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ISPS Proposal Abstract- May 2022

International Society for Psychological and Social Approaches to Psychosis, [Isps-us.org](http://Isps-us.org)  
Request for Proposals:

*Opportunity Through Experience: Psychosis, Extreme States and Possibilities for Transformation*, November 4-6, 2022 · Sacramento, California / Online

*“Emptiness and estrangement are deep wounds, strongly felt in the present time. We have been split from what we could nurture, what could fill us. And we have been wounded by a dominating culture that has feared and hated the natural world, has not listened to the voice of the land, has not believed in the inner worlds of human dreaming and intuition, all things that have guided indigenous people since time stood up in the east and walked this world into existence, split from the connection between self and land.”*

–Linda Hogan (Chickasaw), (1996). *Dwellings: A spiritual history of the living world*. Simon and Schuster.

#### Title and Abstract:

Transformation processes: engaging, witnessing, and holding the somatic image.

The dominant culture in the US dismisses, minimizes, stigmatizes, and alienates anyone attending to dream intuition and ecosystems and remains largely in denial of the wounding that separates us from our authenticity and connection to the natural and inner worlds. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Jungian analysts Carl Gustav Jung, John Weir Perry, and Lionel Corbett referred to dreams and the unconscious imagination as sources of meaning, knowledge, and transformative approach in working with numinous experiences, often common aspects in experiences of psychosis. Anomalous and numinous experiences may include visions, intensely heightened lived experiences, hallucinations, dreams, and somatic material which may be perceived through a single or multiple senses. Corbett’s integrative approach and normalization of numinous experiences provided an avenue in which the presenter felt understood and related within a group process. Corbett simultaneously facilitated an internal process which allowed an alienated aspect of the presenter’s dissociated somatic material to be brought into consciousness. Engaging, witnessing, and holding numinous experiences can help those wounded by dominant culture to organize and make sense of the inner world, restore authenticity and safe connection with others and the natural world.