



PARALLEL PAPERS I
FRIDAY 7th JULY 1145-1300
ROOM III - 7.0.18

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*An integrative theory of dreaming
underlying Social Dreaming*

Social Dreaming has been a key offering at ISPSO annual meetings since the 1996 meeting in New York City, when it was first a part of the Professional Development Program. Since then, many books and papers on Social Dreaming have been published, mostly under the inspiration and leadership of Gordon Lawrence. The Gordon Lawrence Foundation for the Promotion of Social Dreaming has also been established, so that Social Dreaming may be developed further in the future and that Lawrence's contribution will continue to be honoured.

But, what, in fact, is the theory of dreaming that underlies this praxis? And how is this theory enacted in the course of a Social Dreaming event?

The purpose of this paper is to offer an integrative theory of dreaming that grounds Social Dreaming practice. This theory of dreaming is derived from a combination of many theoretical sources and the work of many great thinkers, which, taken in combination, resonate with this methodology. I developed this theory as part of my doctoral work in developing and researching Social Dream-Drawing, a socioanalytic methodology based on Social Dreaming.

Please note that I am not taking us on a chronological journey from one thinker to another, from one theory to another. Instead I have divided this discussion into four different areas:

- Collective Notions of Dreaming
- The Unconscious
- Dream Formation and Production
- Dreaming as Thinking

In a Social Dreaming matrix, one is presented with rich, creative and seemingly chaotic material from the unconscious. Having an internalised theory of the source for this material informs participants and hosts as to how to work with this material to bring insight and understanding to collective awareness. This paper is written with the hope of making such a contribution.

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