



Call for Papers

Cultural Psychoanalysis in the Life and Works of Sudhir Kakar

Guest Editors: Dinesh J. Sharma and Daniel J. Meckel

Culture and Psychology invites submissions for a special issue titled Cultural Psychoanalysis in the Life and Works of Sudhir Kakar. This special edition aims to honor the memory of Sudhir Kakar, who passed away this year, with essays that engage his work on culture and psychoanalysis. Kakar's writings draw from and invite dialogue among a wide range of disciplinary perspectives, including those of psychoanalysis, cultural psychology, anthropology, sociology, semiotics, cultural studies, gender studies, religious studies, Indology, biographical studies, and comparative literature. He has been considered by many to be India's most prominent psychoanalyst and produced over twenty works of non-fiction as well as six novels.

In the spirit of Kakar's broadly interdisciplinary explorations, we invite essays written from the standpoint of any given discipline or perspective. In the spirit of his efforts to articulate a "cultural psychoanalysis" that reflects the Indian cultural imagination, we encourage essays that address the interaction of psychoanalytic thought and practice with non-Western cultural traditions.

To be considered for inclusion, an essay must meet the following criteria:

- (a) It engages some aspect of Kakar's work in a way that is developed and central to the essay
- (b) It addresses the intersection of culture and psychoanalysis.

Areas of interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Culture and psychoanalytic theory, from classical to contemporary, including specific topics such as imaginative and symbolic processes, human development, conceptions of psyche, human needs, love, attachment, desire, and well-being.
- Culture and psychoanalytic practice, from classical to contemporary, including specific topics such as the significance of the therapeutic relationship, regression in the therapeutic process, reverie and its uses, regression, enactments, imagination and

symbolization in the process of healing.

- Newer theoretical models at the intersection of ‘cultural neuroscience’ in psychoanalysis proposing novel ways to conceptualize intrapsychic and human developmental processes, religious or mystical experiences, and identity development or transitions.
- The intersections of religion, spirituality, and psychoanalysis, in theory and practice; including studies of different religious theories and day to day practices (e.g. yoga, mysticism, sufism).
- Gender studies and feminist explorations of psychoanalysis in cultural context from any and all cultures, with an encouraged emphasis on non-Western traditions.
- Kakar’s vision of cultural psychoanalysis as viewed in the context of globalization and modernity in India, possibly by comparison to other parts of the world such as China, South Africa, and South America, including an expansion of “cultural imagination”.

Submission Guidelines:

Please direct inquiries for this issue to Guest Editors Dr. Dinesh Sharma (dsharma2020@gmail.com) and Dr. Daniel Meckel (danieljmeckel@gmail.com); cc’ing Kevin Carriere, Editorial Director of Culture & Psychology (kcarriere@stonehill.edu). Extended 500 word abstracts should be emailed to both Guest Editors by October 1st, 2024, for full editorial consideration. Please direct all submissions to <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/cap>

- Abstract submission: 11:59pm, October 1st, 2024
- Invitations sent for accepted abstracts: October 31st, 2024
- Final Submission Date: 11:59pm, May 15, 2025
- Revisions Sent: Aug 15, 2025
- Final Submission Sep 30, 2025
- Publication Date: Dec 15 2025