

The Vermont Association for Psychoanalytic Studies (VAPS)
Presents its Biennial Ethics Conference with
Frank Summers, Ph.D.
***Understanding Violence, American
Exceptionalism, and the Current Political Crisis:
The Contribution of a Psychoanalytic Ethic***

Saturday, June 15th, 2019

Davis Auditorium, at the Robert Larner, M.D. College of Medicine at the University of
Vermont

Burlington, Vermont

9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The United States is objectively one of the most violent countries in the world as measured by homicide rates. In addition, the prevalence of violent imagery in news and entertainment media, rate of gun ownership and militarization express the appeal of violence in American society. How does psychoanalysis contribute to our understanding of the American relationship to violence and the dynamics that perpetuate it, and how does a psychoanalytic ethic help to shape our response as mental health professionals?

In this conference renowned psychoanalyst Frank Summers, Ph.D. will provide insight into the historical roots of American exceptionalism and its role in the glorification of violence. The presentation will provide a theoretical framework for understanding pathological narcissism, grandiosity, and other defenses that promote and justify the control of the “other” through violence. Dr. Summers will present an emerging psychoanalytic ethic that incorporates a developmental theory of subjectivity and establishes ethical conduct in the experience of mutual empathic recognition.

Throughout the day we will explore the dynamic relationship among individual, organizational, and state-sponsored violence, and we will examine what a psychoanalytic vision of ethical conduct requires of us in an era of deepening concern about violence and hatred in American society.

About the Presenter:

Dr. Summers is a professor of clinical psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine and a Training and Supervising Analyst at the Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis and Chicago Center for Psychoanalysis. He is the former president of Psychoanalysis for Social Responsibility (Section IX of APA Division 39), and led work to confront the APA’s complicity in psychologists’ involvement in torture of detainees. His extensive publications and presentations include many contributions that deal with social issues, including violence, torture, professional ethics and the misuse of

psychology. He serves as a member of the editorial board of *Psychoanalytic Psychology* and as an associate editor of *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*. His most recent book, *The Psychoanalytic Vision: The Experiencing Subject, Transcendence, and the Therapeutic Process*, is the winner of the Gradiva Award for the best psychoanalytic book of 2013. He maintains a practice in psychoanalytic therapy and psychoanalysis in Chicago, Illinois.

Objectives:

Participants will be able to:

1. Describe key differences between classical and contemporary psychoanalytic theory of moral/ethical development and their clinical implications.
2. Explain the relationship between empathic recognition of the other and the development of the self from the standpoint of developmental theory and its relationship to ethical development.
3. Discuss why ethical breaches of conduct erode the integrity of the self through disavowal.
4. Identify common defenses that are deployed as a consequence of ethical transgressions and methods of working with these defenses and symptomatic expressions.
5. Describe the relationship between grandiosity, disintegration anxiety, and the need to control the “other” in clinical situations and in society at large.
6. Describe the concept of *American exceptionalism* and the consequences of it becoming associated with military strength in our national identity.
7. Apply the concept of the “moral third” to problems in therapeutic and public dialogue.

Pending Application made for 6 CEU for Psychologists, Social Workers, and Licensed Mental Health Counselors.

Schedule

8:30 a.m.	Registration
9:00 a.m.	Welcome/Presentation of Speaker
9:15 a.m.	Morning Session: <i>Violence and American Exceptionalism</i> – Frank Summers, Ph.D. – Keynote Speaker
10:45 a.m.	Morning Break
11:00 a.m.	Discussion
12:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Q & A
1:15 p.m.	Afternoon Session: <i>The New Psychoanalytic Ethic, Violence, and the Current Political Climate</i>
2:45 p.m.	Afternoon Break
3:00 p.m.	Discussion
4:15 p.m.	Closing Comments
4:30 p.m.	Adjourn

Conference Registration:

Conference registration is only available online and includes the option of paying by credit/debit card or check. To register as a member, go to www.vapsvt.org, log in using your member credentials, click the events tab and select the Biennial Ethics Conference. To register as a non-member, simply skip the log in step and proceed directly to the Events page. When you click "Register" you will be given the option to pay by credit/debit card through our secure PayPal payment processing system, or by check. Please select your preferred payment option and follow the prompts. Payments by check can be mailed to our Treasurer, Brian Ashley, at 409 Lawnwood Drive, Williston, VT 05495. Registration payment questions may be directed to **Brian Ashley** at brianashley@gmail.com. Conference inquiries may be directed to **Stella Marrie** at stella.marrie@myunion.edu.

Fee Schedule:	Before June 1st:	After June 1st:
VAPS Member	\$140	\$155
Non-Member	\$160	\$175
Student	\$70	\$85

Cancellation Policy: No refunds after June 1st, 2019.

Registration fee includes lunch and refreshments.

Directions to UVM Medical Center Parking Garage: Map available online at: www.uvmhealth.org. Click on Locations, click on The University of Vermont Medical Center, Main Campus, 111 Colchester Avenue, Burlington, and a map will appear. Or, from Google Maps, type in "UVM Medical Center Parking Garage", click on "garage, near UVM Medical Center, Burlington, VT", and follow directions from your location.

Directions to Davis Auditorium: From the University of Vermont Medical Center Parking Garage Level 2 (orange), enter the Ambulatory Care Center (ACC). Once inside, follow the signs to the Medical Education Center. At the snack kiosk, turn left through the double glass doors. Davis Auditorium is on the right.