

# Psychohistory News

Newsletter of the International Psychohistorical Association

Volume 38, Number 2 – Spring 2019

## IPA's 42nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

5/22 to 5/24/19, New York University

register at: [psychohistory.us](http://psychohistory.us)

### SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

#### Michael Eigen

Psychoanalyst Michael Eigen will be a featured speaker Wednesday, May 22nd from 11:10 AM to 12:10 PM. On Friday afternoon, May 24th, from 1:25 PM to 2:55 PM, there will be a plenary panel retrospective on his contributions that will feature Robin Bagai, Keri Cohen and Loray Daws. In addition, there will be over twenty-five

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#### Nancy Chodorow



Dr. Chodorow will be the keynote speaker on May 22nd. Her *The Reproduction of Mothering: Psychoanalysis and the Sociology of Gender* (1978) was selected by *Contemporary Sociology* as one of the ten most influential books of the

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## MICHAEL EIGEN

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other presentations on Dr. Eigen's work. At any given time on Thursday and Friday, attendees will have the option of choosing between two or three sessions devoted to the many facets of Michael Eigen's books. His first volume, *The Psychotic Core*, was published in 1986. Since then 26 other books of his have been published, with another on the way late this summer. Each of his works will be available for purchase at the conference.

Dr. Eigen's contributions have been lauded by distinguished psychoanalysts. Adam Phillips says that through Eigen's work "psychoanalysis acquires a new kind of moral seriousness. Michael Eigen has gone on trying to fathom the terrors of aliveness by asking the disarming question: 'what is normal about being alive?' No-one in contemporary psychoanalysis writes with this cunning, wholehearted openness." Jessica Benjamin writes: "Michael Eigen has an extraordinary ability to use language in a way that opens and deepens

psychic reality. He is a master of psychoanalytic theory who nonetheless brings us up constantly short in the face of what is shockingly raw and untheorizable in life." Christopher Bollas asks about Michael Eigen, "Who else can find in the ordinary 'grace' of lived experience so many challenging reflections? No one else thinks like this, writes like this, or puts psychoanalysis into a separate realm; this is literature for the ages." Nancy McWilliams adds, "Michael Eigen's capacity to convey what psychoanalysis is really about emotionally is unequalled."

What unifies his work is an elucidation of psychic reality in its many dimensions. While many other psychoanalytic writers focus in on specific human processes, the titles of Dr. Eigen's books illustrate the full spectrum of being human that he covers. These include *Rage, Ecstasy, Faith, Lust, Emotional Storm, Feeling Matters, The Sensitive Self, Toxic Nourishment, Psychic Deadness, Coming Through the Whirlwind*, and *The Challenge of Being Human*, among others. Dr. Eigen is as open to the range of experience in being human as is anyone within the psychoanalytic tradition. He

covers the highs, lows, and the in-between in ways that are remarkable to behold. Where many analysts following Freud underplay the importance of religious experience, Eigen incorporates spiritual traditions from Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism including three works that focus on the relationship between Kabbalah and psychoanalysis.

While much attention has been paid to Eigen's psychoanalytic focus on mysticism, it should not be forgotten how much of the rest of psychic reality he covers. There are few analysts who give such place to so much of what being human encompasses. In this way, he helps further open up the many worlds psychoanalysis has illuminated. As a therapist, Eigen has a special gift of patiently giving space for things to unfold in due time. It is his capacities for waiting and empathy that helps people come to self-realizations they might have had difficulty reaching. Eigen's own experiences with these clients then have added to his remarkable openness to the fullness of our psychic realities.

## CLIO'S PSYCHE AND PSYCHOHISTORY FORUM NEWS

The Spring Issue of *Clio's Psyche* will contain Jim Anderson and Chuck Strozier's "Lincoln Dialogue" with commentaries by various colleagues; Peter Petschauer's Symposium on "The Flame of Trauma;" a Featured Scholar Interview of Jacques Szaluta, and much else.

*Clio's Psyche* Call for Papers: Deadline for the Fall 2019 "The Many Roads Taken by the Builders of Psychohistory Special Issue" has been extended until June 1st and it will subsequently be published as book. A fall Psychohistory Forum meeting will discuss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst Alice Maher's 2018 book, *Catalysis: A Recipe to Slow Down or Abort Humankind's Leap to War*. Ken Fuchsman will provide a critique of Dr. Maher's approach.

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### NANCY CHODOROW

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past twenty-five years. Her address will be on "The American Independent Tradition in Psychoanalysis." Dr. Chodorow locates the origins of this tradition in the works of Erik Erikson and Hans Loewald. These two men defined themselves as ego psychologists, and focused on the individual within their social settings, and emphasized both the mother-child relationship and the interaction of analyst and client. This paper elaborates on themes in her forthcoming *The Psychoanalytic Ear and the Sociological Eye: Toward an American Independent Tradition*, which will be published by Routledge on July 20, 2019. She will speak on Wednesday, May 22nd at 10:05 am. There will be a panel on Nancy Chodorow's contributions with NYU psychoanalyst Adrienne Harris and Yale's Rosemary Balsam on Thursday May 23 from 2:35 to 4:05 pm.

Psychoanalyst Marilyn Newman Metz finds that Dr. Chodorow's work "has had far-reaching and important consequences for psychoanalysis, for feminist theory and for the sociological and ana-

lytic study of gender and gender categories." *The Reproduction of Mothering* "put the mother-daughter relationship and female psychology on the map." Professor Janet Sayers says that Chodorow's work is "pathbreaking." Psychiatrist Glen Gabbard declares, "No one has influenced the psychoanalytic view of gender as profoundly as Nancy Chodorow." Physicist and feminist Evelyn Fox Keller says that "Nancy Chodorow's work has been of the utmost importance for both psychoanalysis and feminist theory." Rosemary Balsam writes that "Nancy Chodorow is the greatest gift to psychoanalysis that the social sciences and anthropology could have ever given to us."

Nancy Chodorow earned her doctorate from Brandeis in Sociology under Philip Slater, was professor of Sociology and Clinical Psychology at University of California, Berkeley, and served on the faculty of the San Francisco Psychoanalytic Institute. She is now a lecturer at Harvard Medical School and a training analyst at the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute.

Her other works include *Feminism and Psychoanalytic Theory* (1989), which centers on the psychodynamics and culture of gender. It shows

how the unconscious experience of self and gender that begin in infancy impact latter patterns of inequality between men and women. In *The Power of Feelings* (1999), she is concerned with the place of personal meanings and subjectivity within psychoanalytic, cultural, and gender thinking. Her *Femininities, Masculinities, Sexualities* (1994) continues the concern with individuality and includes the lecture "Heterosexuality as a Compromise Formation," which reconsiders heterosexuality and homosexuality. *Individualizing Gender and Sexuality: Theory and Practice* (2012) contains essays on the evolving view of homosexuality in psychoanalytic thinking, including "Homosexualities as Compromise Formations" as well as two essays which reconsider her landmark *The Reproduction of Mothering*. Dr. Chodorow's forthcoming book not only continues her reflections on individuality and gender, but breaks new ground with multiple essays related to the American Independent Tradition. What is striking about her work is how she continues to develop these different themes and break new ground while re-evaluating her own work and psychoanalytic traditions from Freud onwards.

## ANTI-SEMITISM

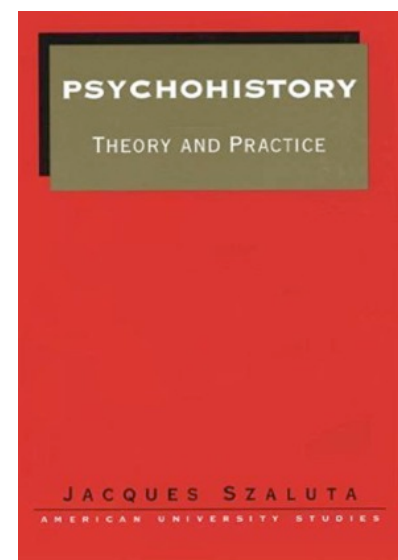
Since last fall's killings of eleven worshippers at a Pittsburgh synagogue, attention has been focused on the increase in hate crimes against Jews in America and Europe. This resurgence of anti-Semitism will be discussed at various sessions throughout Thursday and Friday morning at the May psychohistory conference at New York University. Thursday morning at 9:00 am psychiatrist Jamshid Marvasti will discuss "Psycho-Political Aspects of Hate Crimes, Gun Violence, Antisemitism and Islamophobia." From 10:05 am to 12:10 pm on Thursday there will be a panel on "The Resurgence of Antisemitism in America and Europe" that will feature papers by Jonathan Brent, Director of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, psychiatrist Arnold Richards, former editor of the *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, psychoanalyst David Lotto, editor of the *Journal of Psychohistory*, and psychoanalyst Emily Kuriloff, author of *Contemporary Psychoanalysis and the Legacy of the Third Reich*. Then from 2:35 pm to 4:05 pm, a panel entitled "Quantitative Research and the Unconscious in Historical Circumstances: A Study of Pathways to Anti-Semitism and a Study of Gendered Differences in Work and Love" will be presented by Shuki Cohen, Associate Professor at John Jay College, and psychologist Michael Britton. Robert Chazan will present on "The Reemergence of the Economic Theme in Contemporary Anti-

Semitism?" from 4:10 to 5:10 pm on Thursday. Dr. Chazan is the S. H. and Helen R. Scheuer Professor of Hebrew & Judaic Studies at New York University. According to Andrew Gow writing in *Speculum*, Chazan is, "a distinguished scholar in the field of Jewish history and Christian-Jewish relations in the high Middle Ages." He is the author of many books on Jewish history, including *From Anti-Semitism to Anti-Judaism: Ancient and Medieval Constructions of Jewish History*.

On Friday morning at 9:00 am, religion scholar Constance Benson will present on "Christian Anti-Semitism in Academia: The Legacy of Nazi Theologian Emanuel Hirsch." Following that at 10:05 am will be a two hour panel with four papers. Ken Fuchsman will discuss "Anti-Semitism in the Age of Trump." Dr. Fuchsman is President of the International Psychohistorical Association and emeritus faculty, University of Connecticut. Physician Inna Rozentsvit, a Russian émigré, will discuss anti-Semitism in the former Soviet Union and Europe. University of Oklahoma anthropologist Howard Stein will give his reflections on the presence of anti-Semitism in the contemporary United States. Clinical Social Worker Adam Shechter will present on "Reclaiming the Jewish Psyche-Soma on an Evolving Site of Anti-Semitism: Inner and Outer Realities." These various sessions will illuminate aspects of anti-Semitism in the past and present; it is expected they will be collected into a book.

## JACQUES SZALUTA: EYEWITNESS TO HISTORY

A few European-born males of Jewish background later became drawn to the intersection of history and psychoanalysis. Two of them, Erik Erikson and Peter Gay, escaped Europe before the onset of the Second World War. A third one, native Parisian Jacques Szaluta, was just six years old when the Germans conquered France in 1940. An only child of a Jewish family, he spent the war years in Europe, his father died, and his mother survived. After the war he came to the United States



*Szaluta's classic psychohistory text*

as a twelve-year old in 1946. Later, he earned a doctorate in history, is a licensed and practicing psychoanalyst in New York State, and an important psychohistorian. There are only a few psychohistorians who like Jacques have doctorates in history and are trained analysts. Jacques Szaluta is not only a historian and psychoanalyst but also an eyewitness to some of the most momentous events of the 20th Century.

Szaluta spent his academic career as a history professor at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, has published a psychohistory textbook in France and the U.S., authored a book on Marshal Petain, co-edited a book on psychoanalysis and the humanities, is working on a book on Freud's ego ideals, and has written scores of articles and reviews, but had never previously written about his own experiences as a child during the War. Now he has.

This past fall, Paul Elovitz and Ken Fuchsman submitted written questions to Dr. Szaluta about his life and career for a Featured Scholar interview to be published in *Clio's Psyche*. He will also talk about his experiences as a child in war-torn Europe and his later career at this year's psychohistory conference on Thursday, May 23rd at 11:10 am.

Any European Jewish child who survived the Nazi years has a story to tell. If Jacques had remained in France during the war, he likely would have perished. His mother helped him get out of France, which was not an easy thing to pull off. Jacques' presentation at the conference will describe how this happened, and how his wartime experiences led him to be interested in becoming a writer and historian. His mother, at risk to herself, had the dedication to get her child out of France, and so now over 70 years later, Jacques is in a position to give us an eyewitness account of this dreadful period in Europe. The full interview itself will be published in the Spring 2019 issue of *Clio's Psyche*.

## SUSAN KAVALER ADLER

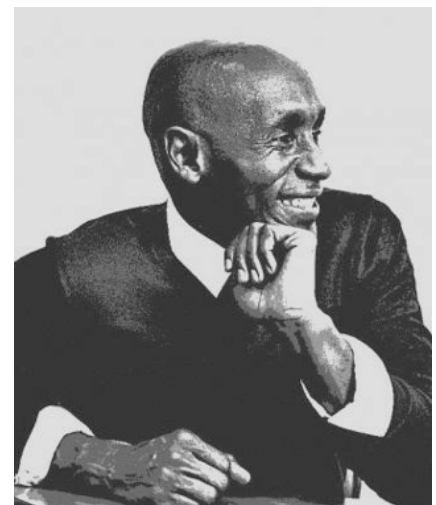


Plenary speaker Susan Kavalier Adler's topic will be "Trump's Rallies and the Psychohistorical Impact of the Closet Narcissist." She will be speaking on Wednesday, May 22 from 3:40 pm to 4:40 pm. In her paper, Dr. Kavalier Adler will be discussing the nature of the closet narcissist, who seeks psychological existence through a parasitic relationship with a grandiose narcissist. The closet narcissist applauds (i.e. mirrors) the grandiose narcissist in order to gain an inflated image of his/her self through the idealized, grandiose other (part-object other), psychologically fusing in with the grandiose other in a primitive mode of incorporative identification (swallowing the other whole). Dr. Kavalier Adler relates the psychological dynamics of the closet narcissist to many of the addicted attendees at Trump rallies (and previously, attendees of Hitler rallies) and will also speak of the character of the closet narcissist as she appears in Woody Allen's film *Blue Jasmine*. She will contrast the tragic denouement of the Blue Jasmine character with the psychological transformation, and full integrative psychic development of a patient, who processed all of her early life trauma through a developmental

mourning process in treatment, and who thus came out the other end of possible despair and deterioration. The tragedy of the closet narcissist is that he/she lives only for those "rally" moments when she can stand in the reflected glory of the grandiose narcissist, who mesmerizes an audience of closet narcissistic addicts.

Susan Kavalier Adler, PhD, AB-PP, NpsyaA, D. Litt, is founder and Director of the Object Relations Institute for Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis. She is also in private practice as a psychologist and psychoanalyst in New York City. Her books include *The Compulsion to Create: Women Writers and Their Demon Lovers*; *The Creative Mystique: From Red Shoes Frenzy to Love and Creativity*; *Mourning, Spirituality and Psychic Change*; *The Anatomy of Regret: From Death Instinct to Reparation and Symbolization through Vivid Case Studies*; *The Klein-Winnicott Dialectic: Transformative New Metapsychology and Interactive Clinical Theory*.

## KIRK JAMES



"The Trauma of Mass Incarceration: How Do We Evolve" will be the plenary address by Dr. Kirk

James, Clinical Assistant Professor at the New York University Silver School of Social Work. His work deconstructs issues regarding mass incarceration, specifically as pertaining to trauma, cognitive development, culpability, and the examination of systems that foster and perpetuate racial injustice. This talk will be at 9:00 am on Wednesday May 22.

Dr. James completed his doctorate from the School of Social Policy and Practice at The University of Pennsylvania in May 2013. His dissertation, "The Invisible Epidemic in Social Work Academia," examined the complex phenomenon of mass incarceration through a historical and contemporary lens. He concluded by developing curricula for Masters level students to increase awareness, activism and holistic practice in the milieu. Courses developed from his dissertation have been implemented at Columbia University, Temple University, City College, and the University of Pennsylvania amongst others.

Dr. James co-created NYU Silver's Re-imagine Justice conference on mass incarceration, reentry and trauma and their intersections and implications for social work practice. He also launched the Silver School's monthly "Mass Incarceration Conversation Series" (MICS), which brings people impacted by mass incarceration together with academics, activists, policy makers, and practitioners to create a more informed understanding of and response to mass incarceration. In addition, he works collaboratively with the Center For Justice at

Columbia University on its annual "Beyond The Bars" conference.

## MICHAEL A. DIAMOND



Premier organizational psychoanalyst Michael A. Diamond will give a plenary address on Thursday May 23 from 1:25 pm to 2:25 pm. His talk is entitled "Discovering Organizational Identity: Reflections on four decades of psychoanalytic organizational studies." He will put forth a psychodynamic relationship rooted in meaning and memory, and comprising tension and conflict surrounding organizational membership and separateness, belonging and independence. Consideration of these human paradoxes provide insights into organizational identity and the query "What is it like to work here?" He intends to present a personal evolutionary tale of his journey toward a psychoanalytic theory of organizational politics and culture as reflected in his latest book *Discovering Organizational Identity: Dynamics of Relational Attachment* (2017) and with short stories of organizational oppression and dysfunction.

Dr. Diamond is Professor Emeritus of Public Affairs and Organization Studies, Director Emeritus of the

Center for the Study of Organizational Change, University of Missouri, Columbia, Honorary Member of the Institute for Psychoanalytic Training and Research (IPTAR), and Faculty/Steering Committee Member, Gould Center for Psychoanalytic Organizational Study and Consultation at IPTAR, New York. His 1993 *The Unconscious Life of Organizations: Interpreting Organizational Identity* is a classic in the field and has 1,950,000 hits on Google. In this work, he explicates the unconscious dimensions of hierarchy and interpersonal relationships in organizations, the cultures and identities of organizations, the non-rational and emotional sides of life in organizations, and how feelings are projected between various levels of organizational hierarchy. This provides an emotionally grounded structure of organizations.

In 2009 with Seth Allcorn, Dr. Diamond co-authored *Private Selves in Public Organizations: The Psychodynamics of Organizational Diagnosis and Change*. In this work, case examples are used to help individuals focus on and change the dynamics of their work settings. Alternating theory and practice, his 2017 *Discovering Organizational Identity: Dynamics of Relational Attachment* can help groups and individuals discover common ground in order to promote a more satisfying and humane work life. Anyone who has had to function within the peculiar work life in large organizations will benefit from Michael Diamond's writings.

## DAVID GREENBERG



David Greenberg is a Rutgers history and journalism professor with a unique angle on historical phenomena and current events. He and others will discuss his work on Wednesday May 22 from 1:15 pm to 3:15 pm. His 2016 *Republic of Spin: An Inside History of the American Presidency* examines how a marketing sensibility has influenced presidential actions from William McKinley to Barack Obama. Greenberg shows how advertising gurus like Edward Bernays, Freud's nephew, and Bruce Barton influenced the ways presidents think and present their decisions to the public. In *Nixon's Shadow: The History of an Image* (2004), Greenberg traces the public reputation of Nixon across the political spectrum. He shows how both Nixon's image of himself as well as others' perceptions of him changed over the course of his long career. This includes his 1968 marketing of himself in what has become known as the selling of the president. In a short, perceptive biography of Calvin Coolidge (2006), Greenberg not only reviews the major issues surrounding this president in the roaring twenties, but shows how Coolidge turned to public relations professionals and used radio and newsreels to create an image of himself with the public. There is a continuity in Green-

berg's work on the presidency that shows the interconnection between being Commander in Chief and the world of creating a personal image, and how this focus on spinning has characterized much of our political life.

Lawyer, journalist and CNN commentator Jeffrey Toobin says that Greenberg's book on presidential spin "opens a new and revealing window on the modern American presidency by showing how the effort to manipulate public opinion has long been a central obsession in the Oval Office." Bob Woodward says of this book that it is "a brilliant, fast-moving narrative history of the leaders who have defined the modern American presidency. More than that, *Republic of Spin* shows that behind the power to persuade is the power to inform—and also to mislead." His book on Nixon is called ground-breaking and a landmark in Nixon scholarship by prominent historian Robert Dallek. Journalist Jeff Greenfeld says of the same volume, "I am hard pressed to think of a book on politics as bracing and original as this one." *American History* magazine describes Greenberg's Coolidge biography as excellent.

Professor Greenberg holds a doctorate in history from Columbia University. After graduating Yale in 1990, he worked as a reporter-researcher for the legendary Bob Woodward from 1991 to 1994. He later worked for *The New Republic* and rose to Acting Editor. Then he went back to graduate school, and taught at Columbia and Yale before settling in at Rutgers. Greenberg still keeps his hand in journalism by contributing a column on history and current affairs for Slate magazine. His varied career interests cover a

broad spectrum, and will make for a lively discussion on his Wednesday panel.

## VICTORIA DIMITRAKOPOULOS



Victoria Dimitrakopoulos will be giving us a multi-media presentation entitled "Of Gods and Goats: Timeless Tales of Trauma Transmission." Ms. Dimitrakopoulos uses cartoons and other visuals to enliven her paper. Via an illustrated fable set in the ancient Mediterranean, she will explain how violence and sexual abuse affect children individually and societies collectively. The talk will weave neuroscience and psychology into the narrative, explaining how culture and experience affect brain functioning and will discuss hypotheses as to what might explain such practices as institutional pedophilia (e.g. Ancient Greece), circumcision (e.g. Judaism), and foot binding (e.g. pre-modern China) inflicted upon children through the ages. She will explore how modern narratives address or avoid the under-current of trauma transmission in current events (e.g. Michael Jackson's transgressions, Edward St. Aubyn's "Patrick Melrose" novels, and even the 2018 #MeToo movement), and end with a dialog on how to improve the narrative. Her talk will be Thursday, May 23 from 11:10 am to 12:10 pm.

## Book News

# What Makes Us Human?

by Ken Fuchsman, Ed.D.

*Psychohistory News* welcomes our readers' notice of recent books in psychohistory and related fields. In the last few years, there has been a slew of books on what in our psychology, biology, and culture have made humanity into the species we are.

In *The Secret of Our Success: How Culture is Driving Human Evolution, Domesticating Our Species and Making Us Smarter* (2016), Harvard professor of human evolutionary biology Joseph Henrich discusses the evolutionary advantage conferred on human groups by the ability to interconnect and learn from one other and pass knowledge on from generation to generation.

Consistent with Henrich's view is Duke University Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience Michael Tomasello's *Becoming Human: A Theory of Ontogeny*, published this January. The author assembles nearly three decades of experimental work with chimpanzees, bonobos, and human children to propose a new framework for psychological growth between birth and seven years of age. He identifies eight pathways that starkly differentiate humans from their closest primate relatives: social cognition, communication, cultural learning, cooperative thinking, collaboration, prosociality, social norms, and moral identity.

Yale's Sterling Professor of Social and Natural Science Nicholas Christakis wrote *Blueprint: The Evolutionary Origins of a Good Society*, which was published in March. He argues that there is a common humanity impacted by our genes and manifest in history and culture. We naturally have a "capacity for empathy," he writes, and "the inclination to assemble into groups and deliberately choose friends and associates" as "part of our species's universal heritage."

Also from an evolutionary perspective is David Sloan Wilson's 2019 *This View of Life: Completing the Darwinian Revolution*. Wilson is SUNY Distinguished Professor of Biology and Anthropology at Binghamton University. He sees evolution as being both biological and cultural, and argues

that if we can constructively manage the evolutionary process, humanity can increase well-being and become positive stewards of this planet.

Another perspective related to these books is found in *Minds Make Societies: How Cognition Explains the World Humans Create*, by Pascal Boyer, the Henry Luce Professor of Collective and Individual Memory at Washington University, St. Louis. Boyer provides a new picture of cultural transmission that draws on the pragmatics of human communication, the constructive nature of memory in human brains, and human motivation for group formation and cooperation.

Richard Wrangham is Ruth B. Moore Professor of Biological Anthropology at Harvard. His *The Goodness Paradox: The Strange relationship Between Virtue and Violence in Human Evolution* came out this January. He says that "a great oddity about humanity is our moral range...If we evolved to be good, why are we also so vile? Or if we evolved to be wicked, how come we can also be so benign?"

Biologist Mark Moffett in *The Human Swarm: How Our Societies, Survive, Thrive and Fall* draws on findings in psychology, sociology and anthropology to explain the social adaptations that bind societies. He explores how the tension between identity and anonymity defines how societies develop, function, and fail. Moffett contrasts how chimpanzees who venture into the territory of other chimpanzees will likely be killed, but a human can move from Los Angeles to Borneo without encountering much trouble. This capacity enables us to live in large societies.

***Ken Fuchsman, Ed.D. is President of the International Psychohistorical Association, the author of articles on psychohistory and interdisciplinary studies, and a member of the editorial boards of Clio's Psyche and The Journal of Psychohistory. He can be reached at [kfuchsman@gmail.com](mailto:kfuchsman@gmail.com)***