

Thursday, February 8th, 2024: 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Roundtable Discussion: Saturday, February 10th, 2024, 11:00am - 1:00pm

The Tree in the Petri Dish: Symbol, Science, and Ecology

Lecture by Christine Chapman, Jungian Analyst



A woman faces certain unique challenges on her individuation path. Although her own feminine nature leads her to a deeply meaningful relationship with the symbolic depths, her modern animus can keep her separated from these depths, using up her life energy in endless meaningless distractions. Women tend to get stuck in analysis at certain, predictable points along the way. Both the distracting cultural animus, who holds her in the Spirit of the Times, and the repressed dark chthonic mother can keep her in stasis and pain, preventing a full crossing into relationship with the life-giving symbols of the archetypal depths.

I will be using a dream of an Australian woman to illustrate these difficult psychic dynamics, while also drawing a parallel with the extremely difficult problem we face objectively in climate change. As we talk about the Great Mother and nature, both inner and outer, we might also be able to recognize that inner work is truly impactful in an objective ecological sense as we all hope for a solution to the natural disasters that surround us.

Christine Chapman, M. Psych Clin (Australia), is a Jungian analyst with a private practice in Colorado Springs. She is a graduate of the Research and Training Centre for Depth Psychology According to CG Jung and Marie Louise Von Franz. She serves as program director for the C.G. Jung Society of Colorado Springs, and previously served as the vice president of the C.G. Jung Society of South Australia. She can be contacted at cchapman@senet.com.au.