

Manifest Mind III: The Decentered Self in Psychedelic States

May 17 & 18, 2025

Live Activity – In Person & on Zoom – 12.25 Credits

Conference Schedule

Day 1: Saturday, May 17, 2025 - 8am-6pm with optional concert at 8pm

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Attendee Check In	
9:00 – 9:50 AM	Welcome and Orientation to Task “Seeking”	Thomas Brod, MD John Lundgren, MD
9:50 – 10:50 AM	Consciousness and ‘Reality’: brain mechanisms of normal and altered states. Q & A.	Mark Solms, PhD
10:50 – 11:00 AM	Bio break	
11:00 – 11:45 AM	Selections from Aldous Huxley’s <i>Island</i> and other writings – the social (and civic) benefits of psychedelics	John Schneider (reader) Thomas Brod, MD John Lundgren, MD
11:45 AM – 12:30 PM	Small group processing – integration of the presented material via discussion of multiple (even contradictory) psychodynamic perspectives on the metapsychology of “mystico-spiritual” experiences of patients exposed to psychedelic medicine	Small-Group Facilitators*: Alya Ahmad, DO, Eva Altobelli, MD, Julane Andries, LMFT, Ray Bakaitis, PhD, Leonard Bearne, PsyD, Florian Birkmayer, MD, Katja Cahoon, LCSW, David Laramie, PhD, Gil Spielberg, PhD, Mark Mellinger, MD
12:30 – 1:15 PM	Lunch	
1:15 – 1:45 PM	“Disturbances” (what is unresolved) – further integration of the material within the large group	Facilitator: John Lundgren, MD
1:45 – 2:30 PM	Psychedelic “Meaning” and the Perennial Philosophy, Part 1	Dana Sawyer
2:30 – 2:45 PM	Bio break	

2:45 – 3:15 PM	Lecture, <i>The Redeeming Clinician: Ketamine Transformation in the Emergency Department</i>	David Dansky, MD
3:15 - 4:00 PM	Small Groups/Break-out groups – integration of the presented material	Small-Group Facilitators
4:00- 4:15 PM	Bio break	
4:15- 5:00 PM	Large Group discussion, “Swirling Insights”	Thomas Brod, MD John Lundgren, MD
5:00 – 6:00 PM	Musical meditation/ Soundbath Meditation and discussion - Internal integration of the presented material	Isabella Sledge & Cat Jensen Small-Group Facilitators
6:00 – 8 PM	Dinner break, on your own	
8 PM	(optional) Public concert, featuring the PARTCH Ensemble and composer Anne LeBaron, with excerpts from her opera <i>Huxley’s Last Trip</i> (previously titled <i>LSD: The Opera</i>).	

Day 2: Sunday, May 18, 2025 – 8:15am-2pm

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
8:15 – 9:00 AM	Attendee Check In	
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Renewal of Task Large Group: Social Dreaming segment - Social Dreaming provides a space for deep meanings of dreams to emerge, not on an individual level, but at social collective level. The hub host invites participants to offer dreams and make associations without interpretation. The dreams engage and link with each other, not the dreamers. The dreams enable new perspectives, unknown thoughts, fresh thoughts and meanings. Will we observe the manifestation, the "mycelial connection", of our collective mind?	Thomas Brod, MD John Lundgren, MD
10:00 – 11:00 AM	Further Reflections on Consciousness and ‘Reality’: brain mechanisms of normal and altered states. With interaction with audience.	Mark Solms, PhD
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Further Reflections on “The Decentered Self in Psychedelic Experience” + interaction with Audience	Dana Sawyer
12:00 – 12:15 PM	Bio break	

12:15 – 1:15 PM	Large Group - "Synthesis and Gaps"	John Lundgren, MD
1:15 – 2:00 PM	Final Small-Group discussions	Small-Group Facilitators

FACULTY

Mark Solms, PhD is a psychoanalyst and neuropsychologist who discovered the brain mechanisms of dreaming. He is director of neuropsychology, Neuroscience Institute at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, where he lives. He is also honorary lecturer in neurosurgery, St Bartholomew's and Royal London Hospital School of Medicine, and honorary Fellow, American College of Psychiatrists. He has published more than 250 articles and book chapters, and 6 books. His second book, *The Neuropsychology of Dreams* (1997), was a landmark contribution to the field. His 2002 book (with Oliver Turnbull), *The Brain and the Inner World* was a best-seller and has been translated into 13 languages. His latest book, on the hard problem of consciousness, is entitled *The Hidden Spring: A Journey to the Source of Consciousness* (2021). He is the authorized editor and translator of the recently released *Revised Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud* (24 vols) and the *Complete Neuroscientific Works of Sigmund Freud* (4 vols).

Dana Sawyer is professor emeritus of philosophy and world religions at Maine College of Art & Design in Portland. In addition to numerous academic articles, he is author of the widely-respected 2002 biography *Aldous Huxley: A Biography* (Crossroad Publishing). *Huston Smith, Wisdomkeeper*, Sawyer's authorized biography of world religion scholar Huston Smith, was published in 2014. Huxley and Smith were close friends and were leading advocates of the perennial philosophy, which describes an underlying reality to material existence. Huxley's 1945 book, *The Perennial Philosophy*, argues that the concept is revealed in the mystical branches of all the world's religions. Sawyer has written, "If you are interested in or involved in today's psychedelic rebirth, you are likely to find the perennial philosophy deeply interesting... Mystical experience is a direct experience of ourselves entwined with the universe. During the unitive experience we know the deepest level of our being as inseparable from the deepest level of *all* being."

David Dansky, MD trained in both Internal and Emergency Medicine. He has practiced primarily Emergency Medicine for the last 40 years, in both the San Francisco Bay Area and the Monterey Peninsula. His focus is to employ both conventional and integrative medical techniques and therapies in the hopes of bettering the lives of his clients. Since training with the Ketamine Training Center in 2019, he has been actively engaged in providing ketamine therapy for both body and psyche alike at Monterey Integrated Therapies in Carmel. He lectures frequently at conferences and workshops on the medical and pragmatic aspects of ketamine therapy.

Thomas M Brod, MD (coordinator) is Sr. Faculty, New Center for Psychoanalysis and a psychoanalyst in psychiatric practice in West Los Angeles. Formerly he was Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine. He coordinates NCP's Manifest Mind Series as well as the Film & Mind Series.



John Lundgren, MD is a Training and Supervising Analyst and former President of the Psychoanalytic Center of California. He is on the faculty of UCLA Department of Psychiatry where he co-chaired the development of a leadership group relations training program for psychiatry residents and psychology interns. As a member of the A.K. Rice Institute and GREX, its local affiliate, he has served as a conference director and staff consultant to Group Relations conferences.

Small-Group Faculty

The following clinicians will facilitate the small break-out groups during the conference. They will not be presenting, but will lead the break-out groups in discussion of presented material and learning objectives.

Alya Ahmad, DO
Ray Bakaitis, PhD
Katja Cahoon, LCSW
Gil Spielberg, PhD

Eva Altobelli, MD
Leonard Bearne, PsyD
David Laramie, PhD

Julane Andries, LMFT
Florian Birkmayer, MD
Mark Mellinger, MD

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT

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 the New Center for Psychoanalysis. 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 12.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

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 December 2022.

PSYCHOLOGISTS: The New Center for Psychoanalysis is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The New Center for Psychoanalysis maintains responsibility for this program and its content. Psychologists must report CE credits directly to MCEP using this document to verify attendance. Please note that a psychologist must attend the CE program in its entirety in order to receive credit.

SOCIAL WORKERS, MARRIAGE and FAMILY THERAPISTS (LCSW, LMFT, ASW, IMF, LEP, LPCC, PCCI): The New Center for Psychoanalysis offers continuing education via the organizations listed above whose requirements meet the course content requirements set by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences (see [16 CCR section 1887.4.0 for General CE Course Content Requirements](#)). Acceptance of the CE credits for this activity is at the discretion of the licensing board.

For more information about NCP's Continuing Education program, please contact Tina Walters at tinaw@n-c-p.org.