



ACADEMIC PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS FOR ACADEMICS, SCHOLARS AND EDUCATORS

THE PETER LOEWENBERG ESSAY PRIZE IN PSYCHOANALYSIS AND CULTURE

Thursday, January 29, 2026, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

The Peter Loewenberg Essay Prize is awarded to a paper demonstrating outstanding psychoanalytically informed research and scholarship in the arts, humanities, or social and behavioral sciences. The recipient, as well as details about the paper to be delivered, will be announced in the final program. The Undergraduate Essay Prize and Book Prize of the American Psychoanalytic Association will also be presented during this session.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION SPONSORED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP:

MAKING MEANING, MAKING CONTACT: PUBLIC-FACING COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES AND SKILLS FOR PSYCHOANALYSIS

Thursday, January 29, 2026, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Psychoanalysis—and APsA—are in a moment of identity crisis. As the field evolves, so must the ways in which communication and its value both internally and publicly. This workshop supports APsA committee heads in developing cohesive messaging, visual marketing, and engagement strategies for their initiatives. It will also foster collaboration and open lines of communication between committees by exploring shared opportunities for dissemination. With the rise of social media, podcasts, and other new platforms, psychoanalysts and psychotherapists have more ways than ever to engage the public—yet tensions around visibility and privacy persist. This gathering offers practical tools and a reflective space for those who wish to advocate for psychoanalysis while navigating the complexities of representing themselves and their work beyond the consulting room.

ARTIST/SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

Thursday, January 29, 2026, 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Carolyn Laubender, Associate Professor in Psychosocial and Psychoanalytic Studies at the University of Essex, is Associate Editor of *Psychoanalysis and History* and winner of the 2025 Book Prize of the American Psychoanalytic Association for *The Political Clinic: Psychoanalysis and Social Change in the Twentieth Century*. Her talk, *The Political Clinic: Psychoanalysis and Social Justice*, will be discussed by psychoanalyst Francisco Gonzalez, M.D., with a period of questions from the audience to follow. This session is intended for all conference attendees, including clinicians and academics. Professor Laubender's book speaks to crucial issues in psychoanalysis today regarding the place of politics in the clinic and in clinical work, with a focus on both well-known European analysts of the twentieth century, and early practitioners across the Global South.

COMMITTEE SPONSORED WORKSHOP #5:

CLASSROOM TEACHING

Friday, January 30, 2026, 11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

In recent years, a number of psychoanalytic institutes are combining cohorts of psychotherapy trainees and psychoanalytic candidates into single classes. This helps reduce teaching demands on faculty, while also providing a wider range of students with exposure to foundational concepts in psychoanalysis and creating a larger incoming student community. However, it can also cause problems for teachers as they may be teaching to classes with a wide variance in their familiarity with psychoanalytic theory and clinical experience. Students may also perceive that some faculty show a strong preference for one form of treatment over the other and teach to only one half of the group. This workshop will address how to recognize and respond to such problems through group discussion of class vignettes.

UNIVERSITY FORUM

DISCONTENT AND ITS CIVILIZATIONS: A PHILOSOPHER, SOCIOLOGIST, AND PSYCHOANALYST DISCUSS THE TENUOUS SOCIAL BOND

Friday, January 30, 2026, 2:00 - 4:00 PM

In *Discontent and its Civilizations*, British-Pakistani writer Mohsin Hamid explores the frictions and frustrations of daily life in Lahore, London and New York after September 11th. A philosopher, sociologist, and psychoanalyst address the issues Hamid highlights: how does one develop and maintain social connections and what happens to us when they break down. Brooke Holmes, Susan Dod Brown Professor of Classics, Princeton, explores classical and contemporary ideas about sympathy as intersubjective. Eric Klinenberg, Helen Gould Shepard Professor in Social Science, NYU, discusses how social infrastructure supports individuals' well-being and impacts mutual connection. Ben Kafka, associate professor of clinical psychoanalysis (in psychiatry) at Columbia, discusses these ideas, integrating potential clinical ramifications, about the social dynamics that "drive us crazy."