

COWAP Workshop at EPF Oslo – Program Update and Invitation

Dear Colleagues,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to the COWAP Workshop at the EPF in Oslo. We are pleased to inform you that a few spots are still available for registration.

Date and time: 25 March 2026, 14:00–18:00

We would also like to inform you of a change to the program. Neetu Sarin (Indian Psychoanalytical Society) will unfortunately not be presenting in Oslo. Instead, Nasim Ghaffari (Swiss Society of Psychoanalysis and German Psychoanalytical Association) will present clinical material. Please find the abstract of her presentation below. Salvatore Giannone (IPSO member, Italian Psychoanalytic Society, Rome, Italy) will also present a clinical case, as expected.

The workshop will be chaired by: Ester Palerm Mari (Spanish Psychoanalytical Society), palerm.mari@gmail.com; Patricia Alkolombre (Argentine Psychoanalytic Association), patricia.alkolombre@gmail.com.

Abstract

This presentation examines how violently enforced patriarchal regimes, increasingly described in human rights discourse as "gender apartheid," shape psychic life and the analytic field. Through two clinical vignettes of women from politically violent environments, it explores the internalization of structural violence.

One case concerns an Afghan woman married in adolescence and subjected to sexual and physical violence, in which prohibitions against speech and bodily refusal reveal an assault on symbolization and female subjectivity. The second presents an Iranian Kurdish woman exposed to captivity, reproductive coercion, and the loss of her children; here, shame and silence organize both survival and the analytic process.

Rather than framing these dynamics as cultural expressions, the clinical material situates them within chronic structural violence and offers a basis for discussion with participants about what analytic neutrality may mean when political catastrophe against women enters the consulting room.

You are warmly invited to join the workshop. We would be delighted to welcome you to Oslo.

With kind regards,

Conceição Tavares de Almeida
COWAP Overall Chair