Two possibilities to participate in the conference are offered: participating in-person at the EPF House in Brussels and participation online.

The fee of 55€ is the same for in-person participants at EPF House in Brussels and online participants.

For further information, please contact Frank Goderniaux: frank.goderniaux@epf-fep.eu, Charlotta Björklind: charlottabjorklind@hotmail.com, Anna Christopoulos: annachr@otenet.gr, Anssi Peräkylä: anssi.perakyla@helsinki.fi, Mercedes Puchol: mercedespucholm@gmail.com, or Martin Teising: teising@t-online.de

GENERAL INFORMATION



European
Psychoanalytical
Federation ASBL

This conference is organised by the EPF, the European Psychoanalytical Federation ASBL. It unites over 8,000 psychoanalysts and psychoanalysts-in-training living and working in 33 countries in which 27 languages are spoken. It is a non-profit organisation, fully independent and self-supporting. Its main aims are to foster the growth of psychoanalysis and to maintain and improve standards of psychoanalytical practice, education and teaching.

For further information please have a look at the EPF website
www.epf-fep.eu

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