

**SOCIAL SCIENCE METHODS FOR
PSYCHODYNAMIC INQUIRY**

The Unconscious on the World Scene

WILLIAM R. MEYERS



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The Unconscious on the World Scene

William R. Meyers

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William R. Meyers is Professor Emeritus in Psychology at the University of Cincinnati, USA. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard University, was on the faculty of M.I.T and Harvard, and served as the Director of Research for the Peace Corps.

About the book

This book explains, with case examples, a variety of social science research methods suitable for studying the unconscious components of irrational social and political actions in world affairs, which can be defined as those that are intensely destructive, self-destructive, or extremely bizarre. The book argues that they are driven in part by feelings and fantasies that are outside of conscious awareness. Meyers explores the role of empathy in clinical understanding, as well as the value of exposing assertions to empirical disconfirmation. With a variety of research methods such as survey research, content analysis, and narrative analysis, and case examples such as studies of 'irreal' statements by authoritarian leaders, fabricated newspaper articles and climate change denial, this book sheds light on how to conduct research on psychodynamic matters in a scientifically valid and credible way.

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