

Call for Papers:

**Sigmund Freud as a Critical Social Theorist:  
Psychoanalysis and the Neurotic in Contemporary Society**

Edited by Dustin J. Byrd, Ph.D., and Seyed Javad Miri, Ph.D.

Sigmund Freud's work has influenced the modern world in many profound ways. The "father of psychoanalysis," Freud wrote numerous books and articles wherein his psychoanalytic perspectives were applied to history, society, religion, and other cultural phenomenon. Expanding his psychoanalytic theories into these realms, especially in his books *Totem and Taboo*, *The Future of an Illusion*, *Moses and Monotheism*, and *Civilization and its Discontents*, Freud insured his place within the disciplines of philosophy, sociology, history, theology, and religious studies, wherein his works are still studied. More specifically, his psychoanalytic theories were adopted, revised, and expanded upon by philosophers and sociologists, such as Theodor W. Adorno, Erich Fromm, Herbert Marcuse, Jürgen Habermas, Jacques Derrida, Julia Kristeva, Gilles Deleuze, Judith Butler, Slavoj Žižek, and many others, who in some cases radicalized the latent political content within Freud's thought, using it to critique modern industrialized capitalism and theorize about the possibility for alternative forms of societies more conducive towards mental health. Conversely, Freud's insights into the unconscious mind were appropriated by states to solidify control of the masses, as well as multi-national corporations, which used his libido theory in public relations, advertising, and marketing to manipulate consumers into buying products, not because of authentic needs, but because such products delivered to the consumer a sense of worth – thus psychologically wedding capitalist consumption to individual identity. Edward Bernays, Freud's own nephew, is most responsible for this application and/or distortion of Freud's work.

Since Freud's death in 1939, we have witnessed the appropriation of psychoanalysis by social movements attempting to liberate humanity from its historical maladies and its civilizational neuroses, as well as other forces that attempt to chain humanity to those same maladies and neuroses. It is clear that once psychoanalysis opened the unconscious mind to examination, it was also opened to manipulation. Thus, Freud's legacy regarding the furthering humanity's capacity for reason and the mental health of global society has been mixed.

Although Freud is often marginalized, or even denigrated, by later psychologists, we think there are elements still within the corpus of Freud's work that are valuable for both diagnosing social problems and addressing those problems psychoanalytically. As such, the goal of this project is to revisit Freud as a critical social theorist. The project seeks to reexamine Freud's core psychoanalytic theories, the relevancy of psychoanalysis, and the legacy of his work, by asking the following questions: "what within Freud's work remain relevant to today's society?" "How can Freud's ideas be enlisted into liberation struggles around the world, or is psychoanalysis hopelessly conservative?" "Can Freud help us escape the dialectic of Enlightenment, wherein autonomous reason ossifies into mythology and pathologized into a new iron cage?" "Can psychoanalysis play a role in the decolonization of the modern mind?" "Has Freud's critique of religion withstood the test of time, or must it now be revised in light of the post-secularism condition?" Lastly, "how can Freud continue to influence philosophy, sociology, history, cultural studies, and other academic disciplines, on a global scale?" With these questions in mind, it is our goal to rethink Freud and psychoanalysis from a *contemporary theoretical perspective*, wherein we bring Freud and psychoanalysis into conversation in modern philosophy, sociology, theology, history, and religious studies.

**Suggested topics (but not limited to):**

- Freud and Dialectical Logic

- Freud and Decolonization Theory
- Freud and Contemporary Political Theory
- Freud and the Critique of Religion
- Religion's Critique of Freud
- Sociology of Freud and Psychology of Marx
- Freud and the Frankfurt School
- Psychoanalysis as Ideology Critique
- Politically mobilizing Freud's Theories
- Freud and Fascism
- Freud and Capitalism
- Freud and the Critique of Consumer Culture
- Freud and Liberation Theology
- Freud and the Muslim World
- Reconceptualizing Freud's theories
- Decolonizing Freud's Psychoanalysis
- Psychoanalysis and Populism
- Freud and Zionism
- Freud and Judaism
- Freud and the Death Drive
- Freud on War and Peace
- Conservative appropriation of Freud
- Critique of Freud's Conservatism
- Freud and Class Struggle
- Freud and Racial Oppression
- Freud and Feminist Thought
- Indigenizing Freud
- Freud and Education
- Freud and Narcissism
- Freud and Civilizational Change
- Freud and 19<sup>th</sup> century German Philosophers
- Suppression of Freudian thought
- Neo-Freudian Critiques of Freud
- Freud and Ali Shariati

**DUE DATES:**

- Chapter proposals due date: **August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**
- Decision on Chapters: **October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**
- Chapter submission due date: **June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022**

**Writing Parameters:**

- American English
- Chicago Manual of Style: footnotes citations with bibliography.
- 6,000 words minimum; 10,000 words maximum.

**Submissions:**

Please send your abstracts to the following editors:

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