

Special Guest Paper published on the Association for Humanistic Psychology in Britain (AHPb) website, www.ahpb.org, 17 August 2020

© Elliot Benjamin, Ph.D.

The Coronavirus Pandemic, the Trump Presidency, and Humanistic Psychology

Elliot Benjamin, Ph.D.

Introduction

The harrowing consequences of the United States presidency of Donald Trump are now being acknowledged and conveyed in professional Humanistic Psychology circles. Along these lines there are two 2020 special issues of the *Journal of Humanistic Psychology* devoted to the topic of the Trump presidency.¹ In addition to this, there is a Covid-19 special issue of the *Journal of Humanistic Psychology* scheduled to appear in 2020 that is devoted to the topic of the coronavirus pandemic.² In my own contribution to one of the 2020 *JHP* special issues on the Trump presidency, I have incorporated the deadly actions and non-actions of President Trump in relation to the coronavirus pandemic and discussed how Humanistic Psychology can be beneficial in this overwhelming dilemma (Benjamin, 2020a).

In the present article I will amplify my perspective on how Humanistic Psychology can be beneficial in dealing with the dire consequences of Trump and the coronavirus

pandemic, which I have previously described as the ‘Deadly Duo’,³ and bring the situation up-to-date at the time of this writing, which is early July, 2020.

The Warnings about Trump from Professional Psychiatrists and Mental Health Experts

Bandy Lee’s (2017) edited book *The Dangerous Case of Donald Trump: 27 Psychiatrists and Mental Health Experts Assess a President* became an instant huge success as it appeared on the *New York Times* best-sellers list. Two years later a second edition of the book came out, involving ten additional psychiatrists and mental health experts (Lee, 2019). And in June, 2020, Lee became one of three co-editors of the *Journal of Humanistic Psychology* special issue entitled ‘Addressing the Elephant in the Room: Stories of Ethical Activism in the Age of Trump’.⁴ I felt heartened to see this dominant

exposure in professional Humanistic Psychology circles of the dangers of Donald Trump in the US presidency, as for the past few years I have been writing and publishing about this same topic.⁵ However, this special issue was written soon before the public tragedy of the coronavirus pandemic became evident, and consequently the dangers from Trump as the US president that these special issue authors, as well as the authors in Lee's (2019) book, have written about are now deadly in very concrete terms.

Due to Trump's various actions and non-actions related to the coronavirus pandemic, thousands of Americans have needlessly died from the coronavirus, and many thousands more have gotten infected and have become seriously ill.⁶ Clearly the warnings about Trump from all these psychiatrists and mental health experts have come to tragic fruition, and I believe that we absolutely must engage in a particular course of action to avoid significantly more catastrophic consequences from the coronavirus pandemic, and this course of action is to finally remove Trump from the US presidency in the November 2020 US presidential election.⁷

The courage, dedication and personal sacrifice that Bandy Lee demonstrated in promoting her views about the mental health dangers of President Trump were very impactful for me:

Death threats ensued. I lost most of my hair and aged 10 years in 2. Stress and fasting prayer caused my weight to fluctuate 20 pounds above and 30 pounds below my usual weight, which has always been steady. To save time for this work I lived off of my savings, depleting them.

(Glass et al., 2020, p. 473)

And Elizabeth Mika has made Bandy Lee's 'dangerous case' of Donald Trump even more apparent as Mika (2020) compared it to the horrors of murderous dictators and authoritarian regimes:

My reaction quickly changed to concern as I watched Trump the candidate grow in popularity. His candidacy now looked and sounded too familiar. I had seen it before, I thought. Raised in communist Poland, I was part of the first post-World War II generation. We grew up with the wounds of Nazism always vivid in our collective consciousness.... And I knew that rhetoric, too. World War II started with similar scapegoating demonization of minorities and 'strangers', as did pogroms, purges, and all violent human conflicts since time immemorial... watching Trump pulverize his stunned opposition on both political sides to the wild enthusiasm of the expanding army of his supporters left little doubt in my mind about the outcome of the election.

(pp. 526–7)

Harper West, one of Lee's *Journal of Humanistic Psychology* special issue on Trump co-editors,⁸ has given an insightful description of how shame is related to what she has described as 'other-blamers', which has some obvious applications to the 'dangerous case' of Donald Trump:

Other-blamers manage shame by blame-shifting to others and self-upranking... followed by overreactive secondary anger. The result is high-conflict relationships because of the inability to admit fault or compromise. Because other-blamers learned to link shame with social downranking, they engage in self-upranking through strategies

that enhance a sense of personal agency, but can damage relationships by dominating and manipulating others. They may be self-aggrandizing, physically and emotionally abusive, hateful, and stubborn. They lie to themselves continuously, so they have no difficulty lying to others.... Other-blamers control subordinates, demand loyalty, manipulate, and intimidate. They often search for relationships that will be submissive in order not to be challenged, corrected, or blamed. They often crave power because it helps insulate them from criticism and accountability. Other-blamers have difficulty following the normal moral and social codes that healthy individuals find to be a fundamental guide to their behavioral choices.... They will do anything to relieve themselves of the painful experience of shame, including trying to blame other people and avoid accountability.... Under the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM) model, other-blamer traits could be described as narcissistic, sociopathic, borderline, and paranoid personality disorders, as well as oppositional and conduct disorders.... With just this brief description of other-blamer behaviors, it should be clear that dictators throughout history fall into this category. (West, 2020, pp. 539–40)

In regard to the dangers and warnings about Trump's mental health, the co-editors wrote the following in the epilogue of their special issue:⁹

It was clear from the outset of this campaign that Trump's personality and character would bring the country and the world to a place of existential danger, and that he was a threat to the health and existence of governmental institutions and the social norms and fabric of the country. In other words, psychological dangerousness in a position of power would translate into social, cultural, and geopolitical

dangerousness in only a matter of time.... Casual observation can identify his impulsivity and recklessness, lack of foresight and irrationality, cruelty and sadism, willful ignorance, threats and incitements of violence, vindictiveness, corruption, grandiosity, pathological lying, and narcissistic rage, among many other traits that are inappropriate for a governmental leader. There are also concerns about what appears to be an alarming decline in cognitive functioning that no appropriate medical specialists have assessed to this day. As of January 2020, three years after Trump's inauguration and during his impeachment trial, it is patently clear that the activists who took a risk to issue warnings about his unstable behavior were completely accurate in their assessment.

(West et al., 2020, p. 549)

I agree with these special issue co-editors that all the above Trump warnings and danger descriptions are entirely accurate, but they were written shortly before the deadly concrete coronavirus pandemic outcomes of the 'dangerous case of Donald Trump' made themselves known, and it is important to get up-to-date on this, which is the focus of the next section.

Getting Up-To-Date on the Coronavirus Pandemic Deadly Outcome of the Dangerous Case of Donald Trump

In a number of previous articles I have described the deadly consequences of the actions and non-actions of President Trump in relation to the coronavirus pandemic.¹⁰ But to bring the situation up-to-date it is necessary to more thoroughly address Trump's current campaign rallies in the midst of the coronavirus

cases increasing in over half the states in the United States, with a record high number of coronavirus cases and deaths occurring in a number of states in which Trump has either already engaged in, or is planning to engage in, his rallies; in particular Arizona, Florida, and Texas (Croft, 2020; Jackson, 2020; Johnson, 2020; Mags, 2020; Sprunt, 2020; Sumner, 2020a, 2020b, 2020c; Treisman, 2020a, 2020b; Wardell, 2020). The following are some descriptions related to Trump's rallies that I find particularly concerning in regard to their likely deadly coronavirus consequences, inclusive specifically in the states of Arizona, Florida, and Texas:

The rallies are returning before COVID-19 has left the building.... He's planning to use the events to drive home what is expected to be a major theme of his campaign: that he is the leader of the country's reopening and economic rebound.... Of course, this is a bad idea for a lot of reasons – not least of which is the continued prevalence and virulence of the novel coronavirus.... [T]he MAGA crowd almost certainly won't be social distancing or wearing masks.... Trump thinks masks are for losers and nerds, and Trump's fans think whatever Trump thinks.... The coronavirus hasn't disappeared, after all. The only thing that's really changed is our focus on it. And again, Trump is showing that his desperate need to be acknowledged and to win reelection supersedes the health and very lives of his own followers.

(Pennyfarthing, 2020, pp. 2–3)

Meanwhile, in Arizona – where Donald Trump is planning the next rally of his comeback tour on Tuesday night – cases of COVID-19 rose by 2,196 in a single day. Hospitals there have been warning for the last week that ICU beds in the state's largest cities

are already running over 70% full, and that was *before* the rate of cases doubled, then doubled again. Hospitals in the state are 'nearing the edge of being overwhelmed'.

(Sumner, 2020a, p. 3)

Fresh off a rally in Tulsa, Okla., in which nearly two-thirds of the arena was empty, President Trump heads to Arizona for a series of smaller events centered on a key element of his reelection pitch: border security....

Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego said she's concerned about the president's trip. 'We are actually seeing the fastest rate of growth among our young people in the community, and here it is, a rally specifically focused on that demographic', she told CNN. 'Public health professionals in Phoenix are trying to tell young people to take this seriously.'

Students for Trump includes a waiver similar to the one the Trump campaign gave to attendees of the Tulsa rally, acknowledging the health risks.... Presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden called the president's trip 'reckless and irresponsible' that is a 'distraction from Donald Trump's failed response to combat the spread of COVID-19'.

(Sprunt, 2020, pp. 1–3)

...double the numbers from a week earlier, it even beats out the previous high number that governor Greg Abbott blamed on prisons and nursing homes bundling old results.... Florida counted 3,822 new cases on Friday. That's 600 cases more than the previous high – which was on Thursday. As in Texas, the number of daily cases being reported in the state is now 200% the numbers from a week earlier.... Texas and Florida are not alone in driving the 'red tide' of new cases. On Friday, Arizona reported 3,246 new cases. That number... is double what the state was reporting a week ago.... The far-too-rapid reopening of America, followed by the refusal to mandate masks or enforce social

distancing, is the reason that the lines in this other *Washington Post* chart are so distinct [chart showing US with significantly more coronavirus cases than countries in Europe].

(Sumner, 2020b, pp. 3–4)

And it is criminally disturbing that Trump has apparently tried to slow down coronavirus testing, in order to ‘save face’ by misrepresenting the actual number of coronavirus cases as lower than what they truly are:

As the nation has battled a pandemic that has already killed over 122,000 Americans, Trump has repeatedly – and falsely – blamed an increase in new cases on increased testing. Trump has even suggested that if testing stopped, there would be no more cases. All of these claims aren’t just ridiculous, they’re inviting disease. They’re inviting states to take the best tool available off the table in the fight against the pandemic and throw it in the trash. But at this poorly attended Tulsa rally, Trump went beyond suggesting that states should reduce testing. Among his rambling statements, Trump said: ‘When you do testing to that extent, you’re going to find more people; you’re going to find more cases. So I said to my people, “Slow the testing down please.”’ White House officials passed it off as a joke immediately after the speech.... If Trump was joking, then it’s among the worst jokes in history. If Trump wasn’t joking, it’s nothing less than negligent homicide... 122,000 counts. And climbing [presently over 130,000]. (Sumner, 2020c, pp. 2–3)

It is especially alarming that Trump is apparently inciting potential violence against Trump protesters at his campaign rallies:

After reading Trump’s polemic for last night at Mr. Rushmore, I can only conclude one thing. Trump is seeking to incite violence against protestors [*sic*]. He is inflaming far right groups to strike out. We are in very dangerous territory. Facebook is loaded right now with far-right types making actual threats to shoot protestors, and Trump’s feeds the fire by claiming in his Stephen Miller-written screeds that all protestors exercising their First Amendment rights are violent, left-wing mobs.... Allowing Trump to foment this violence, especially in the run-up to the election, cannot stand. (Johnson, 2020, p. 2)

And finally, it is very alarming that there is a possibility that Trump may actually contest the election if he loses, escalating the United States into further turmoil and riots:

Donald J. Trump may have some sanity problems, but even he has to recognize that the crowds are smaller, the polling data is worsening every day, and his re-election looks shakier with every passing week. There are a few standards that Presidents are expected to commit to in our country. One of those standards is the peaceful transition of power. Donald J. Trump, however, is not one of those presidents. Instead, President Trump is busy laying out a case, now, for unbridled civil unrest and ‘let’s end democracy’ acts should he fail to win in November. Why? Because Trump is already calling the 2020 election a fraud.... Democratic voters and unaffiliated voters are taking up absentee or vote-by-mail ballots in record numbers. Both parties have put effort into getting more of their voters to vote by mail since the outbreak of COVID.... Trump’s statement, however, makes it clear: if

he doesn't win, the election is a fraud – and he will blame mail-in-ballots. This is a dangerous path to travel, especially in these times.... Trump is setting the groundwork for legal contests and fights as well as a refusal to concede a lost election.

He is counting on the narrative being: the media will announce I won a state on election night with the in-person vote, and any challenge to that outcome is not legitimate.... Trump wants a different kind of riot.... He's already planning and thinking about it. Talking about the idea of his defeat is unthinkable, and could only happen by fraud. This isn't about a conspiracy or a plot. It is about the deranged thoughts of one man, who, unfortunately, is US President. It is about what those deranged thoughts and conservative media willing to run with them can do to our nation.

(Reeves, 2020, pp. 1–2)

The coronavirus pandemic is currently surging in an alarmingly out-of-control way in a number of states in the United States, as California and Texas reported over 10,000 new coronavirus cases, and Florida reported 15,000 new coronavirus cases, each on a single day (Croft, 2020; Treisman, 2020a, 2020b; Wardell, 2020). And the alarming extreme coronavirus surge in Florida is especially concerning, as Trump has moved the Republican national convention in August from Charlotte, North Carolina to Jacksonville, Florida in order to try to move forward without restrictions on crowd size, and to try to avoid requirements of attendees wearing masks and socially distancing (Samuels, 2020). However, it is noteworthy that a University of North Florida poll of residents of Duval County, which is the county that includes Jacksonville, has found that 58 per cent of those polled 'strongly or somewhat' oppose

hosting the convention in Jacksonville, and that 71 per cent of those polled were 'very or somewhat concerned' that the convention would result in coronavirus transmission (Hunter, 2020a).

Coronavirus medical experts have warned that the virus is raging out of control and that coronavirus cases in the United States could rise to 100,000 a day (Foran & Ehrlich, 2020; Sumner, 2020d). And to top things off, President Trump demanded, and was the featured speaker at, a 4th July fireworks display, despite fire dangers at South Dakota's Mount Rushmore, where he gave a racially divisive speech at what was essentially another campaign rally, with 7,500 people in attendance and with no one being required to wear a mask or practice social distancing (Groves & Superville, 2020; Hunter, 2020b; Johnson, 2020). This was followed the following day by his 4th July fireworks speech at the National Mall in Washington D.C. with thousands of people attending while many local jurisdictions postponed or canceled their 4th July celebrations due to the pandemic (ABC7, 2020).

In the next section I will explore how a Humanistic Psychology perspective can possibly help with the dire deadly emergency that has been escalated by the 'dangerous case' of Donald Trump as president of the USA.

The 'Dangerous Case' and Humanistic Psychology

It has been 50 years since I read Carl Rogers' (1961) book *On Becoming a Person* in 1970 and became introduced to the world of Humanistic Psychology, which occurred as I was immersed

in doing undergraduate psychology fieldwork under two psychologists, one of whom was behavioral and the other humanistic. I was working in the early childhood Head Start program in Black neighborhoods in the Harlem section of New York City, and the differences in these two approaches were like night and day to me. I had been trained to become a behavioristic psychologist at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, one of the foremost behavioristic psychology schools in the world, and it came as a welcome shock to me when I read Rogers' (1961) book, upon the recommendation of the humanistic psychologist who was supervising me. For the radical concepts at that time of being genuine and caring as a 'real' human being in therapeutic relationships spoke to me in my deep inner core. I gradually transitioned from the world of behavioristic psychology to the world of Humanistic Psychology, and I have been a steadfast proponent of Humanistic Psychology in the half century that has followed.¹¹

Late in his career Carl Rogers became increasingly concerned about the precarious state of the world and realized that to be true to his values he needed to incorporate his psychological theory into the concrete real-world political arena. I have frequently made use in my writings of the following inspiring late 1970s quotation from Rogers to illustrate this:¹²

I have never before spoken out on the broad spectrum of social issues which face our society. Now, however, I believe our culture is facing a life and death crisis on many fronts, and that I have an obligation as a citizen to speak out. I am frightened about our destiny as a people, as a nation. So I want to take as clear a stand as I can on a variety of

issues. I recognize very well that I am no expert in most of the fields I shall mention, but I shall simply voice the attitudes and views of one deeply concerned person.

(Rogers, 1986, p. 24)

Now fast-forward over 40 years, to our current crisis in 2020 with the 'dangerous case' of Donald Trump, horrifically demonstrated in the deadly coronavirus pandemic, as described above. The question may well be asked: how can Humanistic Psychology help in this extreme life and death urgency? And to give at least a partial answer to this question, I once again take heart in the fact that the *Journal of Humanistic Psychology* is devoting two 2020 special issues to the repercussions of the presidency of Donald Trump, as referred to at the start of this article. The past few years, spearheaded by the debacle of Donald Trump as US president, I have advocated for Humanistic Psychology to merge with progressive politics.¹³ Humanistic psychologists becoming immersed in concrete real-world political advocacy, as described in the above quotation by Carl Rogers and as what I myself have become immersed in late in life,¹⁴ is consistent with the writings of a number of authors in one of the *JHP* 2020 Trump-related special issues, subtitled 'Stories of Ethical Activism in the Age of Trump'.¹⁵ The following are some illustrations of how a number of these authors described their experiences of ethical activism:

I [Leonard Glass] felt I had been put in a difficult position, forced to choose between being silenced by my professional association or following the dictates of my conscience, which impelled me to speak out against a leader my training had equipped me to recognize as dangerously unfit to serve.

(Glass et al., 2020, p. 464)

I [Bandy Lee] started asking myself questions I never thought I would in relation to the United States: If the most relevant voices against the prevailing menace of our time are silenced, then what is the point of free speech? Are deception, lies, and incitement of violence allowed to run rampant, while no corrective force is permitted to inform a confused and vulnerable public?... Do we not have a duty, as all citizens do, to contribute our gifts to the good of the nation? What good is the sharing of ideas – essential for making the best decisions in a democracy – if the most rigorous among those ideas are withheld?... For me, this was not just a guild matter or an insider struggle among professionals. It was a matter of democracy versus tyranny, freedom versus censorship, and societal thriving versus harm – and an organization charged with safeguarding the public’s health contributing to harm.

(Glass et al., pp. 471, 474)

My involvement began during a trip to Austria, which was experiencing a national atmosphere dominated by a neo-fascist presidential candidate. There, I saw brown-shirted neo-fascist youth gather in a small town. I concluded that U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump represented a danger much larger than himself. So I decided to write a Citizen Therapists Against Trumpism manifesto, which garnered over 2,500 signatures, including many leaders in the therapy field. This led to a number of media interviews where I had the chance to articulate my concerns as a mental health professional for this threat to our democracy.

(Doherty, 2020, p. 483)

In the early months of Trump’s campaign, I was troubled by the slanderous comments Trump was offering up, particularly his attacks on Brown, Black, and/or foreign

people, but also by his mocking and criticism of all who disagreed with him and his gratuitous misrepresentation of facts. I started blogs and Facebook discussion groups that sought to defend against my fears with humor.... I also wrote about characteristics of Trump’s behavior and spoke of my duty as a psychoanalyst to warn others.... [S]everal dozen internet death threats... were sent to me in response to my writings about Trump.

(Covitz, 2020, pp. 499–500)

Perplexed by the apparent oblivion of the media, pundits, and experts to the dangers in store for us, I started writing about my concerns in my personal blog.... I decided to contact [Frederick] Burkle to tell him how much I appreciated his articles and to share with him my reflections. Thus began our ongoing conversation and collaborative effort to alert the media, along with various political and public figures, about the dangers of Trump’s upcoming presidency. We sent out countless letters to editors and used any means available to us to bring wider attention to what we considered the most vital issue of our time. Unfortunately, no one seemed interested in the subject.... We are witnessing firsthand how vulnerable our institutions are to a takeover by *pathocracy* led by a character-deficient leader and aided by his always-eager sycophants. The processes that we usually watch from afar in other places on earth are now taking place on our own soil. As a large segment of our citizenry continues to believe that ‘it can’t happen here’, it is happening in front of our unseeing eyes.... Speaking the truth, which involves naming what we see and sense, is an act of courage that heals and transforms us, opening a path for growth and change. Our challenges call for transformation. Now is the time.

(Mika, 2020, pp. 528, 530)

And the co-editors of this special issue

poignantly summed things up with the following statement:

Most of those who chose to speak up became activists with a sense of obligation, given the very obvious risks to the country and our professional humanitarian responsibility to help protect society. Indeed, at no other time in U.S. history have such a large number of mental health professionals come forth to warn of a president, of any party, as we have with Donald J. Trump. These mental health professionals felt a duty to warn by addressing a clear and imminent public health crisis: A mentally unfit person in charge of the world's most powerful military and its nuclear weapons.... In early October 2019, concerned that Trump's behavior would deteriorate after the announcement of an impeachment inquiry, Dr. Lee and Dr. Stephen Soldz drafted an 'Urgent Letter to Congress', which more than 250 mental health professionals co-signed. In early December 2019, as impeachment hearings were about to begin, Dr. Lee, Dr. John Zinner, and Dr. Jerrold Post composed a letter, accompanied by a petition from over 800 mental health professionals, to the U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee. They asked that a statement on the president's dangerousness be included in the official record of the impeachment proceedings. The letter warned: 'Failing to monitor or to understand the psychological aspects [of impeachment on Mr. Trump], or discounting them, could lead to catastrophic outcomes.'

One month after the letter, Trump ordered the assassination of the top Iranian major general, without alerting our European allies, in a move that stunned even Pentagon officials.... The current era has led many to question their beliefs and morals. Millions have chosen the path of new or renewed activism. By

empowering many who may have previously felt disempowered, an invigorated ethos of activism may be the beacon necessary to lead us out of this Dark age.

(West et al., 2020, 549–51)

Conclusion

It is painfully clear that the United States is currently in a devastating crisis from a deadly combination of two major destructive forces: the presidency of Donald Trump and the coronavirus pandemic. However, I find it encouraging that Humanistic Psychology, under the guidance of the *Journal of Humanistic Psychology*, is now spearheading humanistic psychologists making their voices heard about this deadly combination.^{16,17} I am grateful to have been able to take part in making my own voice heard in this regard, both in my *Journal of Humanistic Psychology* article (Benjamin, 2020a) and in this present article for the Association for Humanistic Psychology (Britain) website,¹⁸ to follow in the footsteps of Carl Rogers in his extension of the personal to the political, as the United States is facing a 'life and death crisis'.

It is my hope that more humanistic psychologists make their voices heard in an 'invigorated ethos of activism', as I believe that the expression of personal authenticity and empathy needs to be forcefully translated into the removal of a US president who during a deadly pandemic, in all his actions and non-actions, embodies the complete antithesis of everything that Humanistic Psychology stands for.

July 2020

Notes

- 1 See *Journal of Humanistic Psychology*, 60 (4), July, 2020: Special Issue: ‘Addressing the Elephant in the Room: Stories of Ethical Activism in the Age of Trump’; and *Journal of Humanistic Psychology*: Special Issue: ‘Turbulent Times in the Trump Era: Inside and Outside the Consulting Room’; Editors’ note available at <https://doi.org/10.1177/00221678209117772> (accessed July 2020).
- 2 See the *Journal of Humanistic Psychology* article submission website at <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/johp>.
- 3 See the references in Benjamin, 2020a, 2020c, and 2020d.
- 4 See note 1.
- 5 See Benjamin, 2018a, 2018b, 2018/2019, 2019, 2020a, 2020b, 2020c, and 2020d.
- 6 See note 3.
- 7 See note 4.
- 8 See note 1.
- 9 See note 1.
- 10 See note 4.
- 11 See Benjamin, 2011, 2018a, 2018b, 2018/2019, 2019, 2020a, 2020b, and 2020d.
- 12 See Benjamin, 2018/2019, 2019, and 2020d.
- 13 See Benjamin, 2018a, 2018b, 2018/2019, 2019, 2020a, 2020b, and 2020d.
- 14 See note 13.
- 15 See note 1.
- 16 See note 1.
- 17 See note 2.
- 18 See <https://ahpb.org>.

References

- ABC7 (2020). WATCH: 2020 ‘Salute to America’ features speech by President Trump, flyovers and fireworks; available from <https://wjla.com/news/local/trumps-salute-to-america-features-fireworks-flyover-white-house-event-closed-to-public> (accessed July 2020).
- Benjamin, E. (2011). Humanistic psychology and the mental health worker. *Journal of Humanistic Psychology*, 51(1): 82–111.
- Benjamin, E. (2018a). Building progressive bridges, resisting Trump, and humanistic psychology: Part 1. *Pinnacle Psychology*, 5(2): 1299–305.
- Benjamin, E. (2018b). Building progressive bridges, resisting Trump, and humanistic psychology: Part 2. *Pinnacle Psychology*, 5(2), 1318–324.
- Benjamin, E. (2018/2019). The merging of Humanistic Psychology and progressive politics with an application to the leadership and dangerous rhetoric of President Donald Trump: Part 1. *AHPB Magazine for Self & Society*, 2: 5–12; available from <https://tinyurl.com/y3fa396c> (accessed July 2020).
- Benjamin, E. (2019). The merging of Humanistic Psychology and progressive politics with an application to the leadership and dangerous rhetoric of President Donald Trump: Part 2. *AHPB Magazine for Self & Society*, 3; available from <https://tinyurl.com/ycdmlkb> (accessed July 2020).
- Benjamin, E. (2020a). Progressive politics and humanistic psychology in the Trump/Coronavirus era. *Journal of Humanistic Psychology*; available from <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0022167820934226> (accessed July 2020)
- Benjamin, E. (2020b). Humanistic dialogue between the US and the UK: Change the rhetoric! *AHPB Magazine for Self & Society*, 5; available from <https://tinyurl.com/y5nsqqjh> (accessed July 2020).
- Benjamin, E. (2020c). Social media addiction, cult indoctrination, and the coronavirus pandemic; all in relation to the Trump presidency. *Open Access Journal of Addiction and Psychology*, 4(1); DOI: 10.33552/OA/AP.2020.04.000577.
- Benjamin, E. (2020d). Trump, the coronavirus pandemic, Asian American xenophobia, and humanistic psychology (manuscript submitted for publication).
- Covitz, H.H. (2020). Living with shattered dreams: a confession and a hypothesis. *Journal of Humanistic Psychology*, 60(4): 494–502.
- Croft, J. (2020). The US sees a record number of new coronavirus cases in a single day; available from <https://www.kten.com/story/42287553/the-3-most-populous-states-are-breaking-coronavirus-records-leading-to-fears-of-apocalyptic-surges> (accessed July 2020).
- Doherty, W.J. (2020). My journey as a citizen therapist. *Journal of Humanistic*

- Psychology*, 60(4): 477–87.
- Foran, C. & Ehrlich, J. (2020). Fauci warns Congress that new US coronavirus cases could rise to 100,000 a day; available from https://www.azfamily.com/news/us_world_news/fauci-warns-congress-that-new-us-coronavirus-cases-could-rise-to-100-000-a-day/article_2056ee79-66ed-53c9-982d-692a0e028344.html (accessed July 2020).
- Glass, L.L, Fisher, E.B., & Lee, B.X. (2020). How we each emerged from isolation, found each other, and a common voice. *Journal of Humanistic Psychology*, 60(4): 463–76.
- Groves, S. & Superville, D. (2020). President Trump pushes racial division, flouts coronavirus rules at Mt. Rushmore speech; available from <https://apnews.com/e4725ee4f6c777273a4b5dc83ab57823> (accessed 2020).
- Hunter (2020a). Large majority of county voters say Trump’s nominating convention will be a virus-spreading event; available from <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2020/6/24/1955674/-Large-majority-of-county-voters-say-Trump-s-nominating-convention-will-be-a-virus-spreading-event> (accessed July 2020).
- Hunter (2020b). No masks or social distancing to be required at Trump’s Mt. Rushmore fireworks and virus spectacular; available from <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2020/6/30/1957243/-No-masks-or-social-distancing-to-be-required-at-Trump-s-Mt-Rushmore-fireworks-and-virus-spectacular> (accessed July 2020).
- Jackson, D. (2020). Trump will return to rallying, starting with a Juneteenth event in Tulsa, site of horrific attack on African Americans; available from <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/donald-trump-to-host-rallies-in-florida-oklahoma-arizona-north-carolina/ar-BB15jc7S> (accessed July 2020).
- Johnson, B. (2020). Trump re-election strategy: Foment violence against protestors; available from <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2020/07/04/1958173/-Trump-re-election-strategy:-Foment-violence-against-protestors> (accessed July 2020).
- Lee, B. (ed.) (2017). *The Dangerous Case of Donald Trump: 27 Psychiatrists and Mental Health Experts Assess a President*. Basingstoke: Macmillan.
- Lee, B. (ed.). (2019). *The Dangerous Case of Donald Trump: 37 Psychiatrists and Mental Health Experts Assess a President*. New York: St Martin’s Press.
- Mags, M. (2020). Arizona congressman at Trump’s death rally says “pandemic is waning” as state sets five new records; available from <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2020/6/24/1955502/-Arizona-Congressman-at-Trump-s-death-rally-says-pandemic-is-waning-as-state-sets-five-new-records> (accessed July 2020).
- Mika, E. (2020). The time is now. *Journal of Humanistic Psychology*, 60(4): 525–31.
- Pennyfarthing, A.J. (2020). Trump will resume MAGA rallies ‘in the next two weeks’; available from <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2020/6/8/1951624/-Trump-rallies-will-resume-until-morale-improves-or-MAGAs-start-dropping-like-flies> (accessed July 2020).
- Reeves, C. (2020). Trump knows he is losing, and he’s prepared to tear the nation apart when it happens; available from <https://dailysoundandfury.com/trump-knows-he-is-losing-and-hes-prepared-to-tear-the-nation-apart-when-it-happens/> (accessed July 2020).
- Rogers, C.R. (1961). *On Becoming a Person*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
- Rogers, C.R. (1986). Some social issues which concerns me. In R. May, C. Rogers, A. Maslow & others, *Politics and Innocence: A Humanistic Debate* (pp. 23–32). New York: Saybrook Publishers.
- Samuels, B. (2020). GOP moves main 2020 convention events, including Trump speech, to Jacksonville; available from <https://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/502394-gop-moves-main-2020-convention-events-to-jacksonville> (accessed July 2020).
- Sprunt, B. (2020). After disappointing Tulsa rally, Trump touts border wall in Arizona trip; available from <https://www.kpbs.org/news/2020/jun/23/after-disappointing-tulsa-rally-trump-campaign/> (accessed July 2020).
- Sumner, M. (2020a). What happened with COVID-19 in NY was a tragedy, what’s happening in TX, AZ, and FL is a crime; available from <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2020/6/23/1955234/-What-happened-with-COVID-19-in-NY-was-a-tragedy-what-s-happening->
-

[in-TX-AZ-and-FL-is-a-crime](#) (accessed July 2020).

Sumner, M. (2020b). A ‘red tide’ of cases in Republican states isn’t just slowing pandemic recovery, it’s reversing it; available from <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2020/6/20/1954606/-A-red-tide-of-cases-in-Republican-states-isn-t-just-slowing-pandemic-recovery-it-s-reversing-it> (accessed July 2020).

Sumner, M. (2020c). Donald Trump confirms that he tried to slow down testing for COVID-19; available from <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2020/6/23/1955318/-Donald-Trump-confirms-that-he-tried-to-slow-down-testing-for-COVID-19> (accessed July 2020).

Sumner, M. (2020d). The CDC surrenders; COVID-19 spreading too rapidly to be brought under control; available from <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2020/6/30/1957125/-The-CDC-surrenders-COVID-19-spreading-too-rapidly-to-be-brought-under-control> (accessed July 2020).

Treisman, R. (2020a). Texas sets state record with more than 10,000 new coronavirus cases reported Tuesday; available from <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/07/07/888755062/texas-sets-state-record-with-more-than-10-000-new-coronavirus-cases-reported-tue> (accessed July, 2020)

Treisman, R. (2020b). Florida smashes U.S. state record of daily new cases: More than 15,200; available from <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/07/12/890216415/florida-smashes-u-s-state-record-of-daily-new-cases-more-than-15-200> (accessed July, 2020)

Wardell, J. (2020). California coronavirus cases surge more than 10,000 in single day; available from <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-california-cases/california-coronavirus-cases-surge-more-than-10000-in-single-day-idUSKBN24902S> (accessed July, 2020)

West, H. (2020). In praise of indignation. *Journal of Humanistic Psychology*, 60 (4): 532–47.

West, H., Wruble, S., & Lee, B.X. (2020). Epilogue. *Journal of Humanistic Psychology*, 60 (4): 548–52.

About the contributor



Elliot Benjamin has a Ph.D. in mathematics, a Ph.D. in psychology with a concentration in Consciousness and Spirituality, is currently a psychology mentor/Ph.D. committee chair at Capella University (www.capella.edu), and was previously a mathematics professor for 21 years. He has published four books and approaching 200 articles in the fields of humanistic and transpersonal psychology, philosophy/spirituality and awareness of cult dangers, parapsychology, the creative artist

and mental disturbance, progressive politics, pure mathematics, and mathematics enrichment. Elliot lives in Maine, is married, enjoys playing the piano, tennis, and ballroom dancing, and has an author's website that can be viewed at www.benjamin-philosopher.com.