



The Dark Sun, *Splendor Solis*, 16th century.

JUNGIAN INTERNATIONAL TRAINING ZURICH FOUNDATION

presents

Civilization in Transition 9

To Darkness . . .

November 5–9, 2025

Hotel Santa Fe

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Deadline for Submissions: March 17, 2025

Jungian International Training Zurich (JITZ) invites you to submit a proposal to present at Civilization in Transition (CIT) 9, an interdisciplinary, experiential, and community-focused conference being held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, from November 5 to 9, 2025. Our 2025 conference theme is “To Darkness . . .” from a Jungian perspective. We encourage presentations and proposals from a variety of backgrounds, including academic, clinical, bodywork, oral traditions, and the arts—to name a few.

THE THEME

For the darkness has its own peculiar intellect and its own logic, which should be taken very seriously. Only the “light which the darkness comprehendeth not” can illuminate the darkness. Everything that the darkness thinks, grasps, and comprehends by itself is dark; therefore it is illuminated only by what, to it, is unexpected, unwanted, and incomprehensible.

(C. G. Jung, *Mysterium Coniunctionis* par. 345)

We live in times of profound uncertainty and increasing chaos. Many feel that darkness is descending on our present civilization. Alchemically speaking, darkness can represent the first phase of transformation—the *nigredo*—potentially marking the beginning of a *magnum opus* or great work. It is a phase when “things fall apart; the centre cannot hold” (W. B. Yeats, “The Second Coming”).

Alchemy, according to C. G. Jung, can be understood as an inner psychological process projected onto outer situations. Actively engaging with darkness—unconsciousness, otherness,

the shadow—transforms us, and in so doing, we transform the world. How can we meet and work with the mad, chaotic, and destructive parts of life? Existing at the edge of what is already known, such *nigredo* experiences represent boundary phenomena, intruding upon and disrupting any sense of containment. Yet, these states of unraveling belong to the human condition (hence, familiar to all of us) and are crucial to change and regeneration (cf. N. Schwartz-Salant, *The Mystery of Human Relationship* 37).

The way forward includes sacred work. It is a process requiring curiosity about and engagement with the dark situations at hand. Only then can something illuminating and “incomprehensible” *to darkness* emerge.

THE CALL

The JITZ board and CIT team welcome participants from all backgrounds and proposals for presentations, panels, workshops, creative projects, and other forms of engaged experiences inspired by the conference theme of “To Darkness . . .”. Here are suggestions for areas to explore:

- The writings of Jung, post-Jungians, adjacent authors, or literary works in a way that actively speaks to the psyche’s relationship with darkness.
- The alchemical nature and relevance of darkness—historically, psychologically, culturally.
- How psychological reflections on darkness can expand our understanding of the present moment and hold implications for the future.
- Darkness as viewed from other disciplines such as mythology, literature, archeology, ecopsychology, somatic psychology, philosophy, religion, spirituality, information technology, political science, history, or neuroscience.
- Experiential frameworks to proactively work with and tend to our relationship with darkness, as individuals or collectively or both.
- Body-centered, somatic practices as a means of integrating and working with the conference theme.
- Experiential research or activities that help explore an individual or group’s relationship with darkness.
- Relationships between the host city of Santa Fe and its environs or communities as a way of illuminating the conference theme.

Proposal submissions that address the conference theme from other entry points are also encouraged. We intend for a conference that provides more than intellectual ways to explore the conference theme and encourage proposals that provoke and inspire active engagement with an *experience* of darkness.

PROPOSAL CATEGORIES

PRESENTATION—An essay, exploration, research project, or story. May include arts-based research. 90 minutes

PANEL—A panel of three or more presenters speaking separately and with each other as a dialogic response to the conference theme. 90 to 120 minutes.

WORKSHOP—Experiential workshops lasting 3 to 6-hours (i.e. one-half to full day). Proposals should include a description of the workshop and process.

CREATIVE PRACTICE—Creative presentation that involves a practice or performance such as a film, dance or music presentation, visual arts exhibit (one’s own artwork or a curation), dramatic (short play) performance, etc. When appropriate, proposals can include images suggestive of the idea.

EMBODIED PRACTICE—An active group somatic, body-centered 15 to 20-minute session. For example: yoga nidra, guided meditations, or mind-body connection movement sessions. These practices are meant to be interspersed with the other types of conference presentations.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

To submit:

- 1.** Draft your proposal as either an MS Word or PDF document and include the following information:
 - Full name of presenter (or presenters if a panel)
 - Email address of presenter or point person for panel
 - Proposal category (from the list above)
 - Title of presentation
 - A short description giving the conference committee an idea of how your proposal actively responds to the conference theme (350 words max).
 - If applicable, a list of any texts cited in proposal description
 - A 50-word (max) bio for each presenter
- 2.** Go to the Civilization in Transition website (civilizationintransition.com) and fill out the online form, which includes uploading your document.

The **deadline** for proposal submissions is **Monday, March 17, 2025**. Notifications about whether your proposal is accepted or not will be sent out by the end of April 2025.

The conference fee will be waived for presenters who are included in the final conference schedule.

Should you have any questions, email the CIT Conference Manager, Lisa Pounders, at info@civilizationintransition.com.

Thank you!

About the

JUNGIAN INTERNATIONAL TRAINING ZURICH FOUNDATION

The annual Civilization in Transition (CIT) conference is sponsored by the Jungian International Training Zurich (JITZ) Foundation. Conference proceeds support the International School of Analytical Psychology (ISAP) in Zurich. ISAP offers the world's only full-time residential in-person training program in Jungian Psychology.

Jungian International Training Zurich is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Board members are Deborah Egger, Chair; Ursula Ulmer, Co-chair; Robert Zieserl, Treasurer; and Carol Brandt, Secretary.