



# Mourning and Memory: Reflections in Honor of Dr. Antonio R. Virsida Presented By: Steven Reisner, Ph.D.

Saturday, November 02, 2019

9:00AM—12:30PM

8:30AM Registration and Continental Breakfast  
Registration and Continental Breakfast will be served in classroom 1052

Nova Southeastern University, Carl DeSantis Building, Knight Auditorium  
6 SW 75th Ave, Davie, FL 33314

NSU Faculty and  
Students  
FREE

*There is no love of truth without an unconditional acceptance of death.*

- Simone Weil (epigraph to Antonio's *The Death Drive: Psychic Construction or Destruction?*)

## THE PRESENTATION:

Among the many things to be learned from the work and teachings of Dr. Antonio Virsida is a renewed appreciation for Freud's concept of the Death Drive. In this two-part presentation, Dr. Reisner will revisit and expand upon Dr. Virsida's acute understanding of the death drive.

In part one, Dr. Reisner will present the history of Freud's concepts of drive, beginning with sexuality and hunger, moving on to sex and ego and ultimately to narcissistic and object drives. He will then expand upon Dr. Virsida's view that the life and death drives, understood as the interweaving pleasures inherent in desire (life) and satisfaction (death), must be integrated into all aspects of our being if we are to live lives that are rich, courageous, poignant and meaningful.

In part two, Dr. Reisner will show how such an understanding is not only essential for clinical work and personal growth, but necessary, too, to overcome fear and paralysis in the face of the two great threats of our day: authoritarianism and the climate emergency. We are faced with an American President and a growing number of authoritarians around the world, who encourage the population to deny death and its partner, truth. Dr. Reisner will argue that only by embracing mortality and respecting the death drive can we truly release an empowered life force. Only by facing death can we know what we value and risk fighting for it.

## THE PRESENTER:



Steven Reisner, Ph.D. is a psychoanalyst and political activist. He is a founding member of the Coalition for an Ethical Psychology, Advisor on Psychology and Ethics for Physicians for Human Rights and past-President of Psychologists for Social Responsibility. He was a leader in the successful movement to prohibit psychologists from their central role in abusive CIA and military interrogation and detention processes. As a result of these efforts, psychologists were removed from detention operations at Guantanamo Bay in January 2016.

Dr. Reisner has been a consultant on issues of trauma, torture, political violence, disaster and resilience in the face of catastrophic events for the United Nations, the International Criminal Court, the International Organization for Migrations and other international humanitarian and mental health organizations.

He has published in the New York Times, Slate, Huffington Post and in various academic journals. He has been interviewed on NPR, Al Jazeera, CBC, and the BBC, and has been on the teaching faculty of the Clinical Psychology Program at Columbia University, the International Trauma Studies Program at New York University, the NYU Medical School, the Psychoanalytic Association of New York, and the Women's Therapy Center Institute.

In an earlier career, Dr. Reisner was an Obie-award winning director and actor. More recently he was a co-producer of Michael Moore's documentary, *Fahrenheit 11/9*.

## OBJECTIVES:

Participants will be able to:

1. Understand the importance of honoring and mourning as part of the process that enables the progression of personal development.
2. Understand the development of Freud's drive theory.
3. Be better able to use psychoanalytic theory to facilitate the pursuit of social justice

**This program, when attended in its entirety, is available for 3 continuing education credits.**

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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	EARLY BIRD RATE (Until 10/26/19)	DAY OF EVENT RATE
MEMBER	\$65	\$80
NON-MEMBER	\$95	\$110
STUDENT MEMBER VALID STUDENT I.D. REQUIRED	FREE	\$15
STUDENT NON-MEMBER VALID STUDENT I.D. REQUIRED	\$15	\$30
NOVA Faculty/Student (With valid ID Card)	FREE	FREE

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REFUNDS WILL BE PROVIDED UNTIL 10/27/2019 MINUS \$10 ADMIN FEE