



JSSS 2027 Conference – Call for Proposals

Navigating the Currents of Change: Personal, Communal, and Universal

Conference Dates: June 10–13, 2027

Location: University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis, Minnesota

The Conference Team:

- Site Coordinators: Andrea Weiss, Jani Davis
- Conference Co-Chairs: Lisa Pounders, Evija Volfa
- Onsite AV Expert: [tbd]

Submission Deadline: January 31, 2027



The great events of world history are, at bottom, profoundly unimportant. In the last analysis, the essential thing is the life of the individual. This alone makes history, here alone do the great transformations first take place, and the whole future, the whole history of the world, ultimately spring as a gigantic summation from these hidden sources in individuals. In our most private and most subjective lives we are not only the passive witnesses of our age, and its sufferers, but also its makers. We make our own epoch."

— C.G. Jung, *Collected Works: Vol. 10. Civilization in Transition* (para. 315)

Overview

We often hear the phrase “going with the flow,” which is based on ancient river and water metaphors representing destiny, time, and acceptance. Literally, the phrase stems from the idea that when navigating a river in some sort of boat, for example, the best way to move forward is to be in sync with the flow of the water. In other words, to navigate, you must identify the main river current and keep your boat in direct contact with it, not parallel or perpendicular (at odds) to it. But what happens when a river’s current changes from a calm, steady stream to a boulder-strewn rapid or swells into a raging torrent? How do you navigate that sort of flow-altering change?

Significantly, C. G. Jung often used the image of a river when talking about psychic and libidinal energy flow. He even described the influence of archetypes as a “deeply graven river-bed in the psyche, in which the waters of life, instead of flowing along as before in a broad but shallow stream, can suddenly swell into a mighty river” (*CW: Vol. 15*, para. 127). Encountering such shifts of psychological energy—whether personal, communal, or universal—can feel like being dragged along by a turbulent flood.

Minneapolis is a city shaped by rivers and lakes, the cascading waters of Saint Anthony Falls, and a rich history of civic action and cultural transformation. It therefore provides a fitting backdrop for us to gather and reflect on how we orient ourselves when the watery currents of life change.



"The Falls of Saint Anthony, Upper Mississippi" is the oil-on-canvas painting created in 1847 by the American artist Henry Lewis.



The Falls of Saint Anthony today.

We live in a moment marked by rapid shifts—psychological, cultural, ecological, and political. The metaphors of water, flow, and turbulent currents reflect both the destabilizing nature of ongoing personal, communal, and global transitions as well as the potential for new forms of living to emerge.

Held on the banks of the Mississippi River in Minneapolis, the 2027 Jungian Society for Scholarly Studies (JSSS) conference invites scholars, artists, clinicians, and community organizers to explore **"Navigating the Currents of Change: Personal, Communal, and Universal."**

Our goal is an integrative dialogue where no single perspective dominates. We seek to hold the tension between the **personal** inner worlds of the psyche, the **communal** realities of lived experience and political life, and the **universal** structures of archetypal reality.

Key Thematic Streams

We invite proposals that address one or more of the following intertwined streams:

The Personal: Inner Psyche & Lived Experience

- **The Psyche in Transition:** How do personal shifts, life transitions, and inner friction reveal themselves in our day-to-day lived experience?

- **Holding the Inner Container:** Navigating personal anxiety, grief, internal plurality, and identity shifts during times of cultural disorientation.
- **The Shadow of Transformation:** Recognizing, feeling through, or integrating unconscious material during periods of personal crisis and growth.
- **Somatic & Experiential Grounding:** Using body-centered awareness, dreamwork, creative expression, and active imagination to anchor the self when the waters shift.

The Communal: Culture, Belonging, & the Polis

- **The Relational Psyche:** Exploring how interconnections with others also shape the internal process of individuation. Moving beyond hyper-individualism to understand the psychological roots of moral and social concepts (i.e., care, empathy, cruelty, and tyranny) commonly institutionalized in familial and social structures.
- **Politics, Power, & the Public Sphere:** Depth psychological analyses of political polarization, ideological possession, and authoritarian tendencies in modern democracy.
- **Collective Trauma & Healing:** Tending to historical wounds, cultural complexes, social fragmentation, and communal container-building.
- **Communal Shadow Work:** Identifying and exploring healing forms of collective shadow and guilt work, including the psychological dynamics of civic engagement, institutional reform, and community resilience.

The Universal: Archetypal, Cosmic, & Ecological Dimensions

- **Constellations of the Unconscious:** Which archetypal patterns (i.e., the Trickster, Liminality/Thresholds, Apocalypse, and Rebirth) are active in our current era?
- **Mythologies of Water and Flow:** Symbolic and cross-cultural interpretations of rivers, floods, currents, and navigation.
- **Eco-Psychology & World Soul (*Anima Mundi*):** Indigenous perspectives, earth-centered wisdom, and the cosmic/ecological realities shaping human transformation.
- **Dreams, Visions, & Synchronicity:** Reading the symbolic language of modern dreams as indicators of timeless, systemic psychic movement.

Submission Guidelines

We welcome submissions from scholars, artists, clinicians, community organizers, and practitioners across disciplines.

Format Options

- **Paper Presentation:** 20-minute paper followed by 10 minutes of Q&A.
- **Plenary Presentation by an individual or a group:** 40-minute presentation plus 20 minutes of Q&A.
- **Panel Discussion:** 60-minute session with 3 presenters followed by 20 minutes of Q&A.
- **Experiential Workshop:** 60-minute interactive or artistic session engaging body, image, or community-building practices.
- **Creative Practice:** A creative presentation that involves a practice or performance such as a film, dance or music presentation, visual arts exhibit (one's own artwork or a curation), dramatic (short play) performance, etc. When appropriate, proposals can include images suggestive of the idea. Timing will be discussed based on the format.
- **Embodied Practice:** An active group somatic, body-centered 15 to 20-minute session. For example: a dream work group, yoga nidra, guided meditations, or mind-body connection movement sessions. These practices are meant to be interspersed with the other types of conference presentations.

Proposal Information Requirements

- **Title of Presentation**
- **Abstract:** Max 350 words outlining the main thesis, methodology/perspective, and relevance to the conference theme.
- **Short Biography:** Max 150 words per presenter.
- **Format Preference:** Paper, Plenary, Panel, Workshop, Creative Practice, or Embodied Practice.

Key Dates

- **Proposal Submission Opens:** September 21, 2026
- **Proposal Submission Deadline:** January 31, 2027
- **Conference Registration Begins:** February 1, 2027
- **Notification of Proposal Acceptance:** March 1, 2027

- **Presenter Registration Closes:** March 31, 2027
- **Conference Dates:** June 10-13, 2027

Conference Specifics

Fee

The three fee levels for the conference are:

- **Contributor:** \$425 (your generous support covers the conference fee and contributes to conference grants)
- **Regular:** \$385
- **Student:** \$335 (for those who are registered as a student at an educational institution)

This fee includes:

- Attendance at all four days of the conference
- Conference Friday evening reception
- One year's membership in the JSSS.

Cancellation Policy

Please carefully read the following cancellation terms and dates before paying for registration. This policy will be strictly followed. Therefore, we suggest everyone registering for the conference purchase a personal travel insurance policy to cover any last-minute, unforeseen circumstances that would cause them to cancel.

- **Full Refund (Less \$50 Administrative Fee):** Cancellations received in writing (via email) on or before **April 10, 2027** will receive a full refund of total fees paid (registration, dorm room accommodations, and meal plans) minus a \$50 administrative fee.
- **50% Refund:** Cancellations received in writing **between April 11, 2027, and May 10, 2027** will receive a 50% refund of total fees paid.
- **No Refunds:** Cancellations received **after May 10, 2027, as well as no-shows**, are non-refundable due to binding university catering, lodging, and facility commitments.

Grants

For this year's conference, three registration fee waivers will be made available to attendees. The application period commences on December 15, 2026. Selection will be conducted via a lottery system among eligible candidates whose applications

demonstrate financial need, present a perspective focused on diversity and inclusion, or both. Grant awards will be announced on March 15, 2027.

Donations for Grants

If you would like to donate to the conference grant fund, please go to our donate webpage (<https://jungiansociety.org/donate/>). Thank you for your generous support!

Volunteer Information

If you would like to volunteer at the conference, please read the descriptions below and then email us at info@jungiansociety.org with the following information: your name, contact information (email address & cell phone number), which option you are interested in, and any information as to your skill set and past conference volunteer experience.

- **Registration volunteers:** Stationed at the registration table during conference days, checking people in, answering questions, and directing to conference and event rooms.
- **AV/Tech volunteers:** Stationed in conference presentation rooms to assist with presenter technology and AV needs.

After the conference, a refund of \$170 will be issued to each conference volunteer.

Our Care for the World

You are encouraged to carbon offset the effects of your travel. The JSSS will make a contribution of \$500 to offset the carbon impact of the conference. A \$5 contribution has been included in this year's conference fee to replenish the Society's Sustainability Fund for next year's conference.

Venue Information

The Jungian Society for Scholarly Studies 2027 Conference will take place at the University of St. Thomas' downtown Minneapolis campus.

<https://www.stthomas.edu/about/our-campuses/minneapolis/>

Note: The campus buildings and dorms of the University of St. Thomas are designated non-smoking spaces (including vaping and e-cigarettes). Additionally, alcohol cannot be consumed on campus unless it is offered during a catered JSSS conference event (e.g., a reception or banquet).

Accommodation options

- **Residence Hall Dorm Rooms** (University of St. Thomas' St. Paul (North) Campus): **\$75 per night** for a private air-conditioned dorm room in a suite of 4 with 2 shared bathrooms.

These rooms are located in a residence hall on the St. Paul Campus, which is approximately a 15-minute shuttle ride from the downtown Minneapolis conference venue. A *free* hourly shuttle that runs between campuses is available all day.

The total room cost for three conference nights (Thursday through Saturday) is \$225. You can also choose to arrive a day or two early and add these nights (at \$75 per night) to your stay.

Because St. Thomas is a Catholic institution, dorms are same-sex only.

Reserve this accommodation option on the 2027 conference registration form beginning on February 1, 2027.

- **DoubleTree by Hilton** (Next to the St. Thomas downtown Minneapolis Campus – conference venue):

<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/msplsdt-doubletree-suites-minneapolis-downtown/>

Call the DoubleTree directly to reserve a room, and ask for the St. Thomas discount: 612-332-6800

The Minneapolis campus is close to many other downtown hotels, as well.

Meal Options

- **Breakfast and Lunch:** Add an optional \$120 meal plan that covers breakfast and lunch for all 4 conference days (Thursday through Sunday) at the cafeteria in the St. Thomas conference building. *Select this option when registering for the conference.*
- **Friday Evening Reception:** included in registration fee.
- **Saturday Evening Banquet:** \$40. *Select this option when registering for the conference. .*
- **Otherwise:** There are multiple restaurant options within walking distance of the St. Thomas downtown Minneapolis campus.

