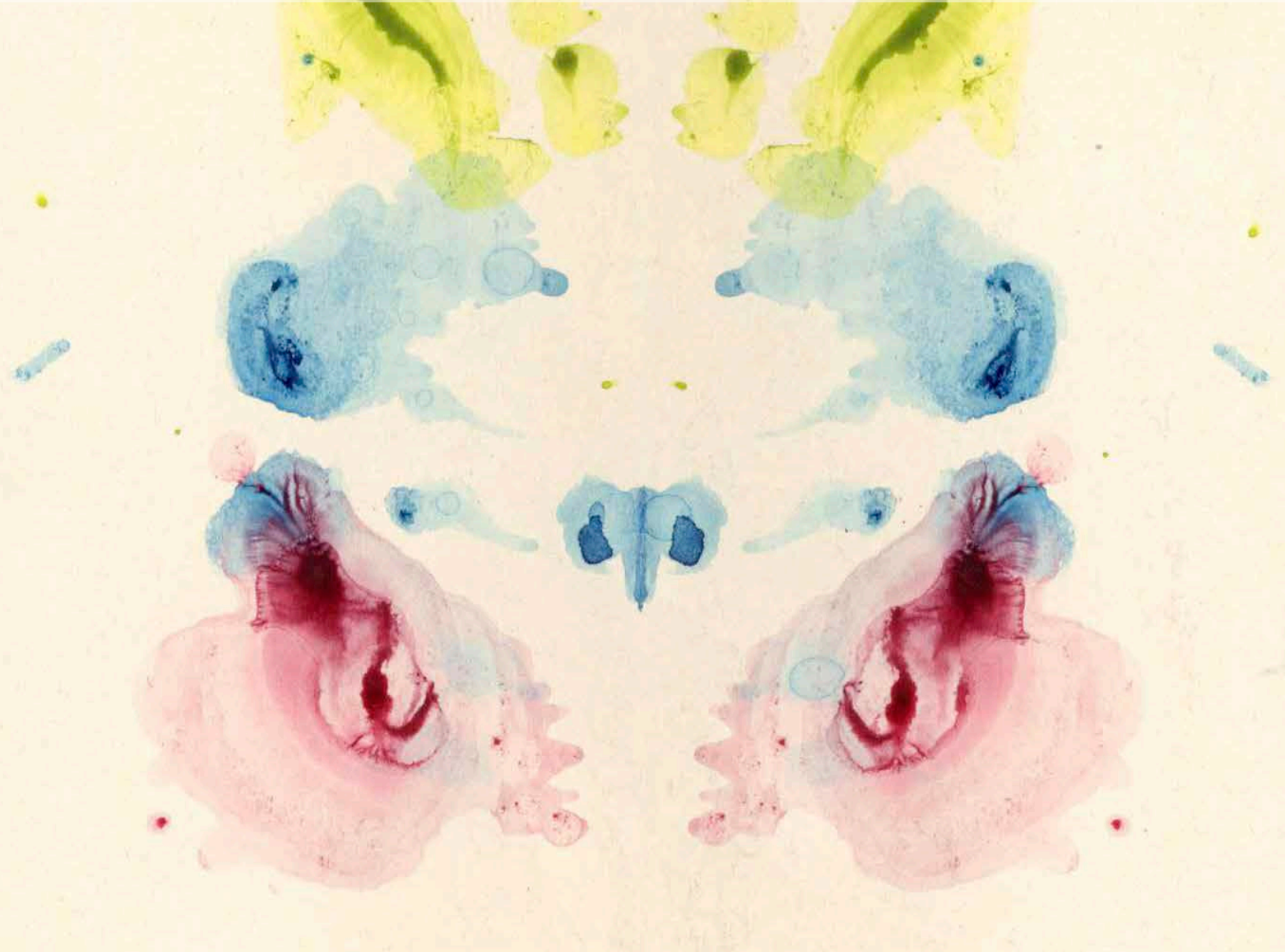




**Weill Cornell  
Medicine**

**DeWitt Wallace  
Institute of Psychiatry:  
History, Policy, and the Arts  
Annual Report 2021-2022**



## DeWitt Wallace Institute of Psychiatry: History, Policy, and the Arts

### Our Mission

- To support, carry out, and advise scholarship in a broad range of issues relevant to the present day theory and practice of psychiatry.
- To use in-depth studies of the past to enhance understanding of the many complex matters that surround contemporary thinking and practice regarding mental health and illness.
- To foster an open atmosphere drawing on a range of interdisciplinary perspectives addressing important questions in the field.
- To bridge studies of the past with the science of the future while connecting the domains of science and the humanities.

### Our Programs

- The world's longest-running research seminar devoted to the history of the field.
- Working groups on historical, artistic, and narrative practices surrounding the overlapping fields of psychiatry, psychology, and psychoanalysis.
- Forums and associated white papers addressing contemporary issues in mental health policy.

### The Oskar Diethelm Library

- Over 35,000 volumes in Latin, English, German, French, Italian, and more, dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> century to the present.
- Periodical holdings including long back runs of rare psychiatric journals.
- Manuscript collections and unpublished papers from numerous organizations and critically important individuals.
- Hospital and asylum reports of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### STAFF

George J. Makari, M.D.  
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Nathan Kravis, M.D.  
Associate Director

Orna Ophir, Ph.D., L.P.  
Associate Director

Nicole Topich, M.L.I.S.  
Special Collections Librarian

Shari Wolk, M.A.  
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## Table of Contents

Director's Report	1
Librarian's Report	4
Sponsor a Book	5
Exhibit on Nostalgia: The Rise and Fall of a Medical Diagnosis	7
Richardson History of Psychiatry Seminar Seminar Coordinator's Report	13
Issues in Mental Health Policy Seminar Coordinator's Report	15
Psychiatry and the Arts Seminar Coordinator's Report	17
Working Groups & Programs Psychoanalysis and the Humanities History of the Mind Sciences Psychiatry, Psychoanalysis, and Society Seminar in Narrative Psychiatry Benjamin Rush Scholars Program	19
Research Faculty & Alumni Staff & Affiliated Faculty Faculty News Research Faculty Publications	23
In Memoriam: Aaron Esman, M.D.	33
Friends of the DeWitt Wallace Institute	36

Report created by Shari Wolk  
for the DeWitt Wallace  
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Weill Cornell Medicine  
Department of Psychiatry  
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# Director's Report



What a year! The growth of the DeWitt Wallace Institute and its Oskar Diethelm Library has never been more apparent, in a time limited by the COVID-19 pandemic. Perusing the contents of this Annual Report, I veer between dizziness and pride in my colleagues, and the extraordinary efforts that were made to forward our understanding of mental health and illness, all in just the past academic year.

The Richardson seminars commenced their 59th year, an amazing act of longevity that reminds us that it is the only such forum in the nation focused exclusively on the past and present of the mind/brain/behavioral sciences.

Mid-year we were delighted to welcome a new seminar coordinator, the talented Shari Wolk, who did a masterful job of conducting these colloquia on Zoom. We hosted such fascinating speakers as Heather Love, Camille Robcis, and Robert Abzug. Our Carlson lecturer this year, appropriately for a Zoom Carlson, was the famed philosopher of consciousness David Chalmers, who argued for the possibilities of virtual reality to manage and even solve difficult conundrums. Megan Wolff brought in two speakers on Mental Health Policy, one on the climate crisis and another on the opioid epidemic. Siri Hustvedt led a workshop on narrative psychiatry for the residents, and the Working Groups purred along, thanks to their leaders, Katherine Dalsimer and Associate Directors, Nathan Kravis and Orna Ophir. The Rush Fellowship has thrived in the able hands of Nirav Soni, and finally, the job of conducting interviews in the Psychiatry and Arts series was shared by Anne Hoffman, Curt Hart, and me.

The Oskar Diethelm Library has flourished under the leadership of Nicole Topich. Nicole, who has become a national leader in her field, has managed to grow the library while managing preservation and public education. She has become a desired mentor for interns learning about library sciences, and has done wonders for the majestic Diethelm Library, putting more and more finding guides online and making the riches of this collection more easily available. Thanks to a National Endowment for the Arts grant, that work progressed greatly this year. In addition, Nicole and Jenny Cheng curated a show on the mysterious lost diagnosis of "nostalgia," the content of which is online and also reproduced in this Annual Report.

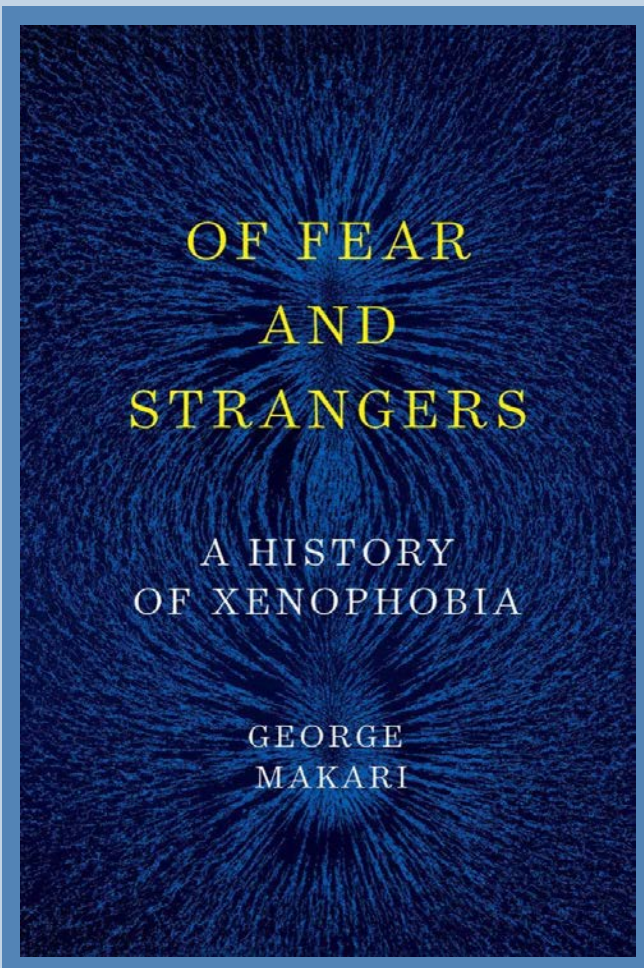
All of this growth was tempered by the loss of Aaron Esman, a longtime member and supporter. I was deeply saddened by this news, as were many Institute members, who were his friends, colleagues, and fellow travelers in the realms of the psy sciences and the arts, subjects to which the Esman Lecture is devoted. Ted Shapiro has written a touching memorial to Aaron in these pages.

When I think back to the modest reach the Institute had twenty years ago, I am deeply thankful to the department for its support, and the amazing people who volunteer their valuable time to further our mission. That has never been more transparent than in this past year where, thanks to the publication of my book on xenophobia, my docket was a bit full. During the academic year, I gave somewhere near fifty interviews and lectures (frankly, I've lost count), which I hope helped foster a deeper understanding of stranger hatred and fear. That also meant that I needed to rely on the Institute's team more than ever. My deep gratitude goes out to this warm, brilliant supportive intellectual community for the riches it has given me, and so many others. And to our supporters who donate to sustain our mission, thank you. Our work would be impossible without you.

George J. Makari, M.D.

# Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards\*

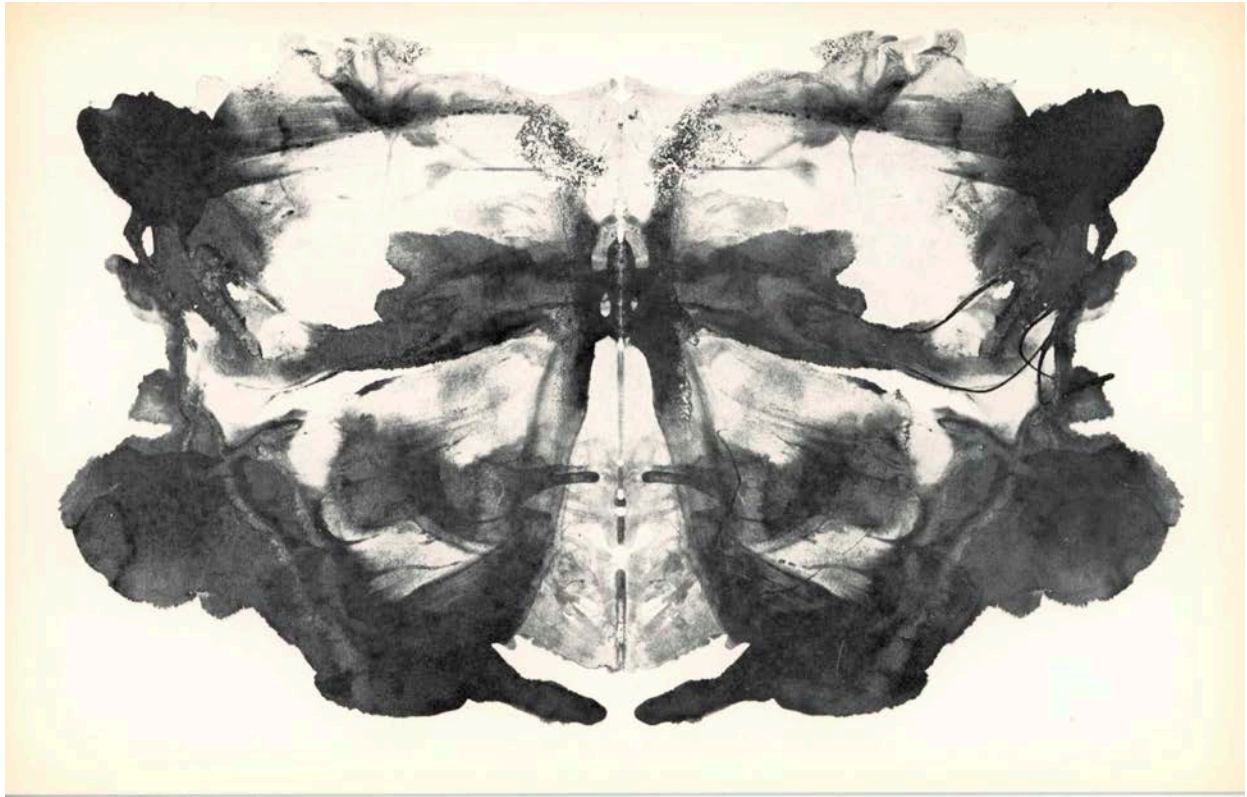
Nonfiction Award Winner  
Class of 2022



"For George Makari xenophobia is not a matter of only history or only psychiatry, it has its roots in both. As cultural historian Sander Gilman suggests, in his review of George's book, 'Xenophobia is an ever shifting quality of mind. What historians do best,' Gilman continues, 'is to constantly imagine not only our world but also how we know our world and thus how those in our world know us.'

In *Of Fear and Strangers*, Makari helps us toward this kind of all encompassing, and I hope healing, imagination. George Makari is the recipient of this year's Anisfield-Wolf Book Award for nonfiction."

— Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Ph.D.  
Harvard University  
Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards Jury Chair



# Oskar Diethelm Library

## Librarian's Report



Our Special Collections Librarian, Nicole Topich, M.L.I.S., reopened this unique, world-class library to the public this fall, and was excited to welcome back students, researchers, and interns for the first time since the pandemic began. Three interns assisted the library with book cataloging, organizing archives, creating exhibits, and inventorying the asylum reports collection. Almost 1,400 books were cataloged by the librarian and interns this year, and three new digital exhibits were made available to the public online. The library welcomes in-person visitors as we continue to expand access to the collections through exhibits, cataloging, tours, and digitization.

Nicole Topich, M.L.I.S.

## National Endowment for the Humanities Grant

The library completed storage upgrades with the support of a prestigious Preservation Assistance Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). These improvements are substantial and will ensure that researchers have access to our rare documents and popular collections — including the papers of Clifford Beers, Thomas Salmon, and Donald Winnicott — well into the future.

## Digital Exhibits

Drawing upon the unique depth of our archival materials, our digital exhibits offer educational resources to the public while also publicizing the library's incomparable collections on our newly designed website. We added an exhibit on "The Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry" and updated the hydrotherapy exhibit. The exhibit on "Nostalgia" is reproduced in this report (see p. 7).

## Updating Finding Aids

Significant progress continues to be made toward updating the library's information architecture. As Nicole adds and updates our digital finding aids, researchers now have a substantially more comprehensive view of our holdings, including the Norman Dain anti-psychiatry collection, the Clifford Beers papers, the Charles Guiteau collection (who assassinated President James A. Garfield), the David Levy papers, the Zigmond Lebensohn papers, the Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry records, the Benjamin Rush collection, the New York Psychiatric Society records, the American Psychopathological Association records, and the Frankwood Williams papers.

## Donations & New Acquisitions

The library has received many generous donations of books over the past year. We extend thanks to Theodore Shapiro, Amy Green Clemente and Jack Clemente, Aaron Stern, Caroline Stamu-O'Brien, Megan Wolff, Kevin Kelly, Benjamin Harris, and Pierre Johannet.

## Internships

Three new internship positions were created for graduate students to assist the library with book cataloging, organizing archives, curating exhibits, and inventorying the asylum report collection.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, several rare publications were purchased, including issues of *The Conjuror's Magazine* from the late eighteenth century, the 1813 *La science de la santé*, and the 1627 *Democrito at Elacrito*.

# Sponsor a Book



## ***Des troubles trophiques dans l'hystérie, 1890.***

Alex Athanassio  
236 pp. First edition of a thesis presented to Jean-Martin Charcot, who described it as the "best monograph, if not the only one, which we currently have on all trophic disorders of hysteria."  
\$230



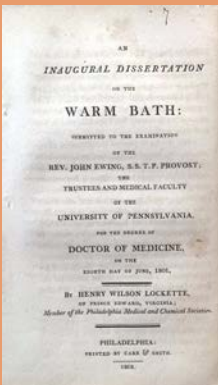
## ***La philosophie des vapeurs, 1784.***

Anonymous  
168 pp. Second expanded edition of a satirical and subversive work on female hysterics. A rare book speaking to the power of female pathology in French aristocratic society.  
\$1250



## ***Dream Book and Fortune Teller, c. 1845.***

Anonymous  
32 pp. First edition of two combined works, the first on dream interpretation, the second on fortune-telling by dreams, cards, coffee grounds, tea leaves, dice, moles, and palmistry.  
\$300



## ***An inaugural dissertation on the warm bath, 1801.***

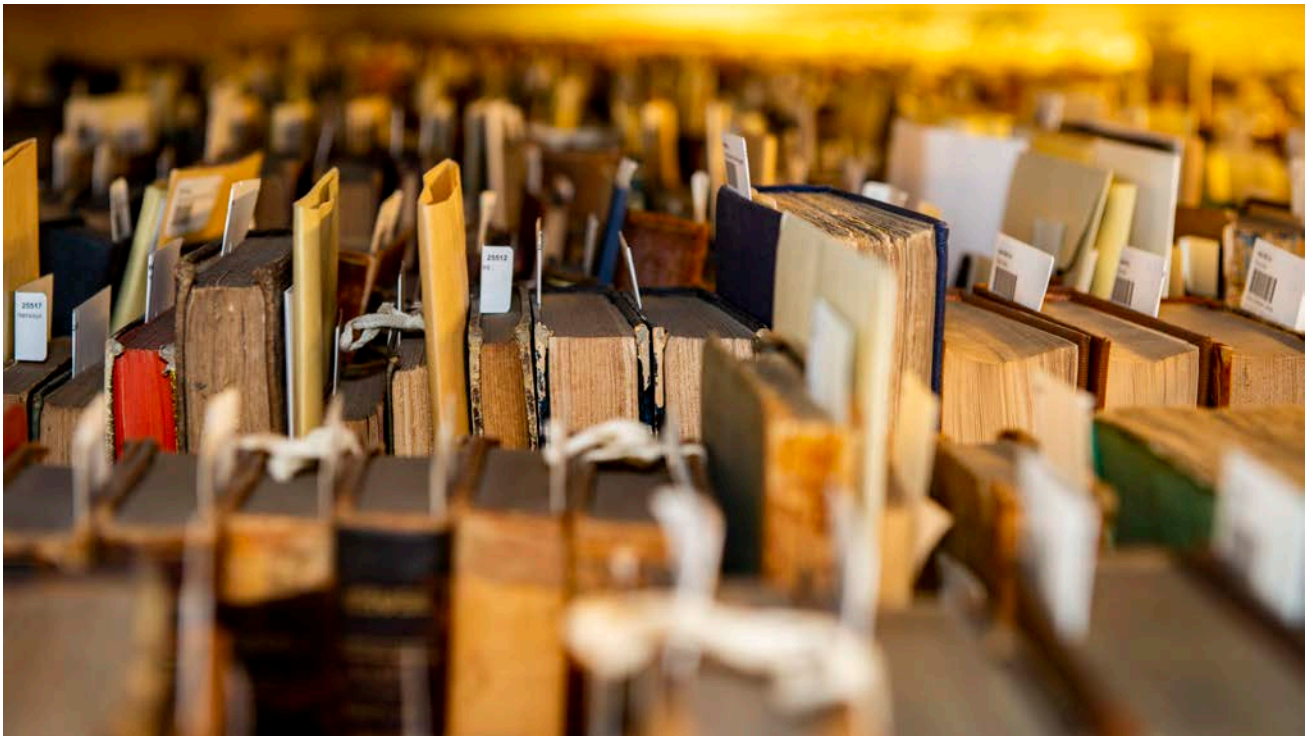
Henry Wilson Lockette  
First edition describing warm, hot or tepid baths as therapeutics in the treatment of diseases from tetanus and typhus to mania and hysteria.  
\$250

Oskar Diethelm travelled to Europe nearly every summer of his career to scour used book markets for publications on the history of psychiatry. The library, named in his memory, has grown into an epicenter for scholars and students of the history of psychiatry.

We invite you to join in these acts of acquisition and preservation. By sponsoring the purchase of a rare book, you can participate directly in the protection and availability of critical works for scholars. Your name will be recognized in our collection listing as the donor who enabled the purchase of the book and contributed to the vitality of the Oskar Diethelm Library.

To generously sponsor these or other items, please contact Special Collections Librarian Nicole Topich at [nrt4001@med.cornell.edu](mailto:nrt4001@med.cornell.edu), or (212) 746-3728.



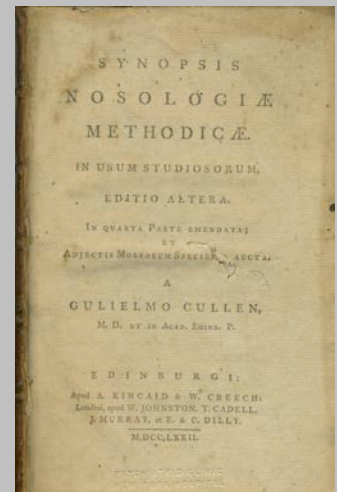


# Nostalgia: The Rise and Fall of a Medical Diagnosis

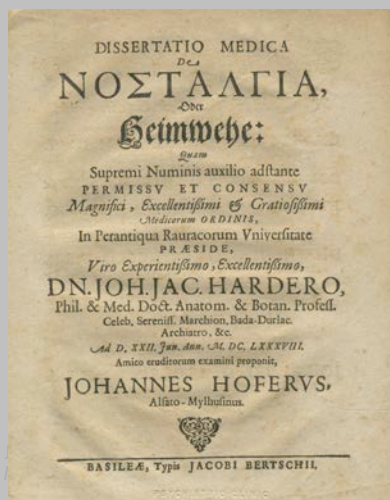
Exhibit curated and written by Nicole Topich, M.L.I.S. and Jenny Cheng

## Nostalgia as Clinical Homesickness

Like a plague that swept through Europe and then the Americas from the seventeenth century to the beginning of the twentieth century, all that is left of the forgotten disease are the curious pathological theories analyzed by the foremost practitioners of the time. Today, nostalgia refers to the fondness associated with looking back into one's past, while homesickness is the longing for one's home, encompassing temporal and spatial distances. In the early years of psychiatry and neurology, unexplainable psychological behaviors were linked to insanity, defined through mania, dementia, and melancholia. During the professionalization of the medical field in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Europe, military personnel suffered great casualties from the disease. By the turn of the twentieth century, nostalgia was no longer considered a psychiatric diagnosis. It was not until the 1920s that nostalgia transformed into the benign sentiment popularly understood today.



William Cullen, *Synopsis and Nosology: Being an Arrangement and Definition of Diseases* (Edinburgh: Kincaid & W. Creech, 1772).



Johannes Hofer, *Dissertatio Medica de Nostalgia, oder Heimwehe* (1688).

## Theories of the Pathology of Nostalgia

Debates on the precedent causes, diagnostic symptoms, prognosis, and cure to nostalgia varied widely. In his medical dissertation, *Dissertatio Medica de Nostalgia*, Johannes Hofer invented the word nostalgia to elucidate mental anguish resulting from a severe form of homesickness. Called *Heimweh* by the Germans and *Maladie du pays* by the French, Hofer wrote: "Since it has no medical name, I have called it nostalgia, of Greek origin, from *Nostos*, return to one's native land, and *Algos*, pain or distress." While the condition has been mentioned in earlier materials, Hofer gave an exact interpretation of nostalgia's features. Furthermore, Hofer described the abnormality stemmed from the brain and imagination living in the past while the body wastes away. Seeking to form a nosological classification schema on illnesses, François Bossier de le Croix de Sauvages, in *Nosologia Methodica Systems Morborum Classes* (1768), distinguished between simple nostalgia, categorized by low moods and fever, and

complex nostalgia, a violent disease requiring professional attention. William Cullen's *Synopsis and Nosology: Being an Arrangement and Definition of Diseases* (1772) and Sauvages' work included the extreme longing for home in the section *Morositates or Delinquencies*. In 1782, Thomas Arnold in *Observation on the nature, kinds, causes, and prevention of insanity, lunacy, madness* classified the condition as a form of insanity. Affecting the patient's cerebral sensibility, nostalgia was commonly described as comprised of a form of hysteria, self-imposed isolation, and a loss of desire for earthly pleasures comparable to melancholia.



William Cullen, 1710-1790



Francois Boissier de la Croix de Sauvages, 1706-1767

## Regionalism, Urbanization, and Nationalism

By the beginning of the eighteenth century, nostalgia was widely considered to be a medical diagnosis and included in the extensive nosological schemes of the period. Fondness for one's hometown was acknowledged as harmless, but a destructive variant of the emotion of longing was believed to engulf patients and their mind. Furthermore, experts recognized the disease's prevalence in specific regional groups and perceived those who could not easily transition to urban life or readily embody nationalistic pursuits to be more susceptible to nostalgia's woes. Medical experts emphasized the unique susceptibility of the Swiss to this condition. The illness was sometimes even referred to as *die Schweizerkrankheit* – the Swiss disease. This association was not surprising: for centuries, young Swiss men served as mercenary soldiers to various European rulers. The Swiss were far more likely to find themselves far from home, facing stressful circumstances in unfamiliar surroundings, than were the inhabitants of other nations.



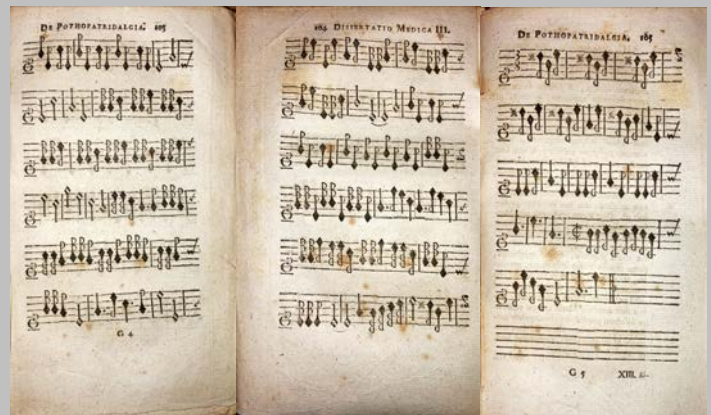
"A Soldier" by Jean Paul Laurens, 1915

Charles Darwin's "The Voyage of the Beagle" pointed at Swiss soldiers who threw themselves off ships into the sea in an innate urge to return to their homeland. Genevan philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau, in a 1763 letter, described Swiss nostalgia as an emotion untainted by urbanization. In contrast to French adaptation to cities, the romanticized Swiss communities experienced emotions in their pure and natural form.

In 1710, Theodor Zwinger tied homesickness to patriotic sentiments that were more attuned to imperialism in the eighteenth century and conceived the word *Pothopatridalgia*; *Algia* meaning ache, *Pathos* is a longing, and *Patria* is one's native land. Some believed that the fatal affliction was triggered by one's sense of hearing, by auditory reminders of the homeland. It was reported that Swiss mercenaries in France and Belgium became so homesick that they deserted, fell deathly ill, or committed suicide upon hearing a type of Swiss melody known as *ranz des vaches*. These were regional songs used to call cows from mountain pastures. Zwinger wrote that hearing these tunes had such a harmful effect on Swiss soldiers that singing, playing, or whistling the songs was prohibited by law.

However, not all scholars believed nostalgia was specific to regions or peoples. In 1705, Swiss physician Johann Jakob Scheuchzer attributed nostalgia to maladjustment to greater atmospheric pressure, a form of reverse altitude sickness. Neither Albrecht von Haller nor Johann Georg Zimmerman believed Alpine communities were biologically susceptible to nostalgia, instead stressing the psychological character of the disorder. Haller related sociological factors to the Swiss propensity towards frequent homesickness. French naturalist Jean-Baptiste Lamarck theorized the environment's effect on organisms to explain men's natural attachment to place.

Immanuel Kant dismissed *Heimweh* as a delusion about one's no-longer-existing past. Although harmless, Kant cautioned against conjuring fantasies of the homeland. In his 1852 medical dissertation, Par Claudius Caire explained that nostalgia grew from a passion for one's home into madness and affected people from all walks of life throughout history. The mass mobilization of troops in the age of colonialism materialized through nostalgia to represent colonial displacement. During the early French campaign in Algeria, reports revealed alarming numbers of soldiers falling ill to nostalgia. Soldiers were also ill-adapted to local climate and unfamiliar diseases were believed to worsen nostalgic symptoms. Army commanders saw no choice but to plea for additional soldiers. Nostalgia was associated with military life during the Napoleonic Wars of the nineteenth century when young men from provincial areas were conscripted en masse to serve in national armies.



*Ranz des Vaches* or Swiss tunes were believed to engender fatal nostalgia in soldiers. Theodor Zwinger, *Fasciculus Dissertationum Medicarum Selectiorum*, 1710.

Interestingly, larger and more disciplined armies, characteristic of the modern military, suffered nostalgia at greater rates. Accounts from the era are replete with descriptions of "epidemic nostalgia," as the homesickness that swept through military units led to mass desertions and severe illness. Soldiers who did not speak French, originated from rural communities, and were devoted to regional areas were believed to be least adjusted to serviceman life. According to records, the French army suffered more significant casualties to the disease than any other group in history, sometimes decimating entire companies of soldiers. It was no wonder then that nostalgia was considered a threat to the French nation at one point. Nostalgia also spread beyond the medical community in the 1820s and 1830s and engulfed the popular imagination.

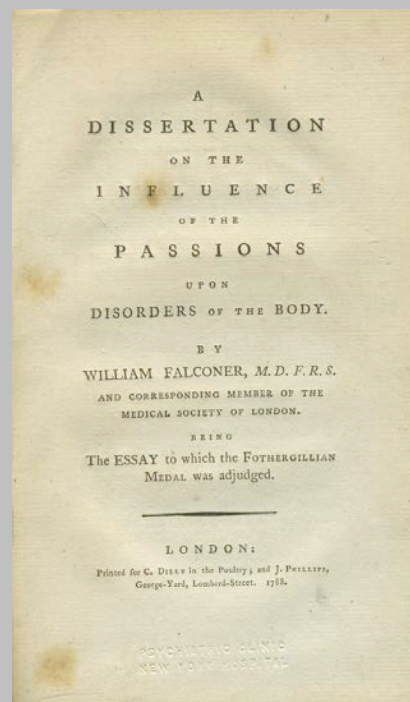
## Curing Nostalgia

Throughout its clinical lifespan, experts agreed on the severity of the disease as it spread and overtook patients, urging repatriation as the last and most effective cure for those on the brink of death. Nostalgia was described by William Falconer in *A Dissertation on the Influence of the Passions upon Disorders of the Body* (1788) as a disorder ". . . said to begin with melancholy, sadness, love of solitude, silence, loss of appetite for both solid and liquid food, prostration of strength, and a hectic fever in the evening; which is frequently accompanied with livid or purple spots upon the body." He recommended "Peruvian bark" as the best remedy, "especially when joined with opiates; but when the disorder is violent, nothing avails but returning to their own country."

Nostalgia was viewed by some experts as a moral vice, developing during long periods between battles. Therefore, a solution was to keep soldiers busied and occupied. In 1793, a French doctor recommended physical punishment and instilling fear in soldiers to cure nostalgia. Nostalgia began appearing in the American medical literature during the Civil War. Theodore Calhoun, a military doctor with the Union Army, found nostalgia to be much less of a problem in units frequently engaged in battle; inactivity encouraged outbreaks of nostalgia among troops. Calhoun also noted that recruits from the country were more severely affected by nostalgia than those recruited from cities, an observation made earlier by the French. In 1883, William A. Hammond echoed previous prognoses highlighting the escapist imagination of bored and inactive soldiers, resulting in mental apathy and then the shutting down of functional organs. Surgeon D. J. Larrey, in his 1823 *Surgical Essays*, emphasized the importance of preventive measures by elevating spirits and preventing melancholy, so symptoms do not grow to the degree to which it takes a person's life. Accounts by overseeing physicians documented the rapid decline in patients' health, sometimes afflicting death within days.

## Nostalgia and Its Absence in America

By sharing the pathogenic commonality of enforced displacement, sufferers of nostalgia included those who were conscripted into military service and those who were transported in captivity. Nostalgia was first linked to captured Africans as scorbutic nostalgia. Thomas Trotter, in the 1790s, described a form of scorbutic nostalgia among sea voyagers, resulting in a combination of scurvy, suicidal excitement, and brooding. There were similarities between scorbutic nostalgia and calenture, the sea variant of nostalgia suffered by seamen, sharing the symptom of psychotic fantasies of land. Fatalities of captured enslaved people at sea were at times attributed to aggravations from nostalgia that would compound other illnesses.



William Falconer, *A Dissertation on the Influence of the Passions upon Disorders of the Body* (1788).

Much like its Swiss connection, during the Civil War it was claimed that men from the New England region were more susceptible to the illness. William A. Hammond wrote that Anglo-Saxons, especially Americans, were least attached to places and less likely than any other group to suffer from the disease. Inhabitants of so-called "simplistic" cultures from wild and mountainous regions in Europe like Savoy, Lapland, Scotland, and Switzerland were deemed more susceptible. Native Americans were understood to also suffer from severe nostalgia if separated from home. However, pain and homesickness experienced by African Americans under slavery went unacknowledged during the antebellum years.

In eighteenth-century North America, enslaved African Americans were believed to lack the emotional sensitivity and capacity to feel homesickness. The only published account of an enslaved person falling victim to nostalgia is by an American physician in 1817. According to Jesse Torrey, an escaped slave named Anna jumped to her death after hiding in an attic due to the disease. Anna's depiction as an abnormally large woman further illustrates the oddity in black physiological studies and its neglect of affective health in black bodies. In Latin America and non-anglophone writings, African bodies were explained as possessing innate differences, thereby racializing the pathology to support an ideology that accepted the enslavement of an entire group of people based on race and geographic origin. By ascribing suicide attempts to a violent sickness, political acts of resistance were neutralized.

By the mid-nineteenth century, emotions within the black bodies became exaggerated, characterized as possessing a strong propensity towards raw and destructive emotions. While diagnoses of extreme homesickness in enslaved black Americans were almost non-existent, white doctors came to believe black soldiers were more prone to the illness than white soldiers during the Civil War. British homeopathic practitioner, Marmaduke Blake Sampson, acknowledged African sentience, but his empathy towards enslavement was representative of the creative debates on the physiology of black bodies of that period. Sampson proposed to return enslaved blacks to Africa out of concern for the nostalgic tolls on the body without challenging the institution of slavery.

## Nostalgia's Exit

As the twentieth century arrived and advanced, nostalgia began losing its connection to medicine, transforming into a historical oddity rather than a clinical entity. Although historically conscripts were more vulnerable to the disease than voluntary soldiers, the disease had disappeared from American military records by World War I, when the army services draftees stood at a staggering 72%, pointing to nostalgia's exit from the American medical psyche. After two hundred years, the medical form of nostalgia as a mental illness faded from psychiatry and gained popularity as a positive emotion within psychology. On February 13, 1913, less than a year before his death, S. Weir Mitchell addressed the Physician's Club of Chicago, reviewing his experiences as a surgeon in the Civil War some fifty years earlier. He noted that "... cases of nostalgia, homesickness, were serious additions to the peril of wounds



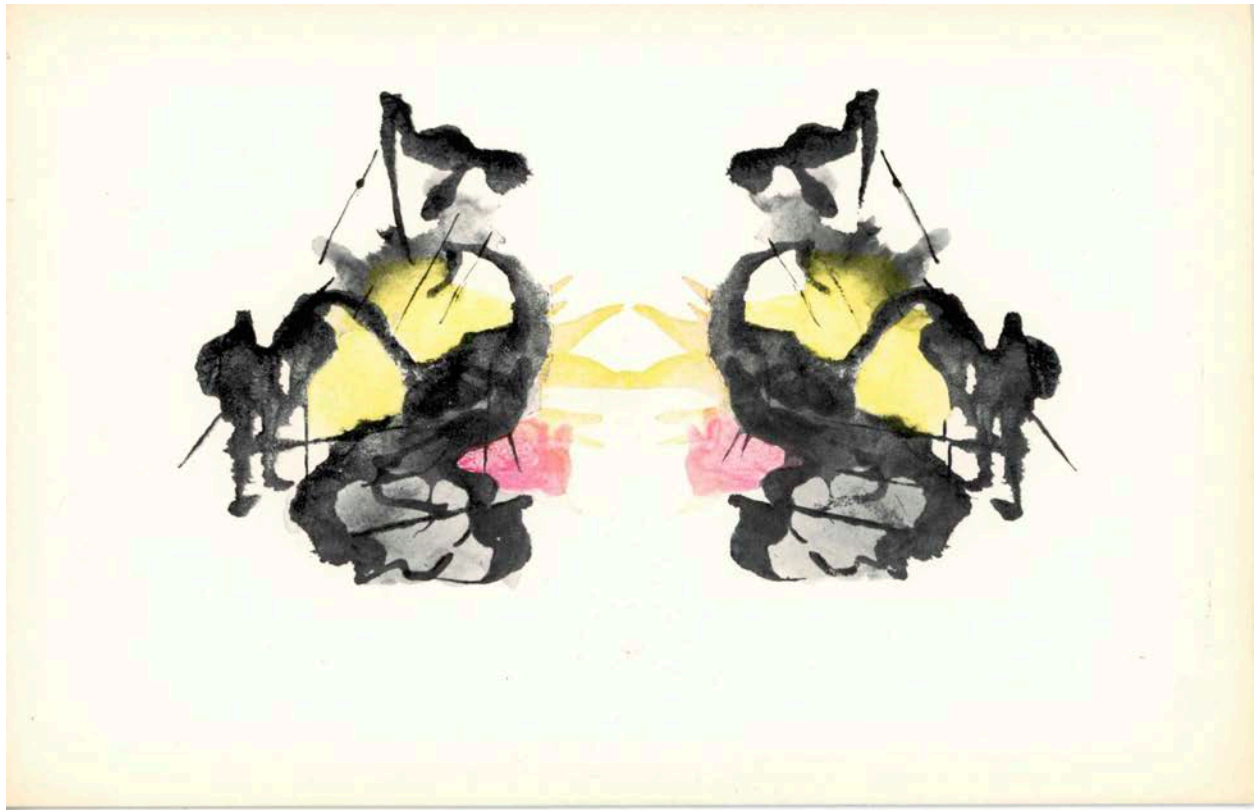
"Ships at Sea" by Pierre-Jacques Volaire, 1729

and disease, and a disorder we rarely see nowadays. I regret that no careful study was made of what was, in some instances, an interesting psychic malady, making men hysteric and incurable except by discharge. Today, aided by German perplexities, we would ask the victim a hundred and twenty-one questions, consult their subconscious mind and dreams, why they wanted to go home, and do no better than let them go as hopeless." Nostalgia as a medical diagnosis disappeared entirely with the arrival of World War I, replaced by diagnoses such as shell shock and, later, post-traumatic stress disorder.

All sources included in this exhibit are housed in the Oskar Diethelm Library's extensive collections of books and archival materials. Our librarian is continuing to curate new digital exhibits that publicize our collections while also demonstrating the importance of supporting the ongoing preservation and study of psychiatry's history.

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# Richardson Seminar on the History of Psychiatry

## Seminar Coordinator's Report

Our Richardson research seminar series on the history of psychiatry, now in its sixth decade, has been transformed into a public forum. Attendance reached nearly 450 as our devoted community of active participants continued to expand in our virtual meetings. This broadening of our reach corresponds to the widening scope of our programming across twenty seminars throughout the academic year. Our history of psychiatry series, the longest running of its kind, offered timely presentations that foregrounded the intersections of psychiatry, society, and culture. Throughout the year our presenters offered poignant insights into ways that the history of psychiatry is also a history of suffering and survival, mind and medicine, individual and society.

In January 2022 I had the great honor of being welcomed into the role of Richardson Seminar Coordinator. I am especially grateful to my predecessor, Dr. Megan Wolff, for her generosity and exemplary work to ensure the continuity of this seminar series throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. I look forward to programming the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 seminar schedules as we reconvene the seminar in a hybrid format, meeting simultaneously in-person and on-zoom.

Shari Wolk, M.A.

Since March 2020 our growing digital video archive has become a public resource of over 60 hours of recorded seminars available to educators, clinicians, and a general audience.





## Fall 2021

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- September 8 Kylie Smith, Ph.D., Emory University  
"Jim Crow in the Asylum: Psychiatry and Segregation in the American South, 1945-1970"
- September 15 George J. Makari, M.D., Weill Cornell Medicine  
"Of Fear and Strangers: A History of Xenophobia"
- October 20 James Kennaway, Ph.D., Helmut Schmidt University  
"Neuromusic? A Critical Humanities Perspective on Music and Medicine"
- November 3 Jacqueline Lecki, Ph.D., Victoria University of Wellington  
"Colonizing Madness: Asylum and Community in Fiji"
- November 17 Brett Kahr, Ph.D., Tavistock Institute of Medical Psychology  
"Donald Winnicott's Pandemics: Surviving the Spanish Flu of 1918 and the Hong Kong Flu of 1968"
- December 15 Heather Love, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania  
"From the Outside In: Goffman's Concept of Stigma and Observational Research"

## Spring 2022

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- January 5 Richard C. Ledes, filmmaker  
"Notes on Filming *Adieu Lacan*"
- January 19 Robert Abzug, Ph.D., University of Texas, Austin  
"Psyche and Soul: Rollo May and the Uneasy Marriage of Psychology and Religion in American Culture"
- February 2 Camille Robcis, Ph.D., Columbia University  
*Stevens-Barchas Lecture*  
"Disalienation: Politics, Philosophy and Radical Psychiatry"
- February 16 Susan Lanzoni, Ph.D., Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences  
"Empathy: A History"
- March 16 Daniel Burston, Ph.D., Duquesne University  
"Anti-Semitism in C.G. Jung and His Inner Circle"
- April 6 Frank Stahnisch, Ph.D., University of Calgary  
"A New Field in Mind: A History of Interdisciplinarity in the Early Brain Sciences"
- May 4 Joseph J. Fins, M.D., MACP, Weill Cornell Medicine  
"José Manuel Rodríguez, Walter Freeman, and Mid-Century Somatic Therapies: A Study in Contrasts"
- May 18 David Chalmers, Ph.D., New York University  
*Eric T. Carlson Memorial Lecture: Grand Rounds*  
"Reality+: From the Matrix to the Metaverse" and "Sentience and Moral Status"

# Issues in Mental Health Policy

## Seminar Coordinator's Report



Two of our society's most dire crises, climate disruption and opioid addiction, were addressed by leading experts in their respective fields. Dr. Lise Van Susteren's presentation, "Deny Much? Climate Inaction and the Psyche," called on us to heed the peril of insufficient action as the mental health effects of climate disruption intensify. Dr. Andrew Kolodny's lecture, "Responding to the Prescription Opioid and Heroin Crisis: An Epidemic of Addiction," also alerted us to alarming data trends while reminding us that this epidemic of addiction is both preventable and treatable.

### Dr. Wolff's Report on "Responding to the Opioid Crisis: An Epidemic of Addiction"

The opioid overdose crisis is still with us and continues to deepen, but there may be ways of understanding it differently. In his talk Dr. Andrew Kolodny provided an update and a critical reframing of the epidemic that could provide insight to changing its trajectory. Kolodny, who is the Medical Director of Opioid Policy Research at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, looks at the most recent mortality data and sees an epidemic not of opioid abuse, but of addiction. Patients became addicted to opioid drugs at the rate that they became more available, a fact born out by data showing distribution and addiction rising together after 1996. The opioid industry has framed the problem as a crisis of drug abuse, but if the epidemic is understood as a crisis of opioid addiction, Kolodny points out, then "what you are saying is that this is an epidemic of a disease that is both preventable and treatable. It shows us that we have clear interventions that can bring this problem under control."

Kolodny opened his talk with the grim facts: in the last 12 month period for which reliable data exist, more than 100,000 Americans died of drug overdoses, the vast majority involving opioids. This is unambiguously the most deadly drug-related epidemic in American history; the most recent death toll is higher than the peaks of the heroin and cocaine epidemics combined. But there is ambiguity in the narrative: misunderstanding about who is dying and why has steered many clinicians and policymakers away from effective solutions.

Most observers understand the opioid overdose epidemic to be composed of three waves: first the availability of semi-synthetic opioids, such as oxycontin, from 1996 to 2011; then the transition to heroin, as prescribing slowed and former patients turned to the illegal market; and then around 2015, the contamination of street-based drugs with illicit fentanyl. On its surface the story is sensical and well-supported by data, but, as Kolodny points out, it carries the erroneous assumption that drug users are a homogenous group. When mortality rates are stratified by age, gender, and race, white people (especially males) between the ages of 20 and 34 jump ahead of all other groups. In the past, this has been interpreted as the result of higher rates of recreational drug seeking, and of "deaths of despair" among the downwardly mobile. Kolodny offers a different outlook. Addiction increased among all age groups when prescribing rates leapt upward; the driver was not pleasure, but prevalence. The crisis grew worse in places where opioids were prescribed more. But as physicians became more cautious with their pens, it was young white adults who had the most difficulty convincing them to continue to write prescriptions and who turned to illicit supplies.

Again, motivation counts for a lot in framing the overdose epidemic and our responses to it. While most onlookers recognize the misery of the flu-like symptoms that appear when withdrawal sets in, few fathom the severity of the anxiety that comes along with it. Feelings of fear and doom akin to a panic attack, Kolodny noted, can result in good people behaving badly in order to protect their supply. These are not drug-seekers looking to get high, however, they are chemically dependent people trying to avert physical and psychological pain.

Therefore, many of their deaths are preventable. Opioid addiction can be effectively managed with receptor agonists such as buprenorphine. If such treatment were freely available, overdose deaths would plummet. But fewer than 6% of physicians in the United States are even eligible to prescribe buprenorphine, making it harder for most individuals to access than either opioids, which 100% of providers with DEA licensing can prescribe, or heroin.

For Kolodny, bringing the overdose epidemic under control is a three-legged stool. The most significant piece is the ready availability of medically assisted treatment (MAT), which could keep so many people alive. The next support is prevention. Reducing new prescriptions to the opioid naïve would prevent exposure, and addiction. Lastly, the supply of medical opioids available through pill mills and the black market must be dramatically reduced. None of these will be easy, but all of them are feasible, and physicians could have a leading part to play in the first two if they chose to do so.

Megan Wolff, Ph.D., M.P.H.



September 29

Lise Van Susteren, M.D., Climate Psychiatry Alliance  
**"Deny Much? Climate Inaction and the Psyche"**

March 30

Andrew Kolodny, M.D., Brandeis University  
**"Responding to the Prescription Opioid and Heroin Crisis:  
An Epidemic of Addiction"**

# Psychiatry and the Arts

## Seminar Coordinator's Report

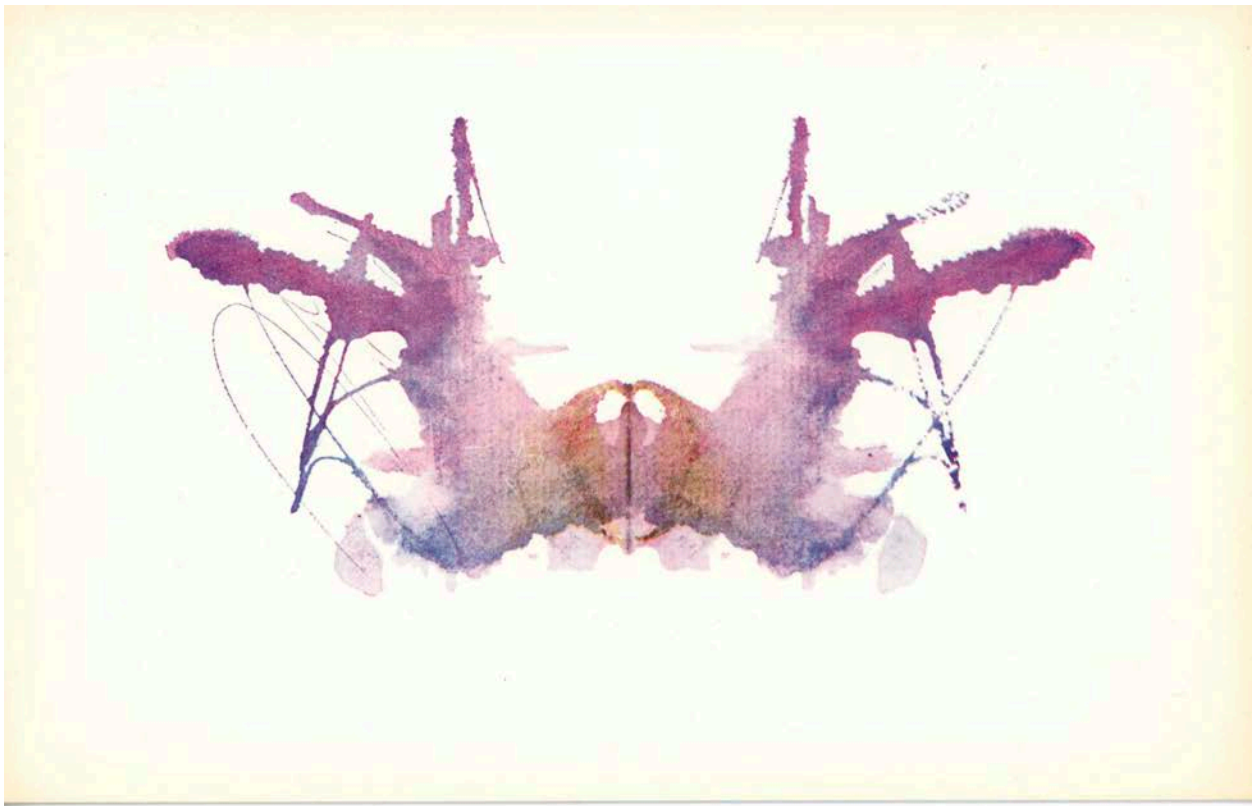


Our series on Psychiatry and the Arts expanded to include two new interlocutors. Anne Hoffman conducted a wonderful interview with the novelist Maud Casey, whose new book takes up the history of hysteria, while Curt Hart queried Meredith Ward on the sublime paintings of Frederick Church and others. I picked up my focus on the imagination with the omni-talented Wesley Stace, the acclaimed novelist, rock musician, and music critic. The year's series ended with my interview of the talented poet Rosanna Warren, who discussed her decades-long obsession with the French poet Max Jacob, and the definitive biography that came of this fascination.

George J. Makari, M.D.



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|------------|---|
| October 6  | Maud Casey in conversation with Anne G. Hoffman, Ph.D.<br><b>"City of Incurable Women"</b>                              |
| December 1 | Meredith Ward, M.Div., in conversation with Curtis Hart, M.Div.<br><b>"Picturing Creation: Art, Faith, and Science"</b> |
| March 2    | Wesley Stace in conversation with George J. Makari, M.D.<br><b>"Music and the Imagination"</b>                          |
| April 20   | Rosanna Warren in conversation with George J. Makari, M.D.<br><b>"Literary Biography and the Imagination"</b>           |



# Working Groups

## Psychoanalysis and the Humanities



This year our Working Group continued, even over Zoom, to be a vibrant, cohesive group, showing a lively interest in each other's work even as the subject matter spanned the range of the group's eclectic interests. At our first meeting, Dr. Joseph Fins gave a presentation about an intellectual puzzle in the history of bioethics, with an account of his scholarly sleuthing, drawing on archival research at Emory, Yale, and Duke as well as interviews. Rev. Curt Hart gave a presentation entitled "Annette Gordon-Reed's 'On Juneteenth': History, Memoir, and a Sense of Place" interlacing readings from the text with memories of his own education about issues of race in Texas. Rev. Hart also joined Dr. Nathan Kravis in a presentation focused on the interaction between orthodoxy and heresy in Christianity and psychoanalysis.

It was not only subject matter that ranged widely this year: for the following meeting, Dr. Hilary Beattie asked us to watch three films of Pedro Almodóvar, and set a context for these inter-related films based on her own ongoing scholarship. Dr. Nirav Soni also drew on his ongoing study—this, of Herman Melville's *Confidence Man*. His reflections on trust, deceit, confidence, and artifice addressed these issues in post-Civil War America, and in his own experience as a therapist. And heedful of the name of our interdisciplinary Working Group, Prof. Anne Hoffman, a professor of comparative literature, returned to Freud. She gave a presentation on Freud's case history of the Wolf Man, focusing on the concept of *Nachträglichkeit* and the notion of time that it offers.

Katherine Dalsimer, Ph.D.

## History of the Mind Sciences

Our Mind Sciences Working Group (formerly called the History of Psychoanalysis Working Group) met twice during the 2021-22 academic year. In November we had the special privilege of welcoming Professor Jonathan Lear as our guest. Dr. Lear pre-circulated a chapter on "Gratitude and Meaning" from his forthcoming book, *Imagining the End: Mourning and the Enigmatic Good* (Harvard University Press, 2022). In this chapter, Lear takes up the under-theorized and relatively neglected pole of Melanie Klein's famous essay on "Envy and Gratitude," calling gratitude "an unworked-out inheritance" of Klein's work. Lear links gratitude to the birth of meaningfulness itself and considers gratitude to be a form of knowing. The paper and our conversation around it were characterized by Lear's usual cogency, originality, and contagious intellectual humility.



Our guest in March was Dr. Nathan Szanjberg, who pre-circulated a draft of a paper entitled "Maimonides' Guide of The Perplexed as an Anticipation of Freud's Dream Interpretation Techniques: A Medieval Precursor to The Interpretation of Dreams." Dr. Szanjberg focused not only on the parallels between Maimonides' twelfth century text and Freud's dream interpretation method, but also on the tension between concealment and revelation in the way both authors convey their ideas.

Nathan Kravis, M.D.

# 2021-2022

## Psychiatry, Psychoanalysis, and Society

Although we decided to meet over Zoom rather than in person, the academic year of 2021-2022 proved to be very fruitful for our working group. During the Fall semester, Ben Kafka presented his concept of "forensic countertransference," which forms part of his new book project about gaslighting. We read a paper he delivered in an American Psychoanalytic Association panel on lying. The talk was given to clinicians and Ben hoped to profit from the group's insights regarding the eventual contours of a history of this concept. Beginning with Freud's paper "The Sexual Researches of Children" (1908), and thinking about the Dora case, the Wolfman, and other texts by Freud, Melanie Klein, Kurt Eissler, Wilfred Bion, and others, Ben was encouraging us to think about the "Sherlock Holmesian" dimension of the



Anna Shechtman, a postdoctoral fellow at Cornell University, in Ithaca, was our guest in the working group. She shared a short sample of her book project, entitled *Riddles of the Sphinx*, which she described as a balance between a memoir and a study in cultural history. The piece she presented was later published in the December 27, 2021, issue of *The New Yorker*.

Our own Dagmar Herzog, presented during the Spring Semester and discussed her work on the theology and politics of disability in twentieth-century Germany. Bringing to this research project not only her inimitable academic knowledge about the extermination of individuals with disabilities in Nazi Germany but also a few familial resources, she endeavors to disentangle the standard narratives about disability in German history. Dagmar began her presentation with a story about her great-aunt who during the Third Reich worked at Bethel, a Protestant charity institution, where several thousand individuals with intellectual disabilities were saved from extermination by the Nazi perpetrators. More specifically, she turned our attention to a prehistory of the Third Reich, notably to a particular moment in time during which twenty-two leaders in the Protestant Inner Mission formally endorsed a hierarchization of human value. Her piece was published in *On Being Adjacent to Historical Violence*, edited by Irene Kacandes.

Thomas Dodman subsequently presented early fragments of a new book he is writing, which is planned as part biography, part microhistory. The manuscript follows the lives of an atypical late-Enlightenment family in north-east France, tracing their fates through the French Revolution and into the nineteenth century. Thomas found letters that a member of the family had sent home from the front and in carefully reading them, aims not only at reconstructing the individual lives of the family members, but also takes this research as an occasion to think more carefully about the methodology that is most adequate in using case studies in constructing a larger historical narrative.

Stefanos Geroulanos shared with the group a chapter from the book he was finalizing at the time and devoted to the dreams and politics of human origins. In the previous year, Stef had consulted the group on the interpretation of Freud's *Totem and Taboo*. This time, working on his forthcoming book, he asked us to think about the metaphor of "the savage beneath the thin veneer of civilization." What interested him more particularly was the way the motif migrated into idiom of psychology and psychiatry. In the aforementioned book, Stef argues that the language of human origins has not only produced very strong images but also that its broader secular myth is that the deep past determines the meaning of the human.

Nicholas Bartlett, who joined us from Taiwan, where he was doing field work as an anthropologist, asked us to think about a chapter he was contributing to an edited volume about his research of the so-called DCCT or Dialogue with Traditional Chinese Culture. This event was pioneered at the China Tavistock conference in which Nicholas has participated as a consultant. Inspired by this work, we discussed topics such as the trauma of colonialism, the role of the observer/participant in this context, and the topic of foreignness, among other challenging questions regarding the history of group analysis.

In sum, this has been a rewarding year for the group, eventuating in several chapters, essays, and books, whose first renditions were presented and discussed in our working group.

Orna Ophir, Ph.D., L.P.

## Seminar in Narrative Psychiatry

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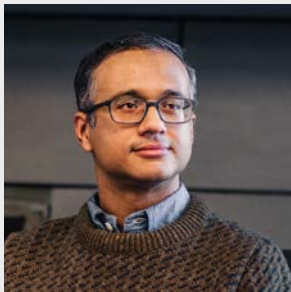
As the pandemic dragged on, the narrative psychiatry seminar was again held on Zoom. The theme for the year was the relational space between two human beings as a zone, in which something new is created between them. The year began with an excerpt from Henry James's novella *The Turn of the Screw*. The between figures are ghosts, whose existence is generated from fear, repression, innuendo, and ambiguous conversations among the characters left open to interpretation. This was followed by Thomas Ogden's "The Analytic Third: An Overview." Ogden's intersubjective, dialectical view of analysis posits a third unconscious presence, a between reality, which we then pursued as a theoretical opening to reading other literary texts: excerpts from Virginia Woolf's "Old Bloomsbury" and passages from her acerbic, brilliant diaries. We examined an entry from Etty Hillesum's diaries (published in English as *An Interrupted Life*), in which she describes herself as "a small battlefield, in which the problems or some of the problems of our time are being fought out." A radically open self. Hillesum died in Auschwitz in 1943. This was followed by Audre Lorde's essay, "The Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power." Lorde's critiques mind/body dualism and expands the meaning of eroticism to artistic, intellectual, and political pursuits in relation to others. We ended with Emily Dickinson's poem, #372, "After great pain, a formal feeling comes." The poem has no unified subject at all, no "I," or "you," just descriptions of body parts, nerves, heart, feet. The absent other is nevertheless fully present. The writing produced during the year was exciting, and, not surprisingly, often turned on the articulated or unarticulated dynamics heard and felt by the physicians when they were treating their patients.



Siri Hustvedt, Ph.D.

## Benjamin Rush Fellowship

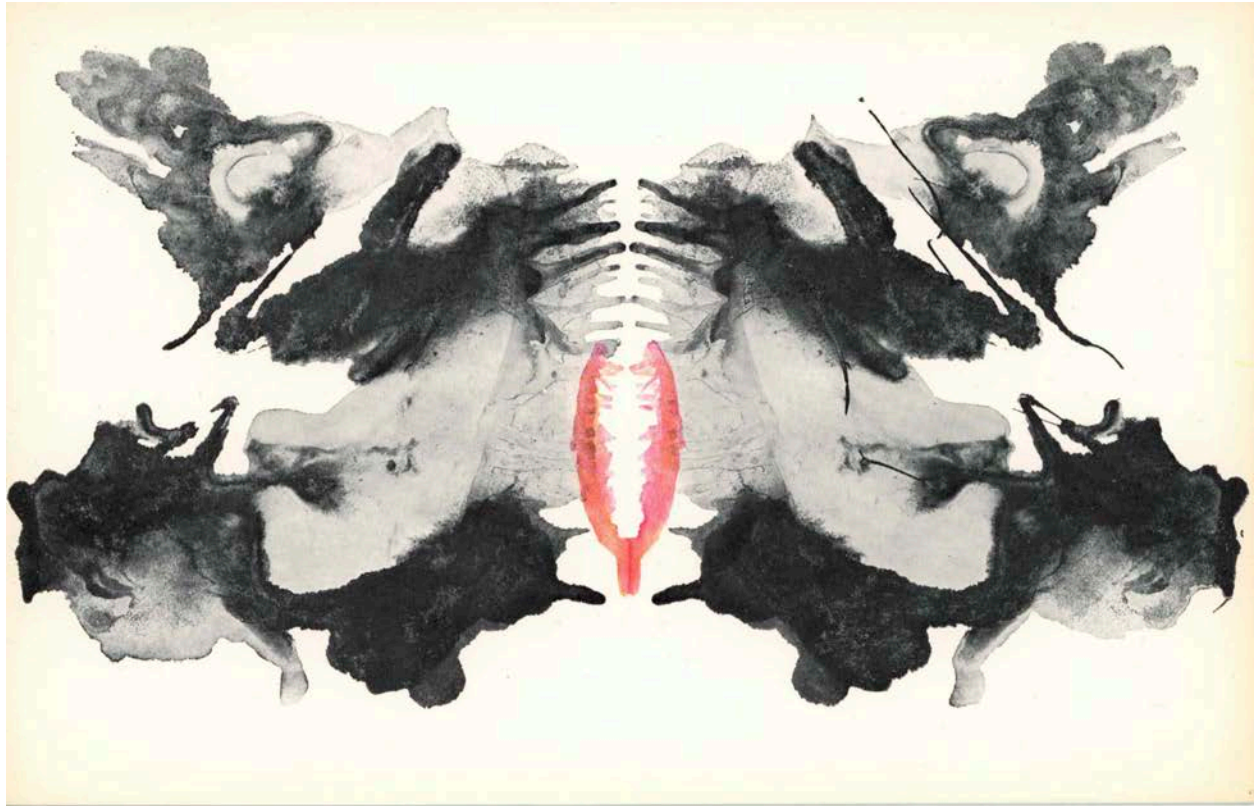
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The Benjamin Rush fellowship did not have a fellow in the 2021-22 academic year. We are using the time to revamp the structure and curriculum of the fellowship and are looking forward to welcoming new fellows to the program for the 2023-23 academic year.

Nirav Soni, Ph.D.





# Staff & Affiliated Research Faculty

George J. Makari, M.D.	Director
Nathan Kravis, M.D.	Associate Director
Orna Ophir, Ph.D., L.P.	Associate Director
Nicole Topich, M.L.I.S.	Special Collections Librarian
Shari Wolk, M.A.	Administrator

Stewart Adelson, M.D.  
Alexandra Bacopoulos-Viau, Ph.D.  
Michael Beldoch, Ph.D.  
Samantha Boardman, M.D.  
Daria Colombo, M.D.  
Katherine Dalsimer, Ph.D.  
Joseph J. Fins, M.D., D. Hum. Litt., M.A.C.P., F.R.C.P.  
Lawrence Friedman, M.D.  
Richard Friedman, M.D.  
Robert Goldstein, M.D.  
Leonard Groopman, M.D., Ph.D.  
Curtis Hart, M.Div.  
Dagmar Herzog, Ph.D. (CUNY Grad Center)  
Anne Golomb Hoffman, Ph.D. (Fordham University)  
Siri Hustvedt, Ph.D.,  
Robert Michels, M.D.  
Doris B. Nagel, M.D.  
Camille Robcis, Ph.D. (Columbia University)  
Louis Sass, Ph.D. (Rutgers University)  
Theodore Shapiro, M.D.  
Nirav Soni, Ph.D.  
Paul E. Stepansky, Ph.D.  
Rosemary Stevens, Ph.D., M.P.H.  
Peter Wilson, M.D.

All have appointments at Weill Cornell. If a member's primary academic position is elsewhere, it is given in parentheses.

# Research Faculty News



**Stewart Adelson, M.D.** is Clinical Associate Professor at Cornell, Adjunct Assistant Clinical Professor at Columbia, and a Senior Visiting Fellow at Yale Law School where he is founding Director of the Youth Equity Science/YES Project, a collaboration of legal, human rights, and public health experts to reduce LGBT youth mental health disparities. Recent awards include the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry's 2021 Rieger Service Award for Program Excellence, the New York Council on Child & Adolescent Psychiatry's 2022 Hulse Award, and a 2015 Commendation from the Harvard Medical School Global Clinical Scholars Research Training Program. He is author of publications including AACAP's first Practice Parameter for LGBT youth. His most recent Grand Rounds presentation was in November 2021 at NYU Medical School's Child Study Center on "Health Justice for LGBT Youth: A Public Health and Human Rights Approach to Mental Health Disparity." His current projects include work with colleagues at the World Health Organization's Collaborating Centre for Bioethics on a book project titled "Proportionality in Public Health Law, Ethics and Policy in Times of Crisis." He is a member of the Group for Advancement of Psychiatry, the American College of Psychiatrists, and a Human Rights Watch Advisory Committee member.



**Alexandra Bacopoulos-Viau, Ph.D.** is a Visiting Fellow at Weill Cornell Psychiatry. Over the past year she worked on her first monograph, entitled *Scripting the Mind: Technologies of Writing and Selfhood in France, 1857–1930*. The book traces the rise of various models of the mind that emerged in France prior to and concurrently with the Freudian revolution. Specifically, it highlights the role played by 'automatic writing' in the making of modern subjectivity. Bacopoulos-Viau also gave a number of invited talks and facilitated a new thesis writing program for graduate students at McGill University.



**Samantha Boardman, M.D.** is Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Clinical Instructor in Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College. Her book, *Everyday Vitality: Turning Stress Into Strength* (Penguin Life, 2021), draws on scientific research and her clinical work in positive psychiatry to present readers with strategies for cultivating resilience. The book was published in the summer of 2021, and it has been translated into multiple languages including Taiwanese, Russian, and Hebrew. She appeared on the *Today Show* in a segment titled "How To Find a Therapist." Dr. Boardman chaired panels at both the American Psychiatric Association and World Psychiatric Association's annual meetings, and she was awarded Distinguished Fellow by the APA. Dr. Boardman taught Fall and Spring Didactics on Positive Psychology to PGY-4 residents.



**Daria Colombo, M.D.** is on the faculty of the New York Psychoanalytic Institute, and supervises residents from Payne Whitney and Mount Sinai, as well as psychology externs at New York State Psychiatric Institute. She is an Associate Editor of *The Psychoanalytic Quarterly*.



**Katherine Dalsimer, Ph.D.** is Clinical Professor of Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medical College. She is the coordinator of the Institute's Working Group on Psychoanalysis and the Humanities. At the Columbia University Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research, she is the director of the Affiliate Scholars Program.



**Joseph J. Fins, M.D., D. Hum. Litt., M.A.C.P., F.R.C.P.** is the E. William Davis, Jr., M.D. Professor of Medical Ethics, Professor of Medicine, and Chief of the Division of Medical Ethics at Weill Cornell Medical College and director of medical ethics and chair of the ethics committee at New York Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center. Dr. Fins continues his collaboration with Dr. Nicholas D. Schiff as they co-direct the Consortium for the Advanced Study of Brain Injury (CASBI) at Weill Cornell Medicine and Rockefeller University. Dr. Fins has expanded the reach of CASBI through his appointment as the Solomon Center Distinguished Scholar in Medicine, Bioethics and the Law and Visiting Professor of Law at Yale Law School. Following upon his book, *Rights Come to Mind: Brain Injury, Ethics, and the Struggle for Consciousness* (Cambridge University Press), Dr. Fins has pioneered ethical and legal scholarship advancing the civil and disability rights of patients with severe brain injury. During the past year, Dr. Fins continued to work on his NIH funded BRAIN Initiative grant, "Cognitive Restoration: Neuroethics and Disability Rights" using narratives to explore the perceptions of subjects and families in the first trial of deep brain stimulation in moderate to severe brain injury. He is also completing a CTSA funded project on assistive technology in pediatric brain injury at Blythedale Children's Hospital. In the past year, Dr. Fins assumed the presidency of the International Neuroethics Society and became chair-elect of the Hastings Center Board of Trustees. He was elected to the Association of American Physicians and continues his deep engagement with bioethics in Spain where he was honored to present the Lección Magistral de Bioética James Drane at the Complutense University in Madrid. In May 2022 he received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Wesleyan University. He is currently embarking on a full-length biography of the physician-humanist, Lewis Thomas.



**Lawrence Friedman, M.D.** is on the Faculty of the Psychoanalytic Association of New York (PANY), where he is a member of the Curriculum Revision Committee, and advisor on its Curriculum Committee. He is on the Consulting Board for the Hans W. Loewald Center. He serves on the Editorial Board of *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*, and he is an Editorial Consultant to *Psicoterapia e Scienze Umane*. He is collecting his papers on psychoanalytic theory of the mind and philosophical issues. On January 29, 2022, Friedman spoke at a Symposium on Morris Eagle's book, *Toward a Unified Psychoanalytic Theory*. On April 30, he spoke on "Ego Psychology Unbound" at the New York Institute Opening of the Hans W. Loewald Center. On June 12, 2022 he addressed the Rapaport-Klein Study Group on the subject of "Ego Psychology: The Mind as an Object."



**Richard A. Friedman, M.D.** is Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and the Director of the Psychopharmacology Clinic at Weill Cornell Medical College. He is actively involved in teaching and training psychiatric residents and is director of the biological psychiatry curriculum in the department. Dr. Friedman has a keen interest in mental health policy and the social and cultural implications of current psychiatric practice. He has published on a wide range of topics in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *The American Journal of Psychiatry*, and *The Journal of the American Medical Association*.

He is also a contributing opinion writer at the *New York Times*, where he writes on mental health, addiction, human behavior, and neuroscience. Outside of the office, he is an avid long-distance swimmer and classical pianist.



**William Frosch, M.D.** is Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry. On March 14, 2022 I presented the paper at the first, and so far only, meeting of the Vidonians. Entitled "Who Was Hozzick?", it explored the role of botany in the practice of medicine through the millennia, and its special importance to the man we know as Dr. Hosack, for whom the auditorium at the New York Academy of Medicine is named. Hosack is perhaps best known for being the only physician who attended the infamous duel between Burr and Hamilton. He cared for Hamilton as he died of his wounds, and continued to care

for both the Burr and Hamilton families after the duel. Having recently celebrated my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, I decided that it was time to step down from the Department's Appointment and Promotions Committee. I had created the Committee forty-five years ago with Bob Michels's encouragement and support, and had chaired it for most of its existence. After twenty-five years of service on Rockefeller University's IRB, I have also stepped down from it. However, I am planning to continue attending the Institute's meeting by zoom, and in person when that becomes possible.



**Curtis W. Hart, M.Div.** continues in his varied activities in the medical center and in the larger community. Among these are membership on both the Weill Cornell Institutional Review Board and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of Hunter College. His presentations include "Picturing Creation: Art, Faith, and Science in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Painting" shared with Meredith Ward for the Richardson Seminar and "Blessed Rage for Order: Heresy, Orthodoxy, and the Gifts of the Spirit" shared with Nathan Kravis for the DeWitt Wallace Institute's Working Group on Psychoanalysis and the Humanities. Other presentations were part of the program of the Columbia Rado Advanced Study Group on Psychoanalysis and Spirituality. They were the "The Shrink Next Door: Power, Betrayal and the Pursuit of Justice," "Frantz Fanon's Black Skin, White Masks: Psychoanalysis and Colonialism," and "The Meaning of Grief: Illness or Part of the Human Condition?"



**Dagmar Herzog, Ph.D.** is Distinguished Professor of History at the Graduate Center, City University of New York, where she teaches courses on the histories of sexuality and gender, historical theory and research method, and psychoanalysis and politics. She is co-recipient of a research fellowship from the Volkswagen Foundation to study "The Corona-Crisis and Public Attitudes about Sex." In summer 2022, she taught a seminar on the Third Reich and its prehistories and afterlives at the School of Criticism and Theory at Cornell. Her current research concerns the theology and politics of disability in Germany, 1870-2020. Her book *Sexuality in Europe* (Cambridge, 2011) appeared in Greek translation in summer 2022, and recent essays appeared in the *Journal of the History of Ideas* (with Stefanos Geroulanos) and in the anthologies *Disability in German-Speaking Europe* and *On Being Adjacent to Historical Violence*.



**Anne Golomb Hoffman, Ph.D.** is becoming involved in prison education and post-incarceration educational opportunities through her teaching at Fordham, along with exploration of programs in New York City. She teaches Freud's case histories at the New York Psychoanalytic Institute. Her research focuses on narrative constructions of embodiment in relation to memory and trauma, with particular attention to the literature of hysteria and modernist novels.



**Siri Hustvedt, Ph.D.** gave her seminar at Weill Cornell in narrative psychiatry, served on the steering committee of Writers for Democratic Action, and worked on a novel, *The Haunted Envelope*. She gave the opening lecture, "Umbilical Phantoms" at the 52nd Congress of the International Psychoanalytical Association, and she was featured at the Filba festival in Buenos Aires. She was interviewed about theoretical and scientific arguments for art therapy and their uses for neurological disorders at the University of Bergen in Norway, and she participated in a discussion on hate speech at the Gothenburg Book Festival in Sweden. She was in conversation with the philosopher and neuroscientist Anna Ciaunica at the First International Conference, Women in Neuroscience, Parma Workshop on philosophy, neuroscience, and the sense of touch. Her collection of essays, *Mothers, Fathers, and Others* was published in the U.S. and the U.K. She was interviewed on the European Enlightenment for the Linen Hall Enlightenment Festival in Belfast, Ireland, and did speaking engagements with the philosopher Carolin Emcke and the anthropologist Line Dålsgard.



**Nathan Kravis M.D.** is an Associate Director of the Institute and Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medical College and a Training and Supervising Analyst at the Columbia University Psychoanalytic Center. His Gradiva Award winning book, *On the Couch: A Repressed History of the Analytic Couch* (MIT Press, 2017) has been translated into German, Turkish, and Russian.



**George J. Makari, M.D.**, Institute Director, published his history of xenophobia, which was reviewed in, among other venues, *Nature*, the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Washington Post*. It won the Anisfield-Wolf non-fiction award for best works on racism and cultural diversity, was a New York Times Editor's Choice and a Bloomberg Best Book of the Year. He published numerous articles and lectured extensively on xenophobia at the 92nd St Y, the Brooklyn Public Library, the New York State Writers Congress in Albany, the Harvard Bookstore, the Liberia bookstore in

London, the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco, Dartmouth, Cornell, the New York Psychoanalytic Society, the Association for Psychoanalytic Medicine, the Birkbeck Antisemitism Center, the University of Essex, the Bristol Center for the Study of Ethnicity, UCL Queen Mary College, the Freud Museum, Montclair State, Fordham, Trinity College, Dublin, the U. of Texas at Austin, Harvard University's Brigham and Women's Hospital, the British Psychoanalytic Society, and as an invited lecturer at the American Psychiatric Association. He was profiled in the *Times Higher Education*, interviewed on *NPR*, the *BBC*, and numerous podcasts, and appeared on *C-Span TV*. Dr. Makari's prior book appeared in Spanish as *Alma Maquina*, and was widely reviewed in the Spanish, Mexican, and Argentinian press. He continues to lecture to residents on the history of psychopathology and co-teach the Models of the Mind class with Dr. Susan Vaughan, as well as host the Institute's Psychiatry and the Arts podcast.



**Robert Michels, M.D.** is the Walsh McDermott University Professor of Medicine, and University Professor of Psychiatry at Cornell, where he continues his teaching activities. In the past year he taught the PGY-II "Diagnosis in Psychiatry" course and the PGY-IV Continuous Case Seminar. He serves on the Department of Psychiatry's Appointments and Promotions Committee, and recently served as Chair of the Aaron Stern, M.D., Ph.D. Professorship Search Committee, which concluded its search in 2022. He is an active member of the Institute's Working Group on the History of

the Mind Sciences. Dr. Michels presented a lecture titled "Culture and Psychoanalysis" at the 41<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Conference (virtual) of the Korean Psychoanalytic Society (KAPA). Dr. Michels in Chair of the Board of Directors of *The Psychoanalytic Quarterly*.



**Orna Ophir, Ph.D.** is a historian and a licensed psychoanalyst in New York City. Her book, *Schizophrenia: An Unfinished History* was published by Polity Press in the UK in May 2022 and in the US in July 2022. She has contributed articles on the history of schizophrenia to *Slate*, *The Montréal Review*, and was interviewed on *Keen On*, Andrew Keen's Apple Podcast. Following the publication of the book, Ophir was invited to join *Psychology Today's* platform as a blogger. She published two articles in her blog *Madness Matters: History, meanings, and methods*: "Psychiatric Diagnoses and Gun

Control" and "Being of Two Minds About Schizophrenia." She also gave four lectures about her new book in Israel: at Shalvata Mental Health Center, and at the Hasharon Mental Health Center, both affiliated with the Sackler School of Medicine at Tel Aviv University, as well as at a Soteria House in Netanya, and at a meeting of the ISPS-IL in Jerusalem. She continues to teach an interdisciplinary undergraduate seminar on the history of madness at the Gallatin School for Individualized Studies at NYU, while seeing patients in her private practice, next to supervising post-doctoral clinical psychologists.



**Camille Robcis, Ph.D.** is Professor of History and French at Columbia University. She is the author of *The Law of Kinship: Anthropology, Psychoanalysis, and the Family in France* (Cornell UP, 2013) and, more recently, of *Disalienation: Politics, Philosophy, and Radical Psychiatry in Postwar France* (Chicago UP, 2021). *Disalienation* traces the history of institutional psychotherapy, a movement born in France during the Second World War that called for the profound transformation of the theory and practice of psychiatric care, through the lens of Marxism and Lacanian psychoanalysis. Robcis received a

Guggenheim fellowship to work on a new project tentatively titled *The Gender Question: Populism, National Reproduction, and the Crisis of Representation* in which she tries to make sense of the protests against the so-called “theory of gender” that have raged in various parts of the world since the 1990s, especially in their conceptual links to populism.

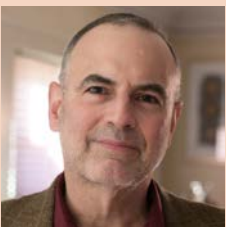


**Louis Sass, Ph.D.** is Distinguished Professor of Clinical Psychology in the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology at Rutgers University and a fellow of the New York Institute for the Humanities. Sass authored and co-authored numerous articles this year in journals including *Critical Inquiry*, *Transcultural Psychiatry*, *Continental Philosophy Review*, and the *Journal of Phenomenological Psychology*. Professor Sass delivered a number of invited lectures, including for the following institutions: University of Ghent and Museum Dr. Guislain, international conference on the philosophy of

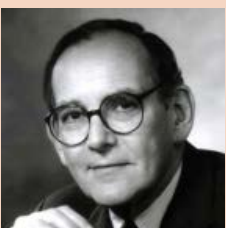
madness and the madness of Philosophy; New York Medical College at Westchester Medical Center, Grand Rounds; University of Limerick; University of Copenhagen, Center for Subjectivity Research; University of Seville and the Martin Heidegger Society, conference on “Heidegger and Neuroscience”; Mount Sinai Medical Center, invited lecture on “Delusion and Double Bookkeeping.”



**Nirav Soni, Ph.D.** graduated from the Adult Psychoanalytic Program at Columbia Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research in the Spring of 2022 and is joining the faculty at the Center. For the Fall and Spring of 2022-23 he is an Associate Instructor in the Adult Psychoanalytic Program. He has been an editorial associate at the *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, and in 2023 he will be joining the Editorial Board there. At Cornell he continues to direct the Benjamin Rush Fellowship in the History of Psychiatry and also supervises and teaches in the psychology Internship program. He has a private practice in New York City and Princeton, NJ where he lives.



**Paul Stepansky, Ph.D.** is continuing to update his blog, “Medicine, Health, and History” ([adoseofhistory.com](http://adoseofhistory.com)), which includes numerous essays on a range of topics in the fields of mental health policy and medical history, including recent essays on the history of anti-vaccinationism in America, the history malaria in the military, and a history of anti-mask protests in during the 1918 Influenza pandemic. He is also at work on a memoir of his 30-year career in psychiatric and psychoanalytic publishing, twenty-three of which were spent as Managing Director of the Analytic Press, Inc.



**Theodore Shapiro, M.D.** became Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry when he retired on June 30, 2022. He co-authored *Child and Adolescent Anxiety Psychodynamic Psychotherapy: A Treatment Manual* (Oxford University Press, 2018) with two colleagues at Weill Cornell, Sabina E. Peter, M.D., Ph.D. and Barbara Milrod, M.D. His collected papers were published in a monograph titled *From Inner Speech to Dialogue: Psychoanalysis Linguistics and Development* (International Psychoanalytic Books, 2020).



**Rosemary Stevens, Ph.D., M.P.H.** completed editing the observations she made of work and workers in a large British hospital when she was a hospital administrative trainee, and has been writing about her subsequent experiences as House Governor (administrator) of a London hospital and subsequent immigration to the United States. Dr. Stevens is considering issues raised by her book, *A Time of Scandal: Charles R. Forbes, Warren G. Harding and the Making of the Veterans Bureau* (2016), whose conclusions center on mythmaking in history; specifically, on the fictional

Characterization of Colonel Charles R. Forbes, the first director of the nation's huge, newly organized, politically conflicted U.S. Veterans Bureau. She is focusing on the broad topic of historical memory, as evidenced in nonfictional and fictional accounts of documented events, now a topic of great importance in the political life of this and other nations.

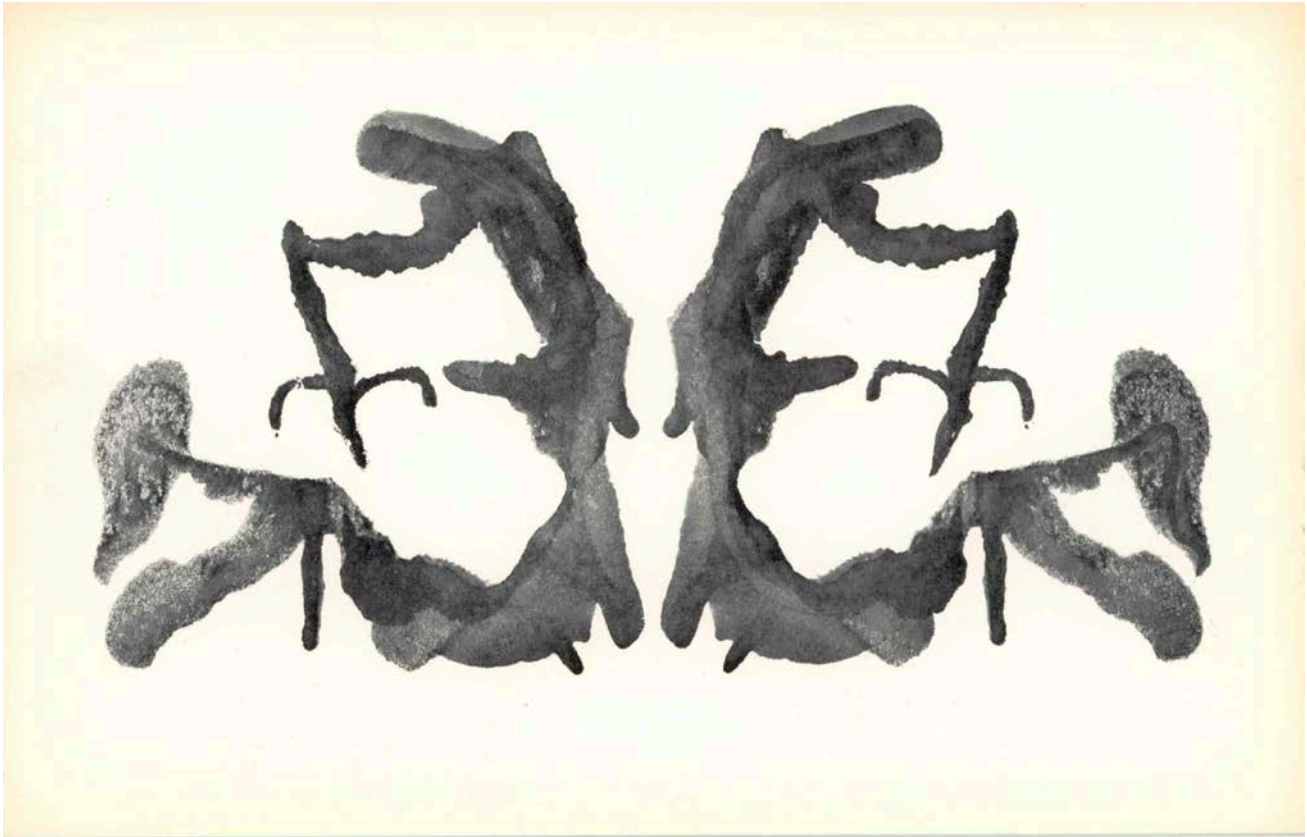


**Megan J. Wolff, Ph.D., M.P.H.** took up a new position in January 2022 as the Policy Director of Beyond Plastics, an environmental advocacy organization that seeks to end plastic pollution everywhere. In this role, she now conducts research and gives frequent lectures on the impacts of plastics overproduction on ecology, the climate, and human health. She serves on the Mindaroo-Monaco Commission on Plastic and Human Health with Philip Landrigan, M.D. She remains a member of the Institute of Psychiatry, where she chairs the lectures on Issues in Mental Health Policy.



**Shari Wolk, M.A.** joined the staff of the DeWitt Wallace Institute of Psychiatry in January 2022 as the Administrator & Richardson Seminar Coordinator. She is a candidate in the Adult Program at the Institute for Psychoanalytic Training and Research. She is an adjunct professor in the Dept. of Media, Culture, and Communication at NYU, where she is completing her dissertation, *To Whom It May Concern: Complaint in America, 1880s-1980s*, a history of the present that draws on extensive archival research to demonstrate how the complaints of consumers and civilians became the emblematic form of contact between individuals and institutions.





# Selected Research Faculty Publications

- \*Adelson, S.** (2021). Health Justice for LGBT Youth: Combining Public Health and Human Rights. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 60(7): 804-807.
- \_\_\_\_\_, Ghazzawi, A., et al. (2021). A Qualitative Investigation Into Faith and LGBTQ Identities in a Nonclinical Sample of Readers of the Dear Abby Column: The Dear Abby Project. *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, 209(12): 855-858.
- \*Boardman, S.** (2021). *Everyday Vitality: Turning Stress into Strength*. New York: Penguin Life.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (2021). Creating wellness apps with high patient engagement to close the intention-action gap. *International Psychogeriatrics*, 33(6): 551-552.
- \_\_\_\_\_, Nwosu, A., et al. (2022). Digital therapeutics for mental health: Is attrition the Achilles heel? *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, August 5.
- \*Fins, J.** (2022). Bioethics, Ukraine, and the Peril of Silence. *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics*, July 8.
- \_\_\_\_\_ & Vernaglia, J. (2022). José Manuel Rodríguez Delgado, Walter Freeman, and Psychosurgery: A Study in Contrasts. *The Neuroscientist*, April 13.
- Herzog, D.** (2021). On Being Adjacent to the Nazi Disability Murder Project. In: Kacandes, I. (Ed.). *On Being Adjacent to Historical Violence*. Boston: De Gruyter, 69-88.
- \*Hustvedt, S.** (2021). *Mothers, Fathers, and Others*. New York: Simon & Schuster.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (2021). The Foreign Girl. In: Stefanovic, S. (Ed.) *Alien Nation: 36 Tales of Immigration*. New York: Harper Via, 218-222.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (2022). Umbilical Phantoms. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 103(2): 368-380.
- Kravis, N.** (2021). Charisma. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 90(4): 523-554.
- \*Makari, G.** (2021). *Of Fear and Strangers: A History of Xenophobia*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (2021). *Alma Maquina: La Invención de la Mente Moderna*. Mexico City: Sexto Pisto.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (2021). A Malady Called Nationalism. *Lapham's Quarterly*, September 15.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (2021). The Invention of "Xenophobia." *Los Angeles Review of Books*, October 6.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (2021). On Kinds of Minds and Kinds of Racism. *Los Angeles Review of Books*, December 14.
- Michels, R.** (2021). Farewell and Welcome. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 90(1): 1-2.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (2022). Obituary: Sander M. Abend (1932-2021). *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 91(1): 171-172.
- Ophir, O.** (2022). *Schizophrenia: An Unfinished History*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (2022). Psychiatric Diagnoses and Gun Control. *Psychology Today*, July 29.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (2022). Being of Two Minds About Schizophrenia. *Psychology Today*, September 14.
- Robcis, C.** (2021). *Disalienation: Politics, Philosophy, and Radical Psychiatry in Postwar France*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- \*Sass, L.** (2021). Everywhere and nowhere: Reflections on phenomenology as impossible and indispensable (in psychology and psychiatry). *Critical Inquiry*, 47(3): 544-564.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (2021). Husserl, Heidegger, and the paradox of subjectivity. *Continental Philosophy Review*, 54(3): 295-317.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (2022). Subjectivity, schizophrenia, and the self: An introduction to phenomenological psychopathology. In: Brent Slife, Stephen Yanchar & Frank Richardson (Eds.). *Routledge International Handbook of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology*. New York: Routledge.

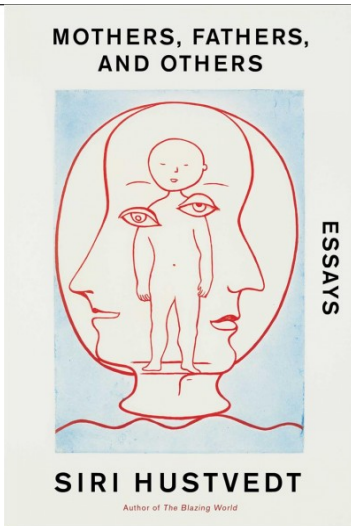
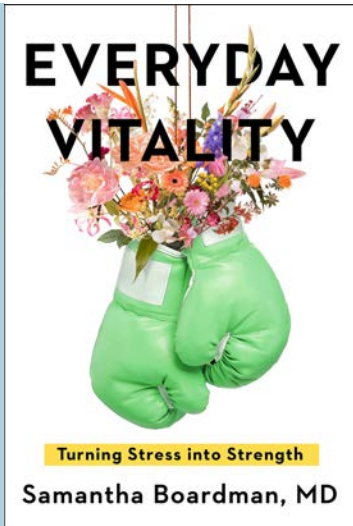
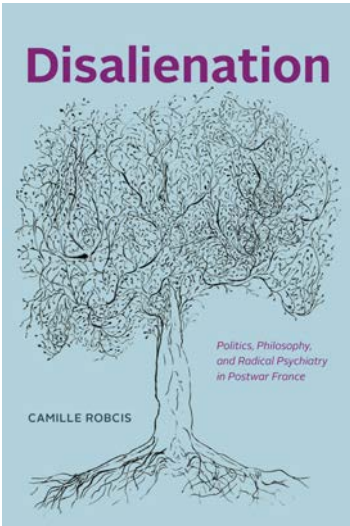
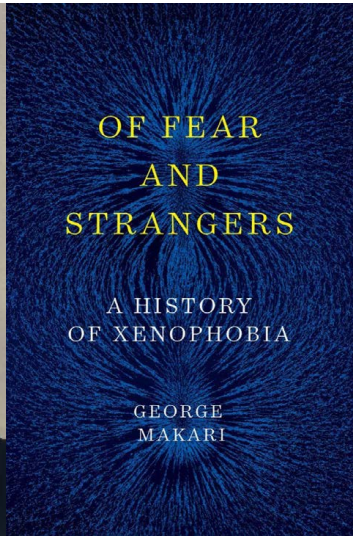
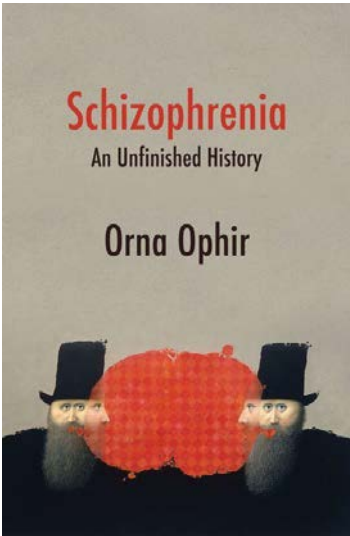
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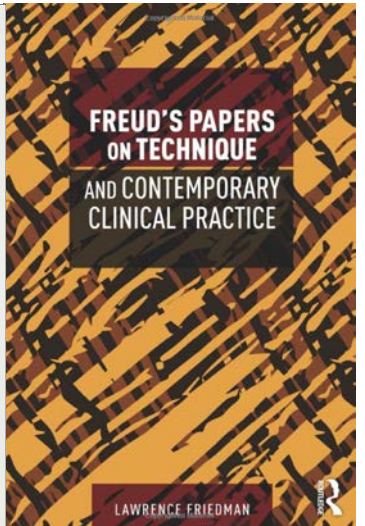
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# Our Authors

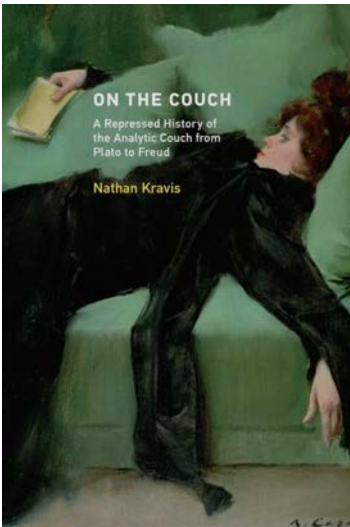
A look back at ten recent books published by the institute's directors and affiliated research faculty members. We celebrate their significant contributions to scholarship in the history of the mind sciences, the humanities, and clinical practice.



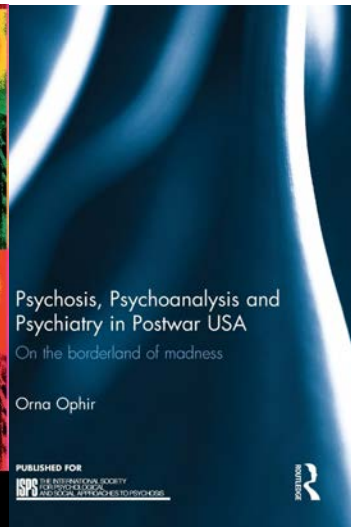
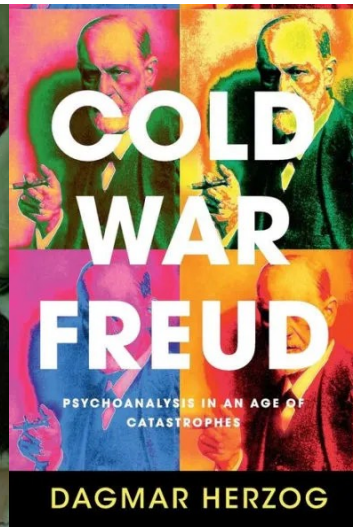
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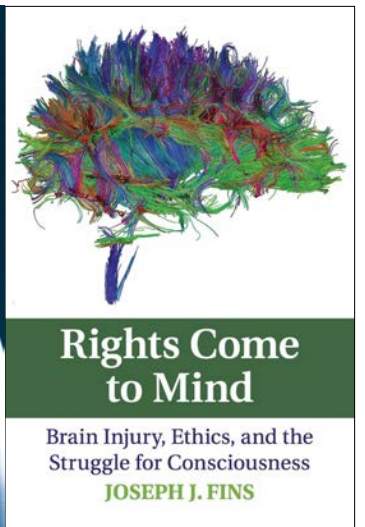
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2016



2015



## In Memoriam

### Aaron Esman, M.D., 1924-2022

Our good friend and esteemed colleague, Aaron Esman, died in March 2022 at 97. He was all Cornell. His bachelor and medical degrees were followed by a lengthy tenure, beginning in 1978, as Cornell Professor of Clinical Psychiatry specializing in adolescence at Payne Whitney Clinic. His older brother, Milton Esman, was also a Cornell Professor of Political Science at Ithaca. We hold Aaron's family in our thoughts: Rosa, his wife of more than 60 years, an art connoisseur and dealer, and their three daughters, Susanna, also an art dealer, Marjorie, a civil rights lawyer, and Abigail, a journalist and author. Their endowment of an annual Esman Lecture in Psychoanalysis and the Arts was made in support of the DeWitt Wallace Institute of Psychiatry. This year, on April 20th, the poet and translator Rosanna Warren gave the Esman Lecture in Aaron's memory.

On a more personal note, I will recapitulate his career in psychiatry and psychoanalysis as an eye witness. I first met Aaron as a teacher when I was a psychiatry resident at NYU working in Bellevue, where he was acting Chief of Child Psychiatry. He soon took over the Child and Adolescent Residency Program at the Jewish Board of Guardians, then a foremost clinical program devoted to psychiatric training with children. He was also active at the New York Psychoanalytic Institute where he served as President some years later. In 1978, two years after I had moved to Cornell, Bob Michels, our Chair, and I recruited Aaron to take on the program in adolescent training. It was from that perch that our more intimate friendship began, and he became a devoted participant in the Richardson Seminars.

Aaron leaves behind a legacy of careful and thoughtful scholarship encompassing his erudition in art, music, and history and his clinical practice in psychoanalysis and psychology. Most prominent, among his papers and books, I note *Adolescence and Culture* (1990) and *Madness and Art: The Life and Works of Adolf Wölfli* (1992), a translation from French of a biographic volume on the work of an artist whose career was carried out in a mental institution near Lausanne, where his art is now housed at Switzerland's Musée de l'Art Brut. I was fortunate to have co-authored with him two papers that reviewed the scope of dynamic psychotherapy for children and adolescents during the late 20th century (1985, 1990).

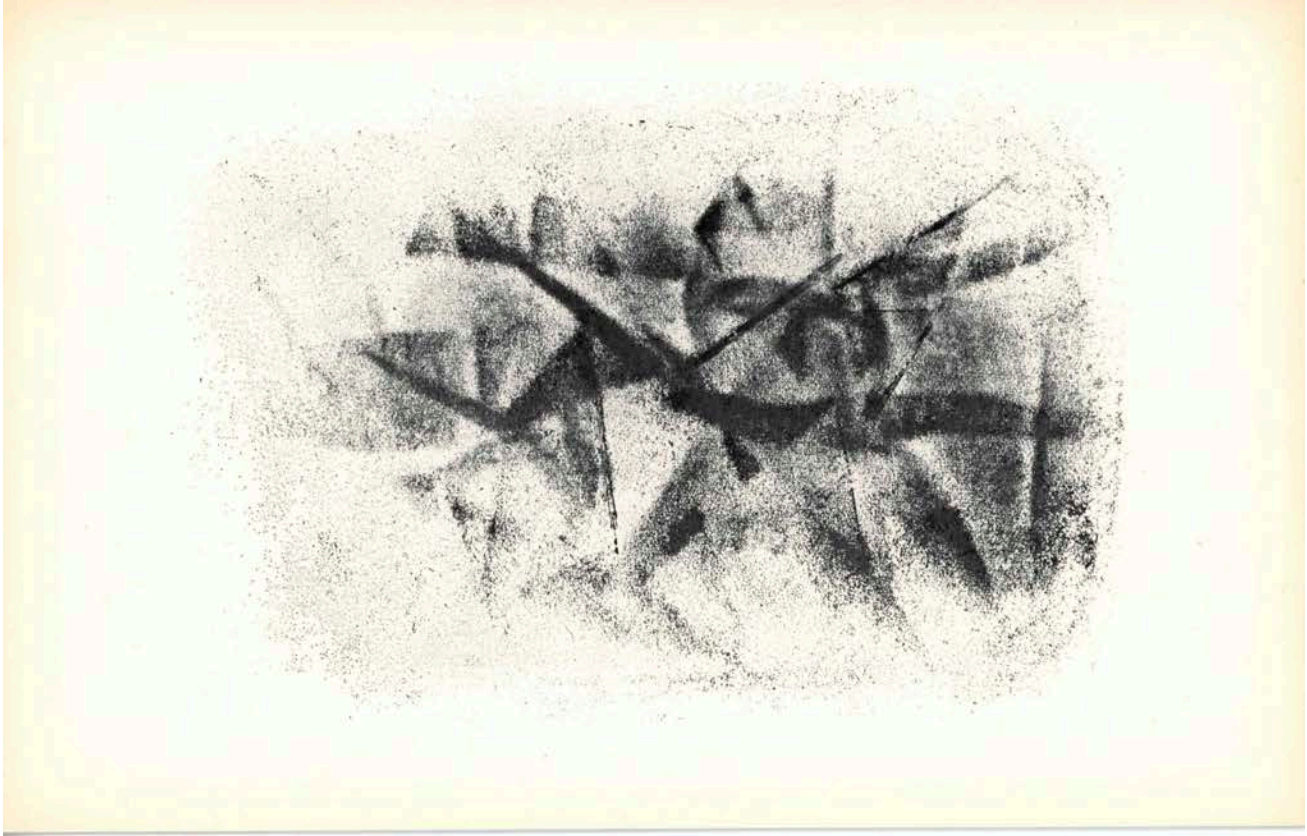
Aaron's devotion to reading began in his childhood home in Pittsburgh. He delighted in telling the tale of his favorite aunt, his muse for this pleasurable, knowledge-building, and lifelong pastime. He shared with his deep love of literature with us in seminars. Aaron and Rosa travelled the world and were avid art collectors. I cannot omit his passion for music. The Esmans maintained a summer home in Stockbridge where they were steadies at the Berkshire Music Festival. Aaron was particularly partial to Mozart.

Within his elegant, composed, and sturdy stature, Aaron counted as a "bon vivant." He enjoyed his viewing and listening, and also prominently, his dining. He was a "go-to" aficionado, never without travel and dining recommendations to offer. A standout was a trip to Burgundy that Aaron curated for my wife and I — he ensured that our visit to the Romanesque cathedrals in Vézelay and Autun included routes to fine Michelin starred places to eat. Aaron's professed love of foie gras caused his more cautious comrades to marvel at his disregard for "healthy eating." Indeed, he succeeded to live a long and joyful life.

He and our family spent many good times together including visits to our summer retreats, dining and expressing outrage at the growing ultra-conservative political climate in recent years. He and Rosa introduced us to a larger array of contemporary art, and he and I worked hard at reorganizing teaching of dynamic therapy to Adult and Child psychiatrists at Payne Whitney. Aaron was a truly thoughtful teacher and scholar who loved the interplay of psychoanalysis and culture. He was never contentious or boisterous, but always concise and clear as he expressed his views and explored new ideas. His intellectual breadth and knowledge base permitted him to expand the conversation and excite further discussion and debate.

Aaron Esman was a significant educator and intellectual force. He leaves behind so many memories of extraordinary times together but also so many artifacts of cultures present and past in his collections. He has done much to enhance the intellectual and humanistic life of our Psychiatry Department and the Medical College. He will live on in these contributions to Cornell, and he will be missed.

Theodore Shapiro, M.D.



# Welcome

## Attend a Lecture

The Institute meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, from September to May, for our three seminar series: the Richardson History of Psychiatry Research Seminar, Psychiatry and the Arts, and Issues in Mental Health Policy. As of September 2022, we have welcomed back participants to join us in-person while continuing to meet on Zoom. Please contact the seminar coordinator ([shw4012@med.cornell.edu](mailto:shw4012@med.cornell.edu)), for the current program schedule and details about attending in-person.

## Visit the Library

The Oskar Diethelm Library is now accepting visitors on a limited basis. To make an appointment to conduct research, please contact Nicole Topich ([nrt4001@med.cornell.edu](mailto:nrt4001@med.cornell.edu)). We are also available to assist with scholarly research related to our holdings and answer questions about the collections.

## Become a Supporter

The Institute of Psychiatry has never been broader in its reach or more active. Help us maintain our invaluable library, and the many unique activities that go along with it, by making a gift.

## Contact Us

We welcome your feedback and questions. Please contact our Administrative Coordinator ([shw4012@med.cornell.edu](mailto:shw4012@med.cornell.edu)).

## Make a Bequest

Planned gifts are a thoughtful way to achieve your philanthropic goals while maximizing your resources and establishing your legacy at the DeWitt Wallace Institute of Psychiatry. For information on how you can include us in your plans, please contact Development Coordinator Rochelle Cohen at [roc2026@med.cornell.edu](mailto:roc2026@med.cornell.edu).

## Join the Director's Circle

Members of the Director's Circle have the opportunity to join us throughout the year for a series of special events. These have included discussions on the future of psychoanalysis, performances, and the celebration of new books.

If you are interested in joining the Director's Circle, please contact Dr. George Makari, Director of the DeWitt Wallace Institute of Psychiatry, at [gjmakari@med.cornell.edu](mailto:gjmakari@med.cornell.edu).

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The Institute is grateful for the contributions listed here. This support make it possible for us to continue our unique programming while preserving the Oskar Diethelm Library's collections and supporting emerging scholarship in the history of the mind sciences.

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