

ENGLISH SUMMARIES

STEPHEN FROSH: *Psychoanalysis in troubled times: Conformism or resistance?*

It is arguable that psychoanalysis has always lived with a split between a theory and practice that, potentially at least, is characterised by the possibility of radical critique and progressive politics, and yet can also be constrained and socially normative. The institutions of psychoanalysis have frequently embodied the normalising side of this split, often as a means to achieve professional and social respectability. In troubled political times, this has sometimes resulted in conformist institutional practices opposed by (small) groups of radical psychoanalysts. This talk looks at two examples of psychoanalysis in politically troubled times – its situation under the Nazis in Germany and during the period of the dictatorship in Brazil – to ask questions about psychoanalytic ethics.

Keywords: *psychoanalysis, politics, normativity, critique, dictatorships, Germany, Brazil*

PHILIP THOMAS: *Neoliberal governmentality, austerity, and psychopolitics*

Benefit claimants have been at the focal point of neoliberal economic policy under successive governments for nearly twenty-five years, but the banking crisis of 2008 reinvigorated government attempts to cut benefit spending. This has deepened divisions and inequalities in British society, as disabled people and those with mental health problems unable to work, are coerced by an increasingly authoritarian regime to seek low-paid work or unsuitable jobs based in zero hours contracts. One consequence of these developments is a resurgence of interest in the ideas of Peter Sedgwick, whose book *Psycho Politics*, published the year before his death in 1982 set out a Marxist critique of antipsychiatry, including the early work of Michel Foucault. Sedgwick also set out a critique of the consequences of neoliberalism for people with mental health problems. This paper outlines Sedgwick's main arguments, and argues that his early death meant that he was unaware of Foucault's later work on neoliberal governmentality. Taken together,

Sedgwick's and Foucault's work questions the underlying principles of neoliberalism. Of particular significance is a recent shift since the banking crisis of 2008 in the governmental function of psychology and psychotherapy from the *employed* to the *unemployed*. This is exemplified by the use of psychocompulsion, a set of theories and practices aimed at reducing the numbers of benefit claimants. Finally, the paper examines some of the difficulties in developing alliances between mad people and others opposed to benefit cuts. It ends with a brief account of the resistance to neoliberal austerity by the radical mental health survivor group, Recovery in the Bin.

Keywords: *neoliberalism, austerity, psychopolitics, governmentality, recovery*

JUDIT SZEKACS-WEISZ: Unto the third generation

The last years have seen an alarming change in the political and socio-cultural climate conjuring up a novel sense of insecurity, fear, frustration and rage. In many countries – in Hungary with an especially malignant force – the curious phenomenon of a return of “the ghost of the original trauma” shocks and startles ordinary people and social scientists alike. As if linear time has been deleted; persecutory and traumatogenic contents are being replayed and experienced in their original version attacking the sense of reality and the ability to think for diverse generations. During the last decades one could see in real time how unelaborated cumulative trauma over generations creates a “time capsule” enveloping the mind and the experience of living in a post-totalitarian world. What is real? What is to be believed? What calls for scrutiny? How about action?! This constellation results in paralysis; against social and existential threats only a very small section of society can manage to preserve the capacity of thinking and reaction.

Keywords: *political and socio-cultural climate, cumulative trauma, generational transmission, post-totalitarian world, “time capsule”*

SIGMUND FREUD: ‘Civilized’ sexual morality and modern nervous illness

In his 1908 study (first published in Hungarian), Freud presents neuroses as the consequence of a restrictive state of cultural development and its ‘civilized morality’. He finds the inspiration for this idea by expanding upon previous formulations in this area by his predecessors (notably Christian von Ehrenfels) that focused on a cultural process earlier introduced by Kant, while also integrating in his analysis the principles of Haeckel's evolutionism which eventually re-defined the psychoanalytic theory of neuroses. He points out the repressing effects of monogamous marriage and sexual norms differently imposed on men and women.

Keywords: *civilization, neuroses, repression, sexuality, marriage*

JOHANNA HOPFENGÄRTNER: Notes for a biography of Béla Székely (1892–1955)

Despite his extensive journalistic and academic activity, the analyst, journalist and psychologist Béla Székely left very few data about his personal and professional life. The reconstruction of his biography seems a puzzle with pieces coming from different sources that more than once result contradictory. This paper gathers information available in Spanish, German and Hungarian in order to place future research on the life and work of this multifaceted figure upon a reliable historical background. The early years of his stay in Argentina (1938–1942) will be discussed in detail. It is a period in which the professional fate of Béla Székely is intertwined with crucial developments in the psychoanalytic and psychological fields in Argentina.

Keywords: *Béla Székely, Sigmund Freud Institute, history of psychoanalysis, psychology*

GYÖRGY PÉTER HÁRS: Stuffed cabbage and red flag (Contribution to the history of the first department of psychoanalysis)

My aim is to situate an article of Lajos Nagy celebrating the institution of the first department of psychoanalysis in the work and life of the author. First I study the role of Sándor Ferenczi in the writings and life of Lajos Nagy. Then the relation of Lajos Nagy to psychoanalysis and psychoanalysts is examined as a second context. The third context is the viewpoint of his articles discussing or touching upon psychoanalysis before and after 1919.

Keywords: *Lajos Nagy, Ferenczi, psychoanalysis, Stekelians, Commune, socialism*

FERENC ERŐS: Forward on the Lacanian road

In his review on Slavoj Žižek's new book *Against the Double Blackmail. Refugees, Terror and Other Troubles with Neighbours*. (London: Allen Lane, 2016) the author discusses Žižek's analysis of the present day refugee crisis in Europe, and his ideas about the contradictions of the system of global capitalism as the primary source of the crisis. Contemporary world is divided by the opposition of the "Included" and the "Excluded". The radical emancipation of the "Excluded" can be brought only by a revolution which, however, lacks an agent. The review shows how Žižek combines the concepts of Lacan's psychoanalysis with a leftist political philosophy which concludes to the classical question once put by Lenin: "What is to be done?"

Keywords: *Slavoj Žižek, refugee crisis, Europe, terrorism, global capitalism, Jacques Lacan*

BALINT TAKÁCS: The politics of the unconscious, or the critics of libidinal economy

A review on Slovenian philosopher Samo Tomšič's book, *The Capitalist Unconscious: Marx and Lacan*, which explores the post-1968 seminars of Lacan inspired by Marx. The

book is a thorough and inspiring philosophical work, providing the first systematic comparison of the thought of Marx and Lacan.

Keywords: *Lacan, Marx, capitalism, economy, unconscious*

KORNÉL ZIPERNOVSZKY: The modern Mahler and the uncanny

A review on Lóránt Péteri's book, *Mahler, a scherzo és a „kísérteties”* (Mahler, the Scherzo, and the “Uncanny”. Budapest: Rózsavölgyi, 2015). Musicologist Lóránt Péteri, in an excellent volume examining the Scherzo of Mahler's 2nd Symphony under the microscope and in context, considers the relevance of the notion of the uncanny, which was famously discussed by Freud, in the wake of Jentsch. Modernity emerges from the thoroughly researched and meticulously arguing book as the central idea to which the composer and his movement redefining the 'scherzo' tradition and the fin-du-siècle sense of the 'unheimlich' relate in a significant way.

Keywords: *Gustav Mahler, 2nd Symphony, scherzo, Sigmund Freud, uncanny, modernity, Lóránt Péteri*