



*10th Delphi International
Psychoanalytic Symposium*

Authority and Authoritarianism

27-30 August 2026 | Delphi | Greece

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

The Society

“Friends of the Delphi International Psychoanalytic Symposium”

have pleasure in inviting you to participate in the

10th Delphi International Psychoanalytic Symposium

which will take place

27 - 30 August 2026

at the **European Cultural Center of Delphi**

Theme of the Symposium:

Authority and Authoritarianism

During the last 40 years, the Delphi Psychoanalytic Symposium has been internationally recognized in the psychoanalytic world as a scientific event with significant contribution to the exploration of the human mind around issues of central concern to psychoanalysis.

World renowned psychoanalysts and professionals from other related disciplines will participate in the Symposium.

We invite you to join our discussions and collaborate with us in investigating and expanding the Delphic principle “Know Thyself” for analysands and analysts

The Symposia organized over the past years dealt with the following themes:

- 1st Symposium (1984): The Personal Myth**
- 2nd Symposium (1988): The Maternal Element in Psychoanalysis**
- 3rd Symposium (1992): Ancient Greek Tragedy. Cultural and Psychoanalytical Visions**
- 4th Symposium (1996): Sexual Orientation and the Oedipal Complex**
- 5th Symposium (2000), θέμα: Self Knowledge Before and After Freud**
- 6th Symposium (2004): Psychoanalysis and the Human Body:
Beyond Psychosomatic Duality**
- 7th Symposium (2008): Psychoanalysis and Ideologies**
- 8th Symposium (2013): The Father**
- 9th Symposium (2022): Xenos**

ARGUMENT

What can psychoanalysis tell us today about 'authoritarianism' and 'authority'? What relevance do these concepts have for the analyst-analysand relationship? What are their manifestations on a group and/or collective level, within psychoanalytic institutions as well as in society?

The first question that arises concerns the psychoanalytic relationship itself. We can think of the psychoanalyst as an authority on two interrelated levels: on a cognitive level, that of theory, as well as that which is related to psychoanalytic practice. Psychoanalytic theory based on Freud's work, offers us an extraordinary amount of richness today, as it did during its development, while now including many different viewpoints on the integration and functioning of its cognitive object, that of the unconscious, as well as on clinical practice. With such varied theoretical approaches, how would we today define at a cognitive level, the concept of 'authority'? Moreover, the various clinical approaches deriving from contemporary psychoanalytic theories, lead us to the second essential question: what role does the 'authority of the psychoanalyst' play during the psychoanalytic session?

The concept of authority is first found in Freud (*Analysis Terminable and Interminable*, 1937) who, when speaking specifically of the 'authority' of the analyst, writes that the analyst must possess 'a kind of superiority' in order to be a 'role-model' or a kind of teacher to his patient. But what does he mean here by 'authority' and 'superiority'? Is it a relationship based on power and dominance? As he proceeds in the same text, Freud helps us to elaborate on these questions by adding another view of 'authority', that of truth, reminding us that we must not forget that 'the analytical relationship is based on a *'love of truth,'* and that it excludes any form of sham or deceit.'

Later in the text on *Constructions* (1937), extending the understanding of the term 'authority' in order to bring it into line with 'authenticity', he refers to the importance of recognizing developments as they occur in the analyst/analysand relationship. Here, Freud remarks that the analyst who has made a mistake, should confess this to his patient 'without sacrificing the *authority* he possesses.'

Here, we come to the second term in our Symposium's theme, 'authoritarianism'. The analyst holds a 'position of authority' Freud maintains, but an authority who recognizes his 'mistakes and deficits', thus averting the dangers of authoritarianism, we would add. Such an analyst could hardly be considered authoritarian. To the contrary, he is an 'expert' whose role is not to impose his 'superior' form of knowledge on the patient, but to allow the analysand, through the interpersonal involvement of the psychoanalytic process, to come to know his own 'truth' ('Know Thyself') This is an *experiential* truth, one which via activation and enlivening of emotion, liberates and expands thought.

If we take into account the pluralism which, as previously mentioned, characterizes psychoanalytic theory and practice today, the concept of 'authority' presents itself in various ways. As for example in the metapsychological and clinical approach of W.R. Bion, who speaks of an internal attitude within the analyst 'without memory and desire', one that allows the analyst to 'bear not to know.' That is, one advocating an attitude that thrives within the context of 'active curiosity' and 'analytical daydreaming.' It is under these conditions, that the possibility of waiting and patience is born, favouring the emergence of psychic material which when finally succeeding, ultimately gives meaning and integrates previously repressed and/or divided parts of the self.

Moreover, such a psychoanalytic approach of curiosity and anticipation indirectly resonates with the thinking of D.W. Winnicott, R. Britton, as well as with French-speaking analysts, such as P. Auglanier and J. Kristeva, when they warn us of the dangers of an eminently active attitude-intervention coming from the analyst. An intervention which, as Winnicott points out, can be experienced as a threatening encroachment-invasion, an *impingement* interrupting the sense of 'going on being' of a fragile self. Therefore, the concept of the authority of the psychoanalyst, as it appears in psychoanalytic practice according to Bion and Winnicott, is characterized by a wait-and-see attitude, ultimately allowing the unfolding of the analytical relationship and the emergence of the analysand's psychic material.

Finally, we will attempt to examine the place of 'authority' and 'authoritarianism' in the socio-political field. Freud had argued that rarely can individual psychology ignore one's relationships with others. He writes in *Group Psychology and Analysis of the Ego* (1921): "... thus, from the very beginning... individual psychology... is also a social psychology." The psychoanalytic concepts to be discussed at the 10th Delphi Symposium undoubtedly concern society and humanity in general, where once again we are witnessing on a global level, the emergence of authoritarian leaders and regimes, alongside the eternal competition between groups, often ending in violent conflicts. It seems as if our world is becoming increasingly hostile and dangerous.

Freud, living and creating psychoanalysis between two world wars, was fully aware of the destructiveness that exists within the human species. However, he does also strike a note of optimism when he writes ... 'the voice of the intellect is a soft one, but does not rest until it has gained a hearing ... This is one of the few points in which one may be optimistic about the future of mankind.' (*Future of an Illusion*, 1927). This optimism lies perhaps, in the fact that the voice needing to be heard, that asks for communication and understanding, never stops. Even if sometimes it is so low as to be almost imperceptible. Tirelessly not resting 'until it gains a hearing'; a voice that constitutes perhaps, the inexorable movement towards that which Freud considered to be 'a monumental step' in the evolution of the human intellect, namely the final victory of the reality principle over the pleasure principle, but always at the cost of human suffering (*Formulations on the two principles of Mental Functioning*, 1911). This human (psychic) suffering psychoanalysis attempts to transform into mental freedom, allowing us to imagine and to dream.

Organizing Society

The “Friends of the International Delphi Psychoanalytic Symposium” Society

Under the Auspices of the

Hellenic Psychoanalytical Society
International Psychoanalytic Association (IPA)
European Psychoanalytic Federation (EPF)

Organizing & Scientific Committee

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M. Chatziandreou (*Vice President*)
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Official Travel Agency

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The Symposium on the Internet

<https://delhipsychoanalyticsymposium.gr>
<https://www.facebook.com/DelphiInternationalPsychoanalyticSymposium>

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Thursday 27 August

16.00 – 18.30 **CLINICAL SUPERVISION GROUPS**

19.00 – 19.30 **SYMPOSIUM OPENING**

Salutations

Dimitris James Jackson, President, Friends of the Delphi International
Psychoanalytic Symposium

Ioannis Vartzopoulos, President, Hellenic Psychoanalytical Association

19.30 – 21.30 **PLENARY SESSION**

Chair: **Christos Joannidis**

We (almost) always know more about Oedipus than he does himself... Three starting
points for a dialogue

Eleni Papazoglou

Oedipus Tyrannus. "The human tragedy of knowledge"

Sotiris Manolopoulos



21.30 **WELCOME RECEPTION**

Friday, 28 August

09.30 – 11.30 **PLENARY SESSION**

Chair: **Jannis Kontos**

The origins of psychoanalytic authority: the analytic paternal integrate and the
mutative interpretation

Jan Abram

The authority of the analyst. The question of power within the psychoanalytic encounter

Dimitris James Jackson

11.30 – 12.00 **COFFEE BREAK**

12.00 – 14.00 **PARALLEL PANELS**

PANEL 1

Moderator: **Effie Layiou-Lignos**

From authority to commensal relationship. "For you" and "With you"

Grigoris Vaslamatzis

Discussant: **Maria Chatziandreou**

PANEL 2

Moderator: **Christos Hobas**

The structural role of the concept of "authority" in the analytic process and the transmission of psychoanalysis within institutions and within culture

Ariella Asser

Guardians

Pinar Padar

PANEL 3

Moderator: **Despina Ebeoglou**

Authority and authoritarianism: compromise and provocation of psychic conflict? The paradox of the object's role

Ioanna Panagiotopoulou

Authority and authoritarianism in psychoanalytically oriented psychiatric institutions

Vassilis Kapsambelis

PANEL 4

Moderator: **Kostas Bazaridis**

The impossible professions, authority and perversion

Kostas Zervos

Rumors and gossip: the hidden dynamics of authoritarianism in psychoanalytic institutions

Andreas Gkorinis

14.00 – 16.00 **MID-DAY BREAK**

16.00 – 18.00 **PLENARY SESSION**

Chair: **Maria Daniel**

Transference of authority and psychic growth

Bernard Chervet

Super-ego tyrannus

Igor Kadyrov



18.00 **CULTURAL EVENT**

"The strong do what they can
The weak suffer what they must."

Thucydides' History. Dialogue between Athenians and Melians.

The actor Themis Panou reads extracts from Thucydides and Euripides

Saturday, 29 August

09.30 – 11.30 PLENARY SESSION

Chair: **Anna Christopoulos**

Political caesura and the analyst's freedom of thought
Eran Rolnik

Anything is possible and everything is permitted
David Bell

11.30 – 12.00 COFFEE BREAK

12.00 – 14.00 PARALLEL PANELS

PANEL 1

Moderator: **Stella Paraskeva**

Authoritarianism and the ideal
Panos Aloupis

Seeking authority through authoritarianism
Christos Zervis

PANEL 2

Moderator: **Elisa Nicolopoulou**

Analytic space: authority and authenticity
Marina Perris

Authority of the superego and authenticity of the affect. Antigone's choice
Marina Papageorgiou

PANEL 3

Moderator: **George Stathopoulos**

The authority of the psychoanalyst and the meaning of the third
Klio Bournova

Beyond knowledge and its enforcement
Thanassis Hatzopoulos

PANEL 4

Moderator: **Amina Moskoff**

Authority and authoritarianism
Ioannis Vartzopoulos

Authority and authoritarianism in the Oedipus myth
Endel Talvik

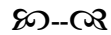
14.00 – 16.00 **MID-DAY BREAK**

16.00 – 18.00 **PLENARY SESSION**

Chair: **Iakovos Kleopas**

Alienation to the desire and thought of the other
Tessa Hadjiyanni-Stephanatou

A deadly passion for erasing the origins
Patrick Miller



20.00 **SYMPOSIUM DINNER**

Sunday, 30 August

09.30 – 12.30 **PLENARY SESSION**

Chair: **Dimitris James Jackson**

Authority and the psychoanalytic institution
Heribert Blass

The many facets of authority in psychoanalytic institutions
Jasminka Suljagic

Reflections on I.P.A. authority
Arthur Leonoff

12.30 – 13.00 **CLOSING OF SYMPOSIUM**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Dates

27-30 August 2026

Venue

The European Cultural Center of Delphi, Delphi

Languages

English and Greek. Simultaneous translation will be provided in the plenary sessions and certain parallel panels.

Registration

Applications to attend the Symposium should be made by completing the [online Registration Form](#). Registrations will be regarded as final only after the Registration Form and fees have been received by the Secretariat.

Registration fees are as follows:

	by 15/6/2026	From 16/6 to 15/8/2026	From 16/8/2026
Psychoanalysts, Psychiatrists & other Mental Health Professionals	330 €	380 €	430 €
Trainees of Psychoanalytic Societies (*)	230 €	280 €	330 €
Symposium's Dinner (<i>optional</i>)	60 €	60 €	60 €

(*) Proof of status must accompany the registration form

The registration fees cover:

- Attendance of the scientific program
- Printed material of the Symposium
- Certificate of Attendance
- Coffee / soft drinks at breaks
- Welcoming Reception
- Cultural event

Method of payment

The following items must be paid when applying for participation

- Registration fee
- Cost of symposium's dinner

Payments must be made in Euros, by bank transfer to one of the following bank accounts

Bank: Piraeus Bank
Swift / BIC: PIRBGRAA
IBAN GR5301720310005031098399535
Beneficiary: "The Friends of the International Delphi Psychoanalytic Symposium"

or

Bank: Alpha Bank
Swift / BIC: CRBAGRAA
IBAN GR9001401150115002002039688
Beneficiary: "The Friends of the International Delphi Psychoanalytic Symposium"

A copy of the bank's document, clearly stating the name and the address of the sender must be sent to the Secretariat together with the Registration Form

- Notes:** - Please follow carefully the above instructions. Bank transfers wrongly addressed will not be accepted.
- All bank charges, including those of the Greek and/or other intermediary banks, must be borne by the registrant and not by the beneficiary.
 - Personal cheques will not be honored.

Confirmation of registration

A confirmation email will be sent to those who have forwarded their Registration Form and proof of payment. Receipts will be given to participants at registration time.

Cancellation policy

Cancellation of registration must be made in writing to the Administrative Secretariat. Refunds will be made according to the date of notification of cancellation, as follows:

<i>Date of cancellation</i>	<i>Refund</i>
Until 15/6/2026	60% of payments made
From 16/6/2026 up to 26/7/2026	40% of payments made
After 26/7/2026	No refund

Refunds will be made after the end of the Symposium. Bank charges will be deducted from the amount to be refunded.

Registration - On site Secretariat

Registered participants will receive the Symposium's printed material on Thursday 27 August 2026, 14.00 hrs. onwards, from the Secretariat (which will then be operating during the Symposium's working hours). New registrations will be made as long as there are vacancies.

Social Events

Thursday, 27 August

After the end of the first day's program, a welcome reception will follow.

Saturday 29 August

Gala dinner with music and dancing. Cost per person: 60 Euros.

PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

General information

Easy Travel, the Symposium's official travel agency, has made room reservations at the 4-star "Golden Age Hotel" in Athens, as well as in various hotels in Delphi.

Requests for hotel accommodation will be treated on "first come first served" basis; therefore, hotel category alternatives should be specified in order of priority in the Booking Form. Should the preferred Delphi hotel category be fully booked, the best alternative solution will be offered. **To guarantee accommodation, early booking must be made. After May 10th accommodation requests will be wait-listed and placed as hotel availability occurs.**

Itinerary and items contained in the "symposium package"

Wednesday, August 26: Projected arrival in Athens. Accommodation at the 4-star "Golden Age Hotel", on bed and breakfast basis.

Note: A joint Symposium Secretariat / Easy Travel desk will be operating at the Golden Age hotel in the afternoon of that day. Participants are requested to proceed for registration. At registration, participants will receive the Symposium material and will settle outstanding accounts, if any, in relation to the symposium package. Any such on site payments can be made by means of cash or credit card. Personal cheques will not be honored.

Thursday, August 27: Immediately after breakfast, i.e. around 08:00, departure by air-conditioned coach for Delphi, a three-hour drive from Athens; arrival at Delphi around 11:30 hours. An English-speaking guided visit to the archaeological site of Delphi and the museum is scheduled to take place upon arrival at Delphi.

Thursday, August 27 to Sunday, August 30: Hotel accommodation in Delphi on bed and breakfast basis.

Sunday, August 30: The Symposium ends after the morning session. Free time for lunch. Immediately after lunch, departure from Delphi for Athens, for an overnight stay at the Golden Age Hotel. Arrival in Athens around 19:30 hrs.

End of package. Departures from Greece should be arranged for after August 30th.

Cost of symposium package (based on Delphi hotel selection)

<i>Delphi hotel</i>	<i>Package cost</i>	
	<i>single occupancy</i>	<i>per person in twin</i>
Amalia (A' class – 500 m. to the Symposium's venue)	815 €	510 €
Fedriades (Superior B' class – 1 km to the Symposium's venue)	725 €	455 €
Europa Guest House (Attached to the Symposium's venue - limited number of rooms available)	700 €	460 €
Acropole (B' class – 1.1 km. to the Symposium's venue)	635 €	430 €

The above package cost includes:

- Two nights' accommodation in Athens, at the 4-star Golden Age Hotel, including American breakfast, services & taxes
- Three nights' accommodation in Delphi, in either 4 or 3-star hotels, including breakfast, services and taxes
- Three lunches (on August 27, 28 and 29) to be served at the dining area of the European Cultural Center of Delphi
- English speaking guided visit to the archaeological site and the museum of Delphi

- Entrance fees to the Delphi archaeological site and the museum (only once)
- Transportation Athens/Delphi/Athens, by private air-conditioned coach

BOOKINGS & PAYMENTS

General

Hotel reservations can be made by completing the online booking form available at <https://www.easytravel.gr/delphi2026/bookingform-en.htm>

Required payments for the symposium package

At the time of booking: Symposium package deposit: Euros 200 per person.

By July 15, 2026: Full payment of balance of symposium package.

Method of payment

All payments must be made in Euros, in one of the following ways:

By credit card

Payment by credit card can be made using the Booking Form, available online at <https://easytravel.gr/delphisymposium/webforms/DelphiBookingFormEn.php>

By money transfer to the following bank account

Bank: Alpha Bank

Swift / BIC: CRBAGRAA

Account Number (IBAN): GR2601401070107002320004632

Beneficiary: Panagiotis Marlantis - Easy Travel

In this case, a copy of the bank's document clearly stating the name and address of the sender must be sent to Easy Travel.

Notes

- Please follow carefully the above instructions. Bank transfers wrongly addressed will not be accepted.
- All bank charges, including those of the Greek or other intermediary banks, must be borne by the registrant and not by the beneficiary.
- Payment by personal cheques will not be accepted.

Confirmation

Confirmation of hotel reservation / assignment, etc. will be sent out shortly after receipt of the required deposit. Receipts will be given to participants at registration time.

Cancellation policy

Cancellations of bookings must be sent in writing to Easy Travel. Refunds will be made according to the date of notification, as follows:

<i>Date of cancellation notification</i>	<i>Cancellation fees</i>
By 24 / 5 / 26	50 €
Between 25 / 5 and 14 / 7 / 26	75% of payments made
On or after 15 / 7 / 26	100% of payments made

Refunds will be made after the end of the symposium. Bank charges will be deducted at source.

Operator's responsibility

Easy Travel, the operator, acts only as agent for the hotels, motorcoach companies and accepts no responsibility for the services of any hotel, motorcoach or any other conveyance used in connection with the above arrangements, nor any delay, loss or accident to travelers or baggage occasioned by such services from whatsoever cause. In the event it becomes necessary due to changes by suppliers, or for the comfort or well being of the passengers, or for any other reason, to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the operator. Acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance of all these conditions.

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

Travel

Participants should make their own travel arrangements to Athens. It is also the participants' responsibility to find out what documentation is necessary for travel to Greece. They are advised to contact the Greek consular authorities. Easy Travel, however, the Symposium's official travel agency, will be glad to provide information on request, in connection with any travel arrangement required.

Travel insurance

It is recommended that participants consult their insurance broker regarding a holiday and/or travel insurance coverage for while they are in Greece.

Arrival in Athens

The easiest way to reach the city center from the airport is by taxi. Taxi queue starts at Exit 3 of the Airport Arrivals Section. A taxi from the airport to the city center (inner ring) costs a flat rate of € 40 from 5:00 a.m. to midnight, and € 55 from midnight to 5:00 a.m. The charge is determined by the time of arrival at the destination. Metro line 3 (blue line) connects the airport to the Athens city center. The one-way metro ticket costs € 9. Trains from the airport depart every 30-45 minutes.

Public bus no X95 also serves the airport exclusively, connecting it with the Athens city center. The bus departs from the airport every 20-25 minutes (a little less frequently between 01 .30 and 06.30 hrs.) The bus fare is € 5,50 Euros. Tickets can be bought at the special kiosks located around the bus terminal.

Climate and clothing

The temperature in Greece in August may very well reach the 35 oC. In Greece people dress informally. Light clothes, swimming costumes, wide brimmed hats and sunglasses are recommended.

Foreign exchange and banking arrangements

Foreign currency may be exchanged at the airport and in all the banks, currency exchange bureaus, and hotels where branches exist. Personal cheques will not be honored for any type of payment; nor can cash be drawn upon presentation of personal cheques. Hotels and shops will accept most credit cards.

Shopping hours

Monday to Friday: 09.00 - 20.00 hrs.

Saturday: 09.00 - 15.00 hrs. (large department stores and supermarkets however stay open till late afternoon)

Electrical current

Line voltage is 220 Volts, 50 cycles. American / British appliances require an adapter.

OPTIONAL TOURIST PROGRAM

Easy Travel will be glad to provide information on request in connection with any travel arrangement required or any exclusive tourist programs to participants who wish to extend their stay and see something more of the country thus combining their trip to Greece with their summer 2026 vacationing.

All the above information regarding the "symposium package", booking and payment methods, as well as the online booking form are available at <https://www.easytravel.gr/delphi2026/index.htm>