

ACADEMIC PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

FOR ACADEMICS, SCHOLARS AND EDUCATORS

DISCUSSION GROUP 10:

SHAKESPEARE AND PSYCHOANALYSIS: TWELFTH NIGHT, OR WHAT YOU WILL

Tuesday, February 2, 2027, 2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Ever since Freud compared Hamlet to Oedipus Rex in The Interpretation of Dreams, literature has been the nutrient-rich mycelium for the magic mushroom of psychoanalysis. No author has been a more fecund source of inspiration than Shakespeare. We will launch our study of his works with Twelfth Night, the last and most complex of his romantic comedies, which explores many themes relevant to contemporary psychoanalysis—gender identity, social class, narcissism, imagination and reality, loss and mourning, and the myriad forms of human desire. We will pay close attention to the language of the play and consider its place in Shakespeare's artistic development. This session is designed for psychoanalysts, psychotherapists, candidates/trainees, and scholars interested in what happens when literature and psychoanalysis talk to one another.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION:

SPEAKING UP AND SPEAKING OUT: PUBLIC ADVOCACY FOR PSYCHOANALYSIS

Wednesday, February 3, 2027, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

This session will feature the Honorable Patrick Kennedy, former Rhode Island Congressperson, lead supporter of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, co-author of A Common Struggle: A Personal Journey Through the Past and Future of Mental Illness and Addiction (Blue Rider Press, 2016), and advocate for mental health, including psychodynamic treatments. APsA member Dr. Gail Saltz will interview Mr. Kennedy about his experiences as a patient, advocate, and political figure. The discussion will explore the issues associated with speaking up and speaking out as a public figure, and the impact public discourse can have on the field. This session invites attendees to explore the conflicts, challenges, and benefits of public-facing work and bringing psychoanalysis and psychodynamic treatment into the wider world.

THE PETER LOEWENBERG ESSAY PRIZE IN PSYCHOANALYSIS AND CULTURE

Thursday, February 4, 2027, 8:30 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.

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.

ARTIST/SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE:

OUTSIDER. FREUD: A FILM BY YAIR QEDAR

Thursday, February 4, 2027, 4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

Yair Qedar's internationally prizewinning film is a journey into Freud's life and work in four acts. Combining animation, dreams, and insights from leading scholars and psychoanalysts, it explores Freud's experiences of marginalization in Vienna and reveals new dimensions of his legacy through an intimate lens. Among those appearing in the film are George Makari, Adam Phillips, Michael Molnar, Lisa Appignanesi, Eran Rolnik, Anat Tzur Mahalel, Christfried Tögel, and Daniela Finzi. A discussion with the audience will follow the screening.

UNIVERSITY FORUM:

SOCIAL MIRACLE OR SOCIAL CURSE? UNDERSTANDING THE APPEAL OF AUTHORITARIANISM

Friday, February 5, 2027, 11:00 P.M. - 1:00 PM

This session, designed for psychoanalysts, psychotherapists, scholars, candidates and trainees, examines the appeal of authoritarianism. Peter Gordon, Amabel B. James Professor of History at Harvard University, will explore Frankfurt School philosopher Theodor W. Adorno's argument that the authoritarian leader performs a "social miracle," appearing at once fragile and powerful, everyman and superman. Gary Gerstle, Paul Mellon Professor of American History, Emeritus, at the University of Cambridge, will discuss how citizens' loss of confidence in democratic institutions often precedes an authoritarian embrace. Kimberlyn Leary, psychoanalyst/psychotherapist, public policy scholar at the Harvard Kennedy School, and former Executive Vice President of the Urban Institute, will offer psychoanalytic reflections on both presentations and the current moment. It aims to help clinicians understand how political anxieties shape patients/clients and clinical work.