Elizabeth Lunbeck, a historian of psychiatry and psychoanalysis, is the author of several prize-winning books (including *The Americanization of Narcissism*, Harvard University Press) and co-editor of four books in the history of science. She is currently teaching a popular lecture course on Psychotherapy and the Modern Self to Harvard undergraduates, and working on a book on *The Talking Cure, from Freud to the Chatbot*.

**Abstract:**
Is the relationship between therapist and patient irreducibly human and central to its healing effects, or can an illusory, AI-generated other substitute? Researchers in the 1990s, quick to grasp the possibilities offered by cyberspace, cast it as analogous to the space of therapy: a place of imagination and creativity supportive of reality and fantasy, action and thoughts, isolation and connectedness in which magic and science could co-exist. Can we see in the enthusiasm for AI-generated therapy the reappearance of psychotherapy’s disavowed mysticism—this time located in cyberspace and relabeled as scientific? Is it worth considering that magic, illusion, and “miracles” may not be bugs but rather features of the psychotherapeutic enterprise?

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Demonstrate the generative role of "cyberspace" in psychotherapy.
2. Identity ways in which researchers have made therapeutic action legible to science.
3. Asses the persistence of "the magic of words" (Freud) in the history and present of psychotherapeutic practice.

**References:**