

Join Us

**The conference is free
and open to the public.**

It will be held at the University of Chicago's
Divinity School, Swift Hall, 1025 East 58th Street,
Chicago, Illinois 60637

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The Center for Religion and Psychotherapy of Chicago

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Chicago, Illinois 60602

Telephone: 312-263-4368
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For further information and to RSVP,
please contact Celia Brickman
at cbrickma@sbcglobal.net.

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Mourning and Religion

Psychoanalytic
Reflections on the Role
of Religion in Individual
and Cultural Loss

Conference sponsored by
The University of Chicago Divinity School
and the Center for Religion and
Psychotherapy of Chicago

**Friday, October 26 —
Saturday, October 27, 2007**

To be held at the University of Chicago
Divinity School, Swift Hall

[http://marty-center.uchicago.
edu/conferences/mourning/](http://marty-center.uchicago.edu/conferences/mourning/)

MOURNING

Program

Friday, October 26, 2007

5:00 pm — Introductory Remarks
Celia Brickman & Diane Jonte-Pace

5:30 pm — Symbolic Loss and the Re-Creation of Meaning: Freud and Eliade as Culture Makers
Peter Homans

Saturday, October 27, 2007

9:00 am — Melancholia and Religion in French Feminist Theory
Diane Jonte-Pace

9:45 am — The Persistence of the Past: Framing Symbolic Loss in the Context of Race
Celia Brickman

10:45 am — Psychology and Unchurched Spirituality
William Parsons

11:30 am — Mourning Modern Ethics on the Couch
Ernest Wallwork

12:15 – 1:45 pm — Lunch Break

1:45 pm — Mourning and Immortality: Ritual and Psychoanalysis Compared
Harriet Lutzky

2:30 pm — Theology and Mourning in Film: Loss and Redemption in the Cinema of Kristof Kieslowski
Mary Ellen Ross

3:30 pm — Silence, Mourning and Testimony in the Era of AIDS/HIV
Susan E. Henking

4:15 – 5:00 pm — Nostalgia and the Disenchantment with Modernity: Memory Books as an Adaptive Response to Shoah
Bertram J. Cohler

5:00 – 5:30 pm — Concluding Remarks
Susan Henking & William Parsons

5:30 pm — Reception

Mourning and Religion

Psychoanalytic Reflections on the Role of Religion in Individual and Cultural Loss

This conference will address various connections among religion, mourning, and psychoanalysis, taking each term as both framework and object of analysis. The focus of the conference involves the paradox of mourning: the mourning that follows death and loss entails a psychic labor with a creative dimension. New forms of memory, identity, morality and solidarity may emerge on the individual level; and new cultural products, such as the theoretical inventiveness of psychoanalysis and religious studies themselves, may emerge on the cultural level.

Religion will be considered as a mediator of mourning in papers that speak to its role in the transformation of meaning brought about by the mourning of death and loss. Religion will also be considered as a lost object itself, as a set of symbolic structures whose efficacy has been lost to those who take their bearings from a secular worldview. Following the work of Peter Homans, who has traced the origins of psychoanalysis to Freud's loss of traditional religious involvement, these papers undercut the usual dichotomies of secular/religious and mourning/melancholy, demonstrating an internal and ongoing relationship to a reworked conception of religion embedded within such presumed secular disciplines as psychoanalysis and the academic study of religion.

Please join us as we consider the roles of religion, mourning, and psychoanalysis in our plural and interconnected worlds of belief and doubt, faith and disillusionment, engagement and critique.

Presenters

Celia Brickman — Center for Religion and Psychotherapy of Chicago, former senior fellow at the Martin Marty Center of the Divinity School at the University of Chicago

Bertram J. Cohler — William Rainey Harper Professor, The College, Committee on Human Development, and the Departments of Psychiatry and Psychology of the University of Chicago; Institute for Psychoanalysis, Chicago

Susan E. Henking — Professor and Chair of Religious Studies at Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Peter Homans — Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Religious Studies in the Divinity School, the Social Science Collegiate Division, and the Committees on Human Development and the History of Culture at the University of Chicago

Diane Jonte-Pace — Professor of Religious Studies and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies at Santa Clara University

Harriet Lutzky — Adjunct Assistant Professor of Psychology at John Jay College, City University of New York, and psychoanalyst in private practice

William B. Parsons — Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Rice University

Mary Ellen Ross — Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Trinity University

Ernest Wallwork — Professor of Religion, Syracuse University, and psychoanalyst in private practice in Syracuse, New York and Washington, D.C.