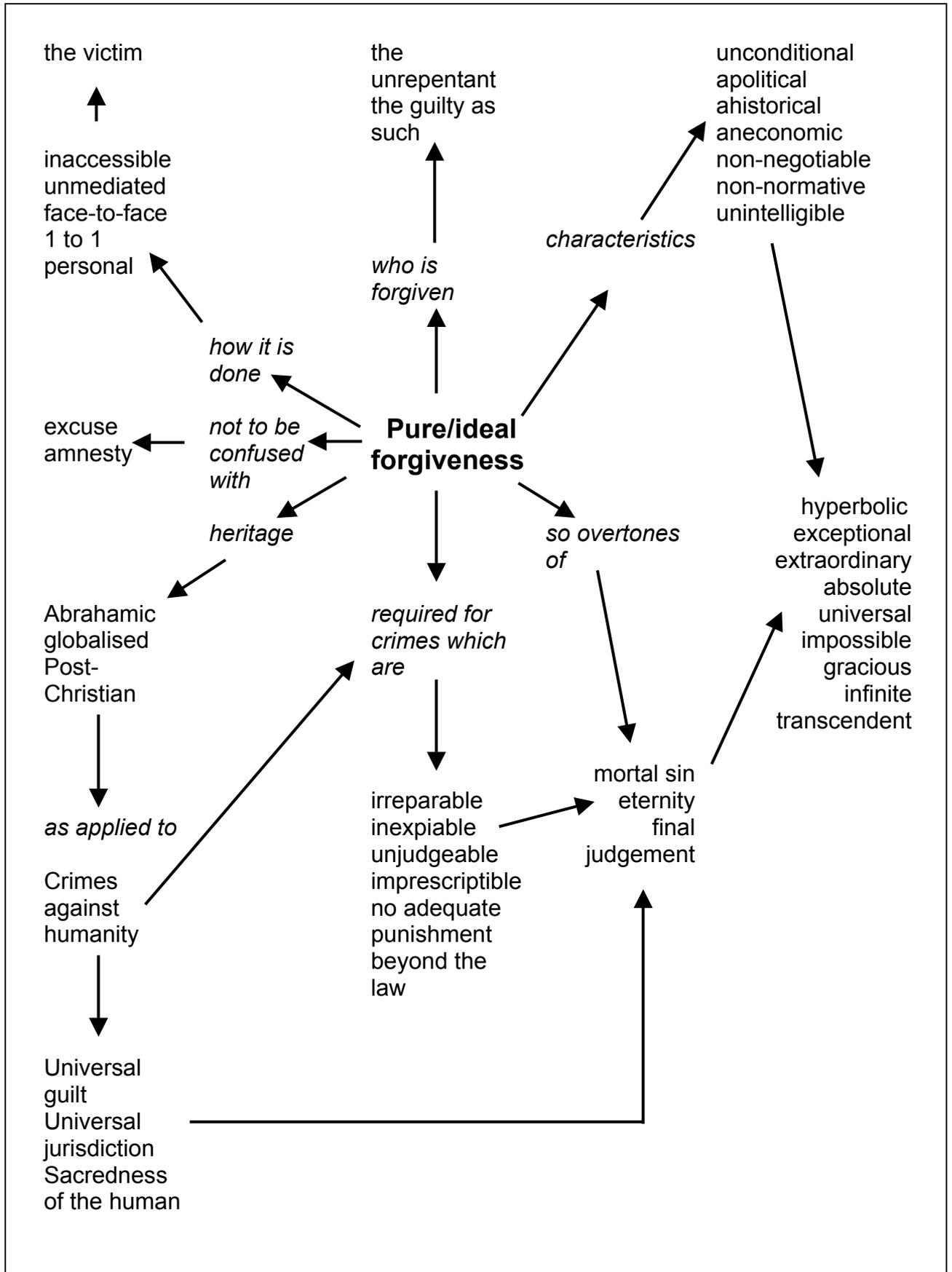
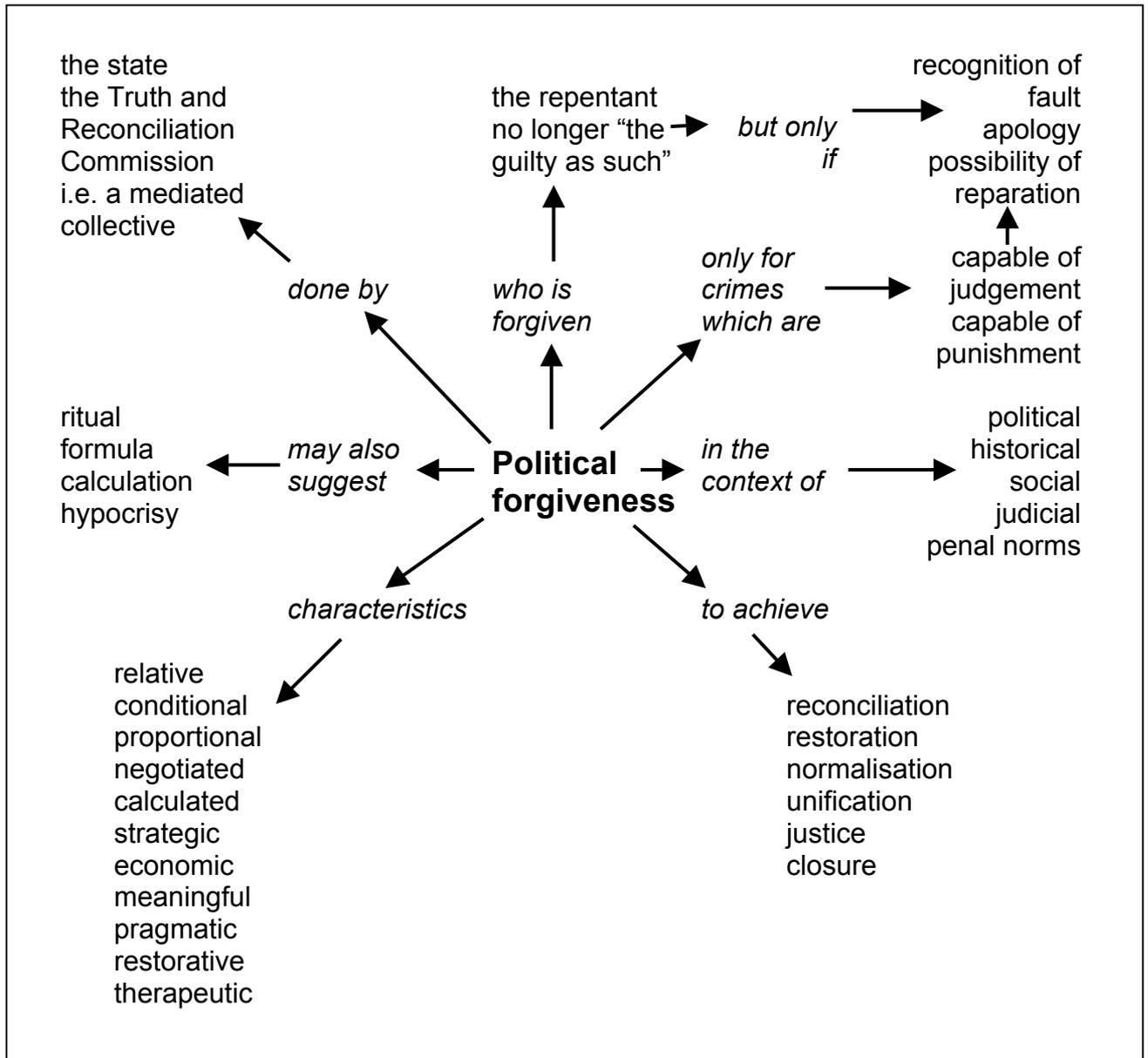


Sea of Faith Workshop  
 Patti Whaley  
 Derrida: Forgiveness





Some questions /assumptions:

- *forgiveness as a human act* : Derrida does not consider the possibility of forgiveness by God. The essay only looks at forgiveness on a human level.
- *symmetry of the wrong and the forgiveness*: An act which can be remedied should be remedied. An act which is so damaging that it cannot be remedied, can only be forgiven.
- *forgiving the person or the crime?* Derrida raises the question of whether we forgive the person or the crime, but doesn't answer it.
- *Forgiveness requires some shared language of right and wrong*
  - which implies some mutual understanding
  - which already implies some reconciliation
- *forgiveness requires some sovereignty (= ability to forgive)*
  - so how can wrongs be forgiven if the victim has been deprived of all sovereignty?

The core message:

- the unforgivable happens
- societies must be healed and move forward
- political forgiveness depends on and derives its meaning from pure forgiveness – “irreducible” , “irreconcilable but indissociable”
- responsible political action lies in negotiating the tension between the two