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Recent Publications

Lawrence, W.G. (2003a) ed. *Experiences In Social Dreaming*. London: Karnac Books.

Lawrence, W.G. (2003b) Narcissism v. Social-ism Governing Thinking in Social Systems. In Lipgar, R.M. and M. Pines, eds. *Building on Bion: Branches*. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

Lawrence, W.G. (2003c). Social dreaming as sustained thinking. *Human Relations*, Vol. 56, No.5.

Thinking of the unconscious in society during dark times, and the infinite

Addressing the question, how can we continue to create and further the conditions for ordinary people to think and reflect on their society, a summary is made of the four modes of thinking: Being, Becoming, the Unthought Known and Dreaming. This fractal of the totality of thinking is both of consciousness and the unconscious.

Democracy is an ideal held in the mind, but is always under threat from dispersal activities. Democracy is an achievement of a society when a population is directing themselves at creating and re-creating the democratic machinery. This they have to do in opposition to the anti-socials of the society who would follow totalitarian ways of thinking. Currently, we are witnessing the movement for totalitarianism in corporate life.

Now, there is a new threat in terrorism. The incidence of the experiences of both totalitarianism and terrorism is liable to cause a change in the inner world of individuals, and their thinking patterns. This will skew the ideal, held in the mind, of democracy because of the splitting processes terrorism engenders.

There have been two initiatives to use psychoanalysis as a tool of cultural enquiry: Listening Posts and Social Dreaming. These were discovered at the same time. Both are attempts to uncover the undifferentiated matrix of the unconscious through reverie.

The time may now be ripe to 'invent' a third initiative which would use the 'raw' material of both Listening Posts and Social Dreaming. This event would make a synthesis, a systemic working hypothesis, of what has been learned in these events. It would identify what is taking place in society. It would be drawing on the Unthought Known of society, which Listening Posts potentially do, and on the transformation of thinking that Social Dreaming does. The transformation of thinking occurs when the infinite passes into finite grasp.

By making a synthesis, which would always be temporary, we continue the process of making sense of the plurality of voices, both of consciousness and the unconscious, that make for the 'messy' reality of society.