



# Call for Abstracts

## *Special Issue: Collapse Psychology*

### *Journal of Humanistic Psychology*

The collective of humanity feels the verge of societal collapse, trying desperately to understand and plan so that we can survive with our values intact. Fear has a way of separating us, creating stifling polarization amongst the masses. Yet, there are no sides in the collapse, our shared humanity ensures that truth. When disaster occurs, we all clamor for food and water and one another. In the Anthropocene era, humans inflict violence on themselves. The collective soul aches as we watch children starve in areas of war, families displaced by failing refugee and immigration policies, rising wealth inequity favoring an elite class, rampant authoritarianism, accelerating climate crisis, social polarization, and intentional blocks to scientific inquiry on these topics. The International Rescue Committee (2024, p. 3) reports a consistent rise in humanitarian crises, noting four primary imbalances:

1. More conflict, less diplomacy
2. More attacks on civilians, less consequences
3. More carbon emissions, less support for people suffering from the climate crisis
4. More wealth accumulation, less poverty alleviation

Disinformation and political strife ensure that these imbalances remain unaddressed. As fear, grief, and helplessness rise in the face of societal collapse, there is a vital need for psychological perspectives that center human dignity, relational depth, and meaning-making. This special issue invites contributions that explore the impending collapse through the lens of humanistic psychology.

#### **Potential topics include:**

- Existential-humanistic perspectives on:
  - genocide, displacement, authoritarianism, loss of body agency
  - ecological resource collapse, climate grief, resource scarcity, deep poverty,
  - impending dystopia, intergenerational experiences of futurelessness
  - re-localization movements, solidarity economies, post-hope activism
- How can narratives of collapse acknowledge historical traumas and be informed by the wisdom of those already impacted?

- How should we be preparing for societal collapse? What roles will be important? How might we reimagine the role of the humanistic psychologist?
- Which clinical interventions support individuals preparing for societal collapse or currently impacted by societal disintegration?
- How might psychologists be integral in shaping resilient, compassionate, ethical responses to systemic breakdown?
- What does humanistic praxis look like in the face of authoritarianism, technological dehumanization, or epistemological warfare? How do humanistic values offer a compass in global crisis?

We welcome abstracts for original theoretical papers, empirical research, autoethnographies, and creative or interdisciplinary approaches that engage with the humanistic tradition in psychology. Submissions from scholars, practitioners, activists, and those with lived experience are especially encouraged.

### **Submission Guidelines:**

- Abstracts should be 250–300 words.
- Include a short bio (100 words) with institutional affiliation (if applicable).
- Deadline for abstract submissions: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- Full papers (upon invitation) will be due: October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- Send abstracts and inquiries to Dr. Vanessa Brown ([vbrown5@saybrook.edu](mailto:vbrown5@saybrook.edu)) with subject line “Collapse Psychology Abstract”

### **Reference:**

International Rescue Committee. (2024). *2025 emergency watchlist at a glance: A world out of balance*. Retrieved 1 May 2025 from <https://www.rescue.org/report/glance-2025-emergency-watchlist>