

Keynote Lecture:

Beyond the Classroom: Academic Responsibility in Times of Mass Trauma

Mass trauma has been described as a blow to tissues of social life that damages the bonds linking people together. In its wake, individuals may become disconnected, unable to access support systems. As Herman (1997) succinctly put it: “Trauma isolates” (p. 214).

What, then, is the role of academia during and after mass trauma? How can we, as lecturers and educators, help rebuild connection and foster resilience within academic communities? This keynote will explore these questions and propose trauma-informed approaches that position higher education as a potential site for healing, meaning-making, and the restoration of human interdependence. Practical implications will also be discussed.