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Attending to the life of the group: challenging the privilege of individuation
(half day/ 2 hours)

Despite Jung's brilliance regarding the individual's capacity for religiosity, his neglect of the importance of the role of group consciousness in bringing about cultural transformation restricts our capacity to bring his wisdom more fully into the world. While privileging the individual Jung saw groups as "animals" or "mobs," lacking an ethical capacity (1939, CW 9.1 p. 125). In the 20th century his psychology, and psychotherapy generally, cultivated the individual's "psychological attitude," while not offering any thinking or practice for extending this attitude into groups, organizations, or into the Commons. However, when we remember that the word "religio" means "to bind together, again" we can recognize the need to turn our individuating identities back toward one another and extend the psychological attitude more actively into groups and into our communities.

Despite his attitude towards groups, Jung actually had a strong curiosity about what could happen if groups could become self-aware, or even if the human species could become conscious, which he talked about as the "personification of the unconscious" (Jung, 1931, v. 8, p. 349). Unlike Yeats' image of the species as a "beast" whose gaze is "pitiless as the sun" that "slouches toward Bethlehem," Jung's imagines a being capable of drawing on millions of years of human experience to help solve human problems. However, how do we get from here to there?

In this workshop we will use the practice of "functional subgrouping" as developed by Yvonne Agazarian (SCT) to explore the interface between individual and group consciousness. Through this exploration we will have an opportunity to gain a little familiarity with just how distinctive a group's consciousness is. Such work offers an opportunity to gain insight into just how hard it is to cultivate a group or an organization's self-awareness. Such insights supports extending a psychological attitude toward our organizational functioning and thus creating opportunities for renewal, possibly moving us toward Jung's notion of personifying the unconscious.

Bibliography

- 2014 Book chapter (2014): "Jung's relationship to science and his concept of *psychocultural development*." *Jung and the question of science*. Ed. Raya Jones London: Routledge Publishing.
- 2011 Journal Article: "A Transformative Political Psychology Begins with Jung" *Jung Journal: Culture and Psyche*. Winter 2011

2008 Book: *Awakening Our Faith in the Future: The Advent of Psychological Liberalism*. London: Routledge Publishing.