

Psychiatry Grand Rounds

WCM Department of Psychiatry
Psychology CE Announcement



**Weill Cornell
Medicine**
Psychiatry

Did Strachey Falsely Scientize Freud?

Professor Mark Solms

Director of Neuropsychology
Neuroscience Institute, University of Cape Town

Location: Uris Auditorium AND Livestreamed via Zoom

Wednesday, May 7th, 2025

11:00am – 12:00pm

<https://weillcornell.zoom.us/j/92812036154>

Meeting ID: 928 1203 6154

Password: 12345



1 CE credit available to WCM Department of Psychiatry full time and voluntary faculty Psychologists, Social Workers and LMHCs, who sign in with their full name, attend the entire lecture and complete a survey which will be emailed following the completion of the lecture. Note you can join no later than 10 minutes after the start of time and must stay for the entire duration of the event for CE eligibility. The CE survey must be completed within 30 days of the lecture. Please contact wcmpsychiatryce@med.cornell.edu for additional CE information

Speaker

Professor Mark Solms is a member of the British Psychoanalytical Society and the American and South African Psychoanalytic Associations. He is Director of Neuropsychology at the Neuroscience Institute of the University of Cape Town. He is an Honorary Fellow of the American College of Psychiatrists. He has received numerous honours and awards, including the Sigourney Prize. He has published 350 scientific papers, and eight books, the latest being *The Hidden Spring* (Norton, 2021). He is the authorized editor and translator of the Revised Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud (24 volumes) and the forthcoming Complete Neuroscientific Works of Sigmund Freud (4 volumes).

Financial Disclosure: Dr. Solms has no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose and DOES NOT INTEND to discuss off-label or investigational use of products or services.

Abstract

The claim that Strachey ‘falsely scientized’ Freud, mainly through the translation of his technical vocabulary, is the red thread that runs through all the major criticisms of the Standard Edition (e.g. Bettelheim, Ornston, Laplanche). In this lecture, I will argue against this criticism on three grounds. (1) It fails to take account of the differing conventions employed in German and English scientific writing. (2) It fails to take account of Freud’s personal involvement in Strachey’s choices. (3) It fails to consider continuities between Freud’s neuroscientific and psychoanalytic writings. These points will be illustrated by way of representative examples. I will also take the opportunity to describe and defend other editorial policy decisions that I took, and I will provide a general introduction to the form and content of the Revised Standard Edition.”

Learning Objectives

1. Identify and articulate the major criticisms of Strachey’s Standard Edition.
2. Evaluate the limitations and shortcomings in existing criticisms of Strachey’s Standard Edition.
3. Describe the editorial policies and key contents of the Revised Standard Edition.

References

1. Solms, M. (2024). The revised standard edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
2. Solms, M. (2024b). Guest Editor’s introduction to the IJP special issue on Freud’s revised Standard Edition. *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 105(5), 637–640. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00207578.2024.2395744>
3. Solms, M. (2018). Extracts from the Revised Standard Edition of Freud’s complete psychological works. *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 99(1), 11–57. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00207578.2017.1408306>

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