

psychoanalysis the impossible profession

Psychoanalysis: The Impossible Profession?

Introduction:

The image of the psychoanalyst - a figure shrouded in mystery, listening intently as a patient unravels their deepest anxieties - is both alluring and intimidating. But beneath the veneer of profound insight and therapeutic breakthroughs lies a profession grappling with immense challenges. This article delves into the inherent difficulties faced by psychoanalysts, exploring why many consider it an "impossible" profession, examining the ethical dilemmas, practical limitations, and inherent complexities that define its practice. We'll dissect the demanding nature of the work, its financial precariousness, and the persistent criticisms it faces, offering a nuanced perspective on this fascinating and often frustrating field.

1. The Herculean Task of Unraveling the Unconscious:

One of the primary reasons psychoanalysis remains a challenging profession lies in its core methodology. Uncovering the unconscious, the reservoir of repressed thoughts, feelings, and memories, is a monumental task. It requires years of rigorous training, a deep understanding of psychodynamic theory, and an exceptional capacity for empathy and intuition. The analyst must navigate intricate webs of defense mechanisms, transference, and countertransference, all while maintaining a delicate balance between interpretation and neutrality. This process is time-consuming, emotionally demanding, and often fraught with ambiguity. The very nature of the unconscious, being by definition hidden, makes its exploration a constantly shifting and unpredictable landscape.

1. The Ethical Tightrope Walk: Boundaries and Power Dynamics:

The therapeutic relationship in psychoanalysis is inherently asymmetrical. The analyst holds a position of power and authority, creating a potential for exploitation and ethical transgressions. Maintaining clear professional boundaries, navigating the complex dynamics of transference (the patient's projection of feelings onto the analyst) and countertransference (the analyst's unconscious reaction to the patient), requires constant vigilance and self-awareness. The potential for blurring these boundaries, leading to ethical breaches, is a constant concern within the field. The long-term nature of the analysis further complicates this, requiring sustained attention to these dynamics over many sessions and years.

1. The Financial Realities: A Precarious Existence:

Psychoanalysis, unlike many other therapeutic modalities, often involves lengthy sessions and extended treatment periods. This translates to a significant time commitment for the analyst, which can result in lower income compared to other medical or mental health professions. Many analysts rely on a private practice model, often without the benefits and support structures of larger institutions. This financial precariousness can create significant stress and affect the analyst's ability to maintain a sustainable and healthy professional life. The long-term financial commitment required for training also acts as a significant barrier to entry.

1. The Scrutiny and Criticism: A Profession Under the Microscope:

Psychoanalysis has faced persistent criticism, particularly from proponents of empirically-based therapies like Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT). Critics often question the lack of rigorous empirical evidence supporting its efficacy, citing the subjective nature of interpretation and the difficulty in measuring outcomes. While psychoanalysis is gradually incorporating more empirical research methods, the persistent critiques and the pressure to conform to evidence-based medicine standards pose a significant challenge to its legitimacy and acceptance within the wider mental health community.

1. The Personal Toll: Burnout and Compassion Fatigue:

The intensely emotional nature of psychoanalytic work takes a significant toll on the analyst. Listening to patients' deeply personal and often traumatic experiences can lead to burnout, compassion fatigue, and vicarious traumatization. The analyst's own emotional well-being is crucial for maintaining professional effectiveness, but the inherent demands of the profession often make self-care a challenging, if not impossible, priority. This self-care is not simply a matter of taking time off; it requires ongoing personal therapy and a dedicated commitment to maintaining emotional balance.

1. The Time Commitment: A Long and Winding Road:

The journey to becoming a psychoanalyst is a long and arduous one, involving years of extensive training and supervision. This prolonged period of education and apprenticeship requires significant financial investment, personal sacrifice, and unwavering commitment. The high barrier to entry contributes to the limited number of practitioners available, further compounding the difficulties faced by those seeking this type of therapy. The scarcity of practitioners inevitably leads to long waiting lists and limited access for those in need.

1. The Limitations of the Method: Not a One-Size-Fits-All Solution:

Psychoanalysis is not a universal solution for all mental health challenges.

It's particularly well-suited for individuals who are motivated to engage in deep self-reflection and are willing to commit to a long-term therapeutic process. However, it may not be the most appropriate approach for individuals with severe mental illness, acute crises, or limited resources. Recognizing the limitations of the method and referring patients to more suitable therapeutic modalities is crucial for ethical and effective practice.

Book Outline: "Psychoanalysis: A Critical Examination of an Impossible Profession"

Introduction: Defining psychoanalysis, its historical context, and the central question of its "impossibility."

Chapter 1: The theoretical foundations of psychoanalysis and its inherent challenges.

Chapter 2: Ethical considerations in psychoanalysis: boundaries, transference, and countertransference.

Chapter 3: The financial and practical realities faced by psychoanalysts.

Chapter 4: Criticisms and controversies surrounding psychoanalysis.

Chapter 5: The personal toll on the analyst: burnout, compassion fatigue, and self-care.

Chapter 6: The training and education process: a long and demanding journey.

Chapter 7: The limitations of psychoanalysis and the need for integrative approaches.

Conclusion: A summary of the challenges and potential future directions for psychoanalysis.

(Detailed explanation of each chapter would follow, expanding on the points already discussed in the article. Each chapter would delve deeper into the specific topic, providing relevant examples, case studies, and research findings.)

FAQs:

1. Is psychoanalysis still relevant in today's world of evidence-based medicine? While facing criticism for its lack of empirical evidence, psychoanalysis continues to offer valuable insights into the human psyche and remains a relevant approach for certain individuals and conditions.
1. How long does psychoanalysis typically take? Psychoanalysis is a long-term therapy, often lasting for several years or even longer.
1. Is psychoanalysis expensive? Yes, psychoanalysis can be expensive due to the extended treatment duration and the high cost of training for analysts.

1. What are the ethical considerations in psychoanalysis? Maintaining professional boundaries, navigating transference and countertransference, and ensuring patient confidentiality are crucial ethical considerations.
1. What are the signs of burnout in psychoanalysts? Burnout in analysts can manifest as emotional exhaustion, cynicism, and reduced professional efficacy.
1. What is the training process for becoming a psychoanalyst? Becoming a psychoanalyst involves years of rigorous training, including personal analysis, coursework, and clinical supervision.
1. Is psychoanalysis suitable for all mental health conditions? No, psychoanalysis is not suitable for all conditions. It is best suited for individuals who are willing to engage in in-depth self-reflection and long-term therapy.
1. What are the alternatives to psychoanalysis? There are several alternatives to psychoanalysis, including CBT, psychodynamic therapy, and other evidence-based therapies.
1. How can I find a psychoanalyst? You can find a psychoanalyst through referrals from your doctor, therapist, or through professional organizations dedicated to psychoanalysis.

Related Articles:

1. The Therapeutic Relationship in Psychoanalysis: Explores the dynamics of the analyst-patient relationship.
2. Transference and Countertransference in Psychoanalytic Therapy: Discusses the complexities of these therapeutic concepts.
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4. Criticisms of Psychoanalysis: A Balanced Perspective: Presents both sides of the debate surrounding psychoanalysis.
5. The Ethical Dilemmas of Psychoanalysis: Delves into ethical considerations in the practice of psychoanalysis.

6. **Burnout and Compassion Fatigue in Mental Health Professionals:** Focuses on the challenges of working in mental health.
7. **The Financial Realities of Private Practice in Psychotherapy:** Explores the financial challenges for therapists in private practice.
8. **Evidence-Based Practices in Psychotherapy: A Review:** Examines the role of evidence-based practices in psychotherapy.
9. **Integrating Psychoanalysis with Other Therapeutic Modalities:** Discusses the benefits of integrating various therapeutic approaches.

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: Psychoanalysis Janet Malcolm, 2011-06-08 From the author of *In the Freud Archives* and *The Journalist and the Murderer* comes an intensive look at the practice of psychoanalysis through interviews with "Aaron Green," a Freudian analyst in New York City. Malcolm is accessible and lucid in describing the history of psychoanalysis and its development in the United States. It provides rare insight into the contradictory world of psychoanalytic training and treatment and a foundation for our understanding of psychiatry and mental health. Janet Malcom has managed somehow to peer into the reticent, reclusive world of psychoanalysis and to report to us, with remarkable fidelity, what she has seen. When I began reading I thought condescendingly, 'She will get the facts right, and everything else wrong.' She does get the facts right, but far more pressive, she has been able to capture and convey the claustal atmosphere of the profession. Her book is journalism become art. —Joseph Andelson, *The New York Times Book Review*

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: Education, an 'impossible Profession'? Tamara Bibby, 2010 This book will provide a way of using psychoanalytic psychologies to think about some of the processes and experiences of learning and teaching.

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: *In the Freud Archives* Janet Malcolm, 2002-11-30 Includes an afterword by the author *In the Freud Archives* tells the story of an unlikely encounter among three men: K. R. Eissler, the venerable doyen of psychoanalysis; Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson, a flamboyant, restless forty-two-year-old Sanskrit scholar turned psychoanalyst turned virulent anti-Freudian; and Peter Swales, a mischievous thirty-five-year-old former assistant to the Rolling Stones and self-taught Freud scholar. At the center of their Oedipal drama are the Sigmund Freud Archives--founded, headed, and jealously guarded by Eissler--whose sealed treasure gleams and beckons to the community of Freud scholarship as if it were the Rhine gold. Janet Malcolm's fascinating book first appeared some twenty years ago, when it was immediately recognized as a rare and remarkable work of nonfiction. A story of infatuation and disappointment, betrayal and revenge, *In the Freud Archives* is essentially a comedy. But the powerful presence of Freud himself and the harsh bracing air of his ideas about unconscious life hover over the narrative and give it a tragic dimension.

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: *Dear Candidate: Analysts from around the World Offer Personal Reflections on Psychoanalytic Training, Education, and the Profession* Fred Busch, 2020-11-23 In this first-of-kind book, senior psychoanalysts from around the world offer personal reflections on their own training, what it was like to become a psychoanalyst, and what they would like most to convey to the candidate of today. With forty-two personal letters to candidates, this edited collection helps analysts in training and those recently entering the profession to reflect upon what it means to be a psychoanalytic candidate and enter the profession. Letters tackle the anxieties, ambiguities, complications, and pleasures faced in these tasks. From these reflections, the book serves as a guide through this highly personal, complex, and meaningful experience and helps

readers consider the many different meanings of being a candidate in a psychoanalytic institute. Perfect for candidates and psychoanalytic educators, this book inspires analysts at all levels to think, once again, about this impossible but fascinating profession and to consider their own psychoanalytic development.

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: Impossible Training Emanuel Berman, 2013-04-15 Over the past century psychoanalysis has gone on to establish training institutes, professional societies, accreditation procedures, and models of education, thus bringing into uneasy alliance all three impossible pursuits. In *Impossible Training: A Relational View of Psychoanalytic Education*, Emanuel Berman turns his attention to the current status and future prospects of this daunting project. Berman is ideally suited to tackle the impossibility of psychoanalytic education. A graduate of two psychoanalytic institutes, one in Israel and one in America, he has devoted much of his professional life to psychoanalytic education and the organizational issues embedded in it. In *Impossible Training*, Berman describes the complex emotional and organizational dynamics of psychoanalytic training. Placing these issues within the context of major controversies in psychoanalytic history, he shows how generations of students have either idealized a proper analytic identity, which evolves into a persecutory ideal, or rebelled against these standards. Are such persecuting and infantilizing trends inherent in analytic training, he asks, or can psychoanalytic education transcend them through changes in its structure and rules? For Berman, the relational and intersubjective trends in contemporary psychoanalysis call for changes in analytic supervision, not least of which is heightened attentiveness to the many relationships that gain expression in the supervisory process. Envisioned in this relational manner, supervision can become a more personal experience, less guarded, and more conducive to the development of a fertile transitional space between supervisor and supervisee. Anchoring his consideration of the present in the controversies of the past, Berman concludes by considering the mission of psychoanalytic educators today: to provide trainees with the resources to cope creatively with the as yet unknown challenges of tomorrow.

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: *The Journalist and the Murderer* Janet Malcolm, 2011-06-22 A seminal work and examination of the psychopathology of journalism. Using a strange and unprecedented lawsuit by a convicted murder against the journalist who wrote a book about his crime, Malcolm delves into the always uneasy, sometimes tragic relationship that exists between journalist and subject. Featuring the real-life lawsuit of Jeffrey MacDonald, a convicted murderer, against Joe McGinniss, the author of *Fatal Vision*. In Malcolm's view, neither journalist nor subject can avoid the moral impasse that is built into the journalistic situation. When the text first appeared, as a two-part article in *The New Yorker*, its thesis seemed so radical and its irony so pitiless that journalists across the country reacted as if stung. Her book is a work of journalism as well as an essay on journalism: it at once exemplifies and dissects its subject. In her interviews with the leading and subsidiary characters in the MacDonald-McGinniss case -- the principals, their lawyers, the members of the jury, and the various persons who testified as expert witnesses at the trial -- Malcolm is always aware of herself as a player in a game that, as she points out, she cannot lose. The journalist-subject encounter has always troubled journalists, but never before has it been looked at so unflinchingly and so ruefully. Hovering over the narrative -- and always on the edge of the reader's consciousness -- is the MacDonald murder case itself, which imparts to the book an atmosphere of anxiety and uncanniness. *The Journalist and the Murderer* derives from and reflects many of the dominant intellectual concerns of our time, and it will have a particular appeal for those who cherish the odd, the off-center, and the unsolved.

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: *The Very Thought of Education* Deborah P. Britzman, 2009-05-26 Winner of the 2009 Gary A. Olson Award presented by JAC - a journal of rhetoric, culture, and politics For anyone who has ever been to school, the very thought of education recalls an emotional world denounced. What happens then if we try to understand the emotional scenery of education? Author Deborah P. Britzman proposes that the psychoanalysis of love and hate in learning provides creative commentary on our contemporary educational controversies. Drawing

upon novels, art, psychoanalytic theory, clinical material, and philosophical debates on human nature, Britzman presents a psychoanalytic education of uncertainty. She focuses on key encounters: thinking, development, reading, psychology, transference, countertransference, and learning a profession. From the collapse of contemporary pedagogical themes to the work of reparation, Britzman explores the fantasies of education for the purpose of returning ideas of grace, hope, humor, and humility to the impossible professions (education, government, and medicine).

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: Psychoanalysis and Women Judith L. Alpert, 2013-05-13 Within the psychoanalytic framework, there is a growing body of research and thinking about female development. In addition, there is ongoing research within other areas of psychology, such as developmental psychology and social psychology, which has important implications for an understanding of women's adult development. Often these research findings are not readily available to the analytic community, nor has much of the research been incorporated into a psychoanalytic framework. Psychoanalysis and Women broadens analytic thinking by integrating contemporary literature from psychoanalysis with that of other areas, both within and outside psychology, which has implications for the understanding of women's development. This literature is conceptualized within a psychoanalytic framework. A basic premise underlying this book is that psychoanalysis needs continuing review and revision in terms of what women and men are about and a continuing focus on whether and how unfounded biases prevent analysts from understanding patients. The present volume considers how sexism and feminism are affecting psychoanalysis and exemplifies how the emerging field of psychoanalysis of women and the issues its existence raises should be conceptualized. It also exemplifies some of the positive contributions that a feminist outlook gives to the study of human behavior and should expand the range of hypotheses that we have about people.

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: Psychoanalysis Janet Malcolm, 1980

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: Dare to Be Human Michael Shoshani Rosenbaum, 2013-05-13 Daniel is 35, successful, a high level professional and an accomplished academic - yet he is also a virgin, who fears that he will spend the rest of his life alone. More importantly, Daniel has existed in an emotional bubble all of his life, and has had no intimate friendships. In other words, he is not fully alive, and seeks psychotherapy because he is haunted by not understanding what is wrong with him. He is attractive to women, yet as soon as a woman tries to get close to him, he runs away. Lacking an inner foundation, he fears that women will annihilate him, like his overbearing mother who abused him as a child. Quite simply, this book is an unprecedented achievement, taking the reader into actual psychoanalytic sessions and sharing with the reader Michael Shoshani Rosenbaum's dialogues with Daniel, vividly illustrating his pain and struggle to transcend his existential plight. Furthermore, as the author of two sections of the book, Daniel himself provides a rare, insightful view from the other side of the couch, illuminating the challenge and change experienced within the other half of the therapeutic relationship. It is a compelling psychological adventure, fusing together the intimacy of the therapy with an account of the revolutionary changes that have occurred in the practice of psychotherapy and psychoanalysis over the last decades. Daniel is like no one else, and yet he is everyone, making this book a must for every person searching for self-knowledge, allowing the reader to identify with Daniel and his struggle to become human.

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: Different Paths Towards Becoming a Psychoanalyst and Psychotherapist Arnold Rachman, Harold Kooden, 2020-11-16 This book describes the personal journey of a collection of contributors, detailing their pathways to becoming psychoanalysts and psychotherapists, with insights from many of the most interesting analysts in the field. The history of psychoanalysis and psychotherapy indicates that the pioneers were individuals who came from different pathways, such as medicine, law, education, and art. The integration of men and women with different educational and career backgrounds enhance the intellectual and clinical evolution of the field. Here, Arnold Rachman and Harold Kooden have invited a diverse group of practicing clinicians to demonstrate that psychoanalysis and psychotherapy continues to welcome and integrate individuals with a wide variety of intellectual interests and atypical career

pathways. In showing how varied and personalized the route into analysis can be, this book will be of great interest to clinicians of all levels and experience, and will offer inspiration to those just entering the profession.

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: Secrets of the Soul Eli Zaretsky, 2005-08-09 The fledgling science of psychoanalysis permanently altered the nineteenth-century worldview with its remarkable new insights into human behavior and motivation. It quickly became a benchmark for modernity in the twentieth century--though its durability in the twenty-first may now be in doubt. More than a hundred years after the publication of Freud's *The Interpretation of Dreams*, we're no longer in thrall, says cultural historian Eli Zaretsky, to the "romance" of psychotherapy and the authority of the analyst. Only now do we have enough perspective to assess the successes and shortcomings of psychoanalysis, from its late-Victorian Era beginnings to today's age of psychopharmacology. In *Secrets of the Soul*, Zaretsky charts the divergent schools in the psychoanalytic community and how they evolved--sometimes under pressure--from sexism to feminism, from homophobia to acceptance of diversity, from social control to personal emancipation. From Freud to Zolof, Zaretsky tells the story of what may be the most intimate science of all.

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: *The Trainings of the Psychoanalyst* Annie Tardits, 2019-11-04 If psychoanalysis, for Freud, was an impossible profession, what consequences would this have for psychoanalytic training? And if one's own personal analysis lay at the heart of psychoanalytic training, how could what one had learnt from this be transmitted, let alone taught? In this groundbreaking book, the author explores the many attempts that an

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: Forty-one False Starts Janet Malcolm, 2013-05-07 A National Book Critics Circle Finalist for Criticism A deeply Malcolmian volume on painters, photographers, writers, and critics. Janet Malcolm's *In the Freud Archives* and *The Journalist and the Murderer*, as well as her books about Sylvia Plath and Gertrude Stein, are canonical in the realm of nonfiction—as is the title essay of this collection, with its forty-one false starts, or serial attempts to capture the essence of the painter David Salle, which becomes a dazzling portrait of an artist. Malcolm is among the most intellectually provocative of authors, writes David Lehman in *The Boston Globe*, able to turn epiphanies of perception into explosions of insight. Here, in *Forty-one False Starts*, Malcolm brings together essays published over the course of several decades (largely in *The New Yorker* and *The New York Review of Books*) that reflect her preoccupation with artists and their work. Her subjects are painters, photographers, writers, and critics. She explores Bloomsbury's obsessive desire to create things visual and literary; the passionate collaborations behind Edward Weston's nudes; and the character of the German art photographer Thomas Struth, who is haunted by the Nazi past, yet whose photographs have a lightness of spirit. In *The Woman Who Hated Women*, Malcolm delves beneath the onyx surface of Edith Wharton's fiction, while in *Advanced Placement* she relishes the black comedy of the Gossip Girl novels of Cecily von Ziegesar. In *Salinger's Cigarettes*, Malcolm writes that the pettiness, vulgarity, banality, and vanity that few of us are free of, and thus can tolerate in others, are like ragweed for Salinger's helplessly uncontaminated heroes and heroines. Over and over, as Ian Frazier writes in his introduction, she has demonstrated that nonfiction—a book of reporting, an article in a magazine, something we see every day—can rise to the highest level of literature. One of Publishers Weekly's Best Nonfiction Books of 2013

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: Final Analysis Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson, 2013-02-13 He was the rising star of psychoanalysis, an intimate associate of Anna Freud and Kurt Eissler, a member of the Freudian inner circle with unrestricted access to the Freud Archives. And then Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson threw it all away because he dared to break the psychoanalytic community's deepest taboo: he told the truth in public. As he unmasks the pretensions and abuses of this elite profession, Masson invites us to eavesdrop on the shockingly unorthodox analysis he was subjected to in the course of his analytic training. But the more prestige Masson attained, the more he came to doubt not only the integrity of his colleagues, but the validity of their method. In the end, he blew the whistle—fully aware of the personal and professional consequences. With wit, wonder,

and unflinching candor, Masson brilliantly exposes the cult of psychoanalysis and recounts his own self-propelled fall from grace. A sensation when it first appeared, *Final Analysis* is even more provocative and engrossing today. Written with passion and humor, this is the book that revealed a revered profession for what it was—and launched Masson on his true career.

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: Shamans, Mystics, and Doctors Sudhir Kakar, 2013-04-03 Shamans, Mystics and Doctors is a detailed and thoroughly fascinating account of the many ways in which the ancient healing traditions of India—embodied in the rituals of shamans, the teachings of gurus and the precepts of the school of medicine known as Ayurveda—diagnose and treat emotional disorder. Drawing on three years of intensive fieldwork and his own psychoanalytic training and experience, Sudhir Kakar takes us into a world of Islamic mosques and Hindu temples, of assembled multitudes, and dingy, out-of-the-way consultation rooms... a world where patients and healers blame evil spirits for emotional disturbances... where dreams and symptoms that would be familiar to Freud are interpreted in terms of a myriad of deities and legends... where trance-like “dissociation states” are induced to bring out and resolve the conflicts of repressed anger, lust and envy... where proper grooming, diet, exercise and conduct are (and have been for centuries) seen as essential to the preservation of a healthy mind and body. As he witnesses the practitioners and their patients, as he elucidates the therapeutic systems on which their encounters are based, as he contrasts his own Western training and biases with evidence of his eyes (and the sympathies of his heart), Kakar reveals the universal concerns of these individuals and their admittedly foreign cultures—people we can recognize and feel for, people (like their Western counterparts) trying to find some balance between the pressures and rewards of the external world and the fantasies and desires of the internal. This is a major work of cultural interpretation, a book that challenges (and should enhance) our understanding of therapy, mental health and individual freedom.

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: The Trauma of Freud Paul Roazen, 2018-04-24 Over one hundred years have passed since Sigmund Freud first created psychoanalysis. The new profession flourished within the increasing secularization of Western culture, and it is almost impossible to overestimate its influence. Despite its traditional aloofness from ethical questions, psychoanalysis attracted an extraordinary degree of sectarian bitterness. Original thinkers were condemned as dissidents and renegades and the merits of individual cases have been frequently mixed up with questions concerning power and ambition, as well as the future of the movement. In *The Trauma of Freud*, Paul Roazen shows how, despite this contentiousness, Freud's legacy has remained central to human self-awareness. Roazen provides a much-needed sequence and perspective on the memorable issues that have come up in connection with the history of Freud's school. Topics covered include the problem of seduction, Jung's Zurich school, Ferenczi's Hungarian following, and the influence of Melanie Klein and Anna Freud in England. Also highlighted are Lacanianism in France, Erik Erikson's ego psychology, and Sandor Rado's innovations. In considering these historical cases and related public scandals, Roazen continually addresses important general issues concerning ethics and privacy, the power of orthodoxy, creativity, and the historiography of psychoanalysis. Throughout, he argues that rival interpretations are a sign of the intellectual maturity and sophistication of the discipline. Vigorous debate is healthy and essential in avoiding ill-considered and dogmatic self-assurance. He observes that potential zealotry lies just below the surface of even the most placid psychoanalytic waters even today. Examining the past, so much a part of the job of scholarship, may involve challenging those who might have preferred to let sleeping dogs lie. Roazen emphasizes that Freud's approach rested on the Socratic conviction that the unexamined life is not worth living and that this constitutes the spiritual basis of its influence beyond immediate clinical concerns. *The Trauma of Freud* is a major contribution to the historical literature on psychoanalysis.

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: The Crime of Sheila McGough Janet Malcolm, 2013-01-16 [N]o other writer tells better stories about the perpetual, the unwinnable, battle between narrative and truth. --The New York Times Book Review *The Crime of Sheila McGough* is Janet Malcolm's brilliant exposé of miscarriage of justice in the case of Sheila McGough, a disbarred

lawyer recently released from prison. McGough had served 2 1/2 years for collaborating with a client in his fraud, but insisted that she didn't commit any of the 14 felonies she was convicted. An astonishingly persuasive condemnation of the cupidity of American law and its preference for convincing narrative rather than the truth, this is also a story with an unconventional heroine. McGough is a zealous defense lawyer duped by a white-collar con man; a woman who lives, at the age of 54, with her parents; a journalistic subject who frustrates her interviewer with her maddening literal-mindedness. Spirited, illuminating, delightfully detailed, *The Crime of Sheila McGough* is both a dazzling work of journalism and a searching meditation on character and the law.

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: Psychoanalysis, 1982

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: Nobody's Looking at You Janet Malcolm, 2019-02-19 A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice. A 2019 NPR Staff Pick. Malcolm is always worth reading; it can be instructive to see how much satisfying craft she brings to even the most trivial article. --Phillip Lopate, TLS Janet Malcolm's previous collection, *Forty-One False Starts: Essays on Artists and Writers*, was "unmistakably the work of a master" (The New York Times Book Review). Like *Forty-One False Starts*, *Nobody's Looking at You* brings together previously uncompiled pieces, mainly from *The New Yorker* and *The New York Review of Books*. The title piece of this wonderfully eclectic collection is a profile of the fashion designer Eileen Fisher, whose mother often said to her, "Nobody's looking at you." But in every piece in this volume, Malcolm looks closely and with impunity at a broad range of subjects, from Donald Trump's TV nemesis Rachel Maddow, to the stiletto-heel-wearing pianist Yuju Wang, to "the big-league game" of Supreme Court confirmation hearings. In an essay called "Socks," the Pevears are seen as the "sort of asteroid [that] has hit the safe world of Russian Literature in English translation," and in "Dreams and Anna Karenina," the focus is Tolstoy, "one of literature's greatest masters of manipulative techniques." *Nobody's Looking at You* concludes with "Pandora's Click," a brief, cautionary piece about e-mail etiquette that was written in the early two thousands, and that reverberates—albeit painfully—to this day.

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: Lying On The Couch Irvin D. Yalom, 2014-03-25

From the bestselling author of *Love's Executioner* and *When Nietzsche Wept* comes a provocative exploration of the unusual relationships three therapists form with their patients. Seymour is a therapist of the old school who blurs the boundary of sexual propriety with one of his clients. Marshal, who is haunted by his own obsessive-compulsive behaviors, is troubled by the role money plays in his dealings with his patients. Finally, there is Ernest Lash. Driven by his sincere desire to help and his faith in psychoanalysis, he invents a radically new approach to therapy -- a totally open and honest relationship with a patient that threatens to have devastating results. Exposing the many lies that are told on and off the psychoanalyst's couch, *Lying on the Couch* gives readers a tantalizing, almost illicit, glimpse at what their therapists might really be thinking during their sessions. Fascinating, engrossing and relentlessly intelligent, it ultimately moves readers with a denouement of surprising humanity and redemptive faith.

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: Somatic Experience in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy William F Cornell, 2015-03-27 The body, of both the patient and the analyst, is increasingly a focus of attention in contemporary psychoanalytic theory and practice, especially from a relational perspective. There is a renewed regard for the understanding of embodied experience and sexuality as essential to human vitality. However, most of the existing literature has been written by analysts with no formal training in body-centered work. In this book William Cornell draws on his experience as a body-centered psychotherapist to offer an informed blend of the two traditions, to allow psychoanalysts a deep understanding, in psychoanalytic language, of how to work with the body as an ally. The primary focus of *Somatic Experience in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy* situates systematic attention to somatic experience and direct body-level intervention in the practice of psychoanalysis and psychotherapy. It provides a close reading of the work of Wilhelm Reich, repositioning his work within a contemporary psychoanalytic frame and re-presents Winnicott's work with a particular emphasis on the somatic foundations of his theories. William

Cornell includes vivid and detailed case vignettes including accounts of his own bodily experience to fully illustrate a range of somatic attention and intervention that include verbal description of sensate experience, exploratory movement and direct physical contact. Drawing on relevant theory and significant clinical material, *Somatic Experience in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy* will allow psychoanalysts an understanding of how to work with the body in their clinical practice. It will bring a fresh perspective on psychoanalytic thinking to body-centred psychotherapy where somatic experience is seen as an ally to psychic and interpersonal growth. This book will be essential reading for psychoanalysts, psychodynamically oriented psychotherapists, transactional analysts, body-centred psychotherapists, Gestalt therapists, counsellors and students. William Cornell maintains an independent private practice of psychotherapy and consultation in Pittsburgh, PA. He has devoted 40 years to the study and integration of psychoanalysis, neo-Reichian body therapy and transactional analysis. He is a Training and Supervising Transactional Analyst and has established an international reputation for his teaching and consultation.

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: *Illusions of a Future* Kate Schechter, 2014-08-20 A pioneering ethnography of psychoanalysis, *Illusions of a Future* explores the political economy of private therapeutic labor within industrialized medicine. Focusing on psychoanalysis in Chicago, a historically important location in the development and institutionalization of psychoanalysis in the United States, Kate Schechter examines the nexus of theory, practice, and institutional form in the original instituting of psychoanalysis, its normalization, and now its crisis. She describes how contemporary analysts struggle to maintain conceptions of themselves as capable of deciding what psychoanalysis is and how to regulate it in order to prevail over market demands for the efficiency and standardization of mental health treatments. In the process, Schechter shows how deeply imbricated the analyst-patient relationship is in this effort. Since the mid-twentieth century, the real relationship between analyst and patient is no longer the unremarked background of analysis but its very site. Psychoanalysts seek to validate the centrality of this relationship with theory and, through codified standards, to claim it as a privileged technique. It has become the means by which psychoanalysts, in seeking to protect their disciplinary autonomy, have unwittingly bound themselves to a neoliberal discourse of regulation.

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psychoanalysis the impossible profession: *Against Therapy*, 1990

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: *A Record of Friendship* Wilhelm Reich, 1984

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: *The Creative Self* Tamara Bibby, 2017-08-07 The *Creative Self* engages with the work of the psychoanalyst D.W. Winnicott to develop alternative ways of thinking about key issues at the heart of pedagogy; specifically pedagogic relationships, creativity, defiance and compliance. These issues underpin the desires and defences of professionals located in educational institutions, such as the desire to know what is best, to know how to reach all learners, normalised expectations of behaviours and outcomes, and sometimes challenging engagements with students and the curriculum. Each chapter provides both a theoretical focus and illustrative demonstrations of the ways in which Winnicott's theories may be relocated and used productively as tools for professional and academic reflexivity. By building extensively on Winnicott's understanding of the ways in which relationships facilitate (or hinder) the development of the self, this book extends his clinical focus on parental and analytical relationships to think about the ways in which the pedagogic relationship can provide an environment in which people may (or may fail to) develop as learners. This approach provides powerful ways of thinking about pedagogy

and pedagogic relationships that stand apart from the cognitive and rationalist tradition. This focus can be used constructively to support people working in educational settings to re-establish a sense of personal and professional autonomy in an environment recently typified by compliance. The Creative Self is an engaging and innovative read appealing to postgraduate students, teachers, researchers and academics with a desire for a new analytic lens through which to explore the educational experiences of both learners and teachers in schools, colleges and universities.

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: Practice Makes Practice Deborah P. Britzman, 2012-02-16 This revised edition of the classic text explores the complexity of what learning to teach means. While the research on teacher education continues to proliferate, Practice Makes Practice remains the discipline's indispensable classic text. Drawing upon critical ethnography, this new edition of this best-selling book asks the question, what does learning to teach do and mean to newcomers and to those who surround them? Deborah P. Britzman writes poignantly of the struggle for significance and the contradictory realities of secondary teaching. She offers a theory of difficulty in learning and explores why the blaming of individuals is so prevalent in education. The completely revised introduction presents a refined and further developed theoretical framework and analysis, discussing why we might return to a study of teaching and learning. Also included in this updated edition is an insightful "hidden chapter" that comments on the methodology of the study and some of the dilemmas the author continues to face as her own thinking develops around the issues of representing teaching and learning for those just entering the profession. Deborah P. Britzman is Distinguished Research Professor at York University. She is the author of many books, including *The Very Thought of Education: Psychoanalysis and the Impossible Professions*; *After-Education: Anna Freud, Melanie Klein, and Psychoanalytic Histories of Learning*; and *Lost Subjects, Contested Objects: Toward a Psychoanalytic Inquiry of Learning*, all published by SUNY Press.

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: Tribute to Freud (Second Edition) Hilda Doolittle, 2012-06-12 Bringing together *Writing on the Wall*, composed some ten years after H.D.'s stay in Vienna, and *Advent*, a journal she kept at the time of her analysis there, *Tribute to Freud* offers a rare glimpse into the consulting room of the father of psychoanalysis. It may also be the most intimate of H.D.'s works. Compelled by historical as well as personal crises, the poet worked with Freud during 1933-34. The streets of Vienna were littered with tokens dropped like confetti on the city, stating Hitler gives work. Hitler gives bread. Having endured World War I, she was now gathering her resources to face the second cataclysm she knew was approaching. In analysis, Hilda Doolittle explored her Pennsylvania childhood, her relationship with Ezra Pound (inventory of her nom de plume H.D.), Havelock Ellis, D.H. Lawrence, her ex-husband Richard Aldington, and subsequent companion Winifred Ellerman (Bryher), as well as her own creative processes. Freud, regarding H.D. as a student as well as a patient, was hardly the detached presence one might imagine. Revealed here in the poet's words and in his own letters, which comprise an appendix, is the considerate friend, the charming Viennese gentleman--art collector, dog lover, wit--and the pioneer, always revising his ideas and possessed of an insight that could be terrifying in its force.--Publisher's description.

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: Psychoanalysis is an Antiphilosophy Justin Clemens, 2013-05-31 Justin Clemens examines psychoanalysis under the rubric of 'antiphilosophy': a practice that offers the strongest possible challenges to thought. Drawing on the work of Badiou, Freud, Lacan, Žižek and Agamben, he examines the relationships of humans to dr

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psychoanalysis the impossible profession: The Unconscious in Social and Political Life David Morgan, 2019-07-14 Traumatic events happen in every age, yet there is a particularly cataclysmic feeling to our own epoch that is so attractive to some and so terrifying to others. The terrible events of September 11th 2001 still resonate and the repercussions continue to this day: the desperation of immigrants fleeing terror, the uncertainty of Brexit, Donald Trump in the White

House, the rise of the alt-right and hard left, increasing fundamentalism, and terror groups intent on causing destruction to the Western way of life. If that were not enough, we also have to grapple with the enormity of climate change and the charge that if we do not act now, it will be too late. Is it any wonder many are left overwhelmed by the events they see on the news? Galvanised by the events outside of his consulting room, in 2015, David Morgan began The Political Mind seminars at the British Psychoanalytical Society and their successful run continues today. A series of superlative seminars, mostly presented by colleagues from the British Society plus a few select external experts, that examine a dazzling array of relevant topics to provide a psychoanalytic understanding of just what is going on in our world. This book is the first in The Political Mind series to bring these seminars to a wider audience. The Unconscious in Political and Social Life contains compelling contributions from Christopher Bollas, Michael Rustin, Jonathan Sklar, David Bell, Philip Stokoe, Roger Kennedy, David Morgan, M. Fakhry Davids, Ruth McCall, R. D. Hinshelwood, Renée Danziger, Josh Cohen, Sally Weintrobe, and Margot Waddell. They investigate so many vital issues affecting us today: the evolution of democracy, right-wing populism, prejudice, the rise of the far right, attitudes to refugees and migrants, neoliberalism, fundamentalism, terrorism, the Palestine-Israel situation, political change, feminism, austerity in the UK, financial globalisation, and climate change. This book needs to be read by all who are concerned by the state of the world today. Psychoanalysis and psychoanalysts with their awareness of what motivates human beings bring clarity and fresh insight to these matters. A deeper understanding of humanity awaits the reader of The Unconscious in Political and Social Life.

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psychoanalysis the impossible profession: *Practical Psychoanalysis for Therapists and Patients* Owen Renik, 2010-09-07 A clear and readable how-to manual for results-oriented psychoanalysis. By now, the term practical psychoanalysis has become an oxymoron. The way psychoanalytic treatment is generally conducted is extremely impractical and doesn't serve the needs of the vast majority of potential patients, who want to achieve maximum relief from emotional distress as quickly as possible. This unfortunate state of affairs is ironic, considering that psychoanalysis became popular on the basis of its therapeutic efficacy. In this essential new book, Owen Renik describes how clinical psychoanalysis can focus on symptom relief and deliver results efficiently. With a humane, direct, and engaging voice, he takes up how to begin treatment, how to end it, and how to deal with the in-between. He offers chapters on the therapy of panic attacks and depersonalization, on how to get out of an impasse, on the relation between sexual desire and power in the analytic relationship, on patients who seem to want to sabotage their treatments, on flying blind as an analyst, and on a number of other intriguing, important practical topics. Renik's down-to-earth presentation and discussion of clinical anecdotes, combined with useful recommendations for both analyst and patient, amounts to a clear and readable how-to manual. The book is intended for all mental health caregivers, patients and potential patients, and for anyone who is curious about what makes for effective, helpful psychotherapy.

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: Against Therapy Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson, 2012-07-10 In this ground-breaking and highly controversial book, Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson attacks the very foundations of modern psychotherapy from Freud to Jung, from Fritz Perls to Carl

Rodgers. With passion and clarity, *Against Therapy* addresses the profession's core weaknesses, contending that, since therapy's aim is to change people, and this is achieved according to therapist's own notions and prejudices, the psychological process is necessarily corrupt. With a foreword by the eminent British psychologist Dorothy Rowe, this cogent and convincing book has shattering implications.

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: Examined Life Robert Nozick, 1990-12-15 An exploration of topics of everyday importance in the Socratic tradition.

psychoanalysis the impossible profession: *Needed Relationships and Psychoanalytic Healing* Steven Stern, 2017-02-17 *Needed Relationships and Psychoanalytic Healing* is both a personal analytic credo and a multidimensional approach to thinking about clinical interaction. The book's central theme is that of analytic needed relationships—the science and art of co-creating unique, evolving relational experiences fitted to each patient's implicit therapeutic aims and needs. Steven Stern argues that, while we need psychoanalytic theories to grow the receptors and processors necessary to sense, understand, and connect with our patients, these often tend to frame the therapist's participation in terms of theoretical and technical categories rather than offering a more holistic view of the relationship in all of its human complexity. Stern believes that a new set of higher order constructs is needed to counteract this tendency. In addition to his own concept of needed relationships, he invokes principles from the work of renowned developmental researcher and theorist, Louis Sander: especially his concept of relational fittedness. Stern draws on the work of Freud, Bion, Winnicott, Kohut, and a broad spectrum of contemporary psychoanalytic authors, in fleshing out the therapeutic implications of Sander's (and Stern's own) vision. The result is a rich, humane, and accessible narrative. *Needed Relationships and Psychoanalytic Healing* offers diverse clinical examples in which you will find Stern engaging with each of his patients in idiomatic, spontaneous ways as he attempts to contour interventions to the evolving analytic situation. This case material will inspire therapist-readers to feel freer to find their own creative voices and idioms of participation, as they seek to meet each patient within the psychoanalytic space. The book is intended for psychoanalysts and psychodynamic therapists at all levels of experience, including those in training.

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psychoanalysis the impossible profession: *Textbook of Psychoanalysis* Glen O. Gabbard, Bonnie E. Litowitz, Paul Williams, 2012-09-24 The second edition of this groundbreaking text represents a complete departure from the structure and format of its predecessor. Though still

exhaustive in scope and designed to provide a knowledge base for a broad audience -- from the beginning student to the seasoned analyst or academician -- this revision emphasizes the interdisciplinary nature of psychoanalytic thought and boldly focuses on current American psychoanalysis in all its conceptual and clinical diversity. This approach reflects the perspective of the two new co-editors, whose backgrounds in linguistics and social anthropology inform and enrich their clinical practice, and the six new section editors, who themselves reflect the diversity of backgrounds and thinking in contemporary American psychoanalysis. The book begins with Freud and his circle, and the origins of psychoanalysis, and goes on to explore its development in the post-Freud era. This general introduction orients the reader and helps to contextualize the six sections that follow. The most important tenets of psychoanalysis are defined and described in the Core Concepts section, including theories of motivation, unconscious processes, transference and countertransference, defense and resistance, and gender and sexuality). These eight chapters constitute an excellent introduction to the field of psychoanalysis. The Schools of Thought section features chapters on the most influential theories -- from object relations to self psychology, to attachment theory and relational psychoanalysis, and includes the contributions of Klein and Bion and of Lacan. Rather than making developmental theory a separate section, as in the last edition, developmental themes now permeate the Schools of Thought section and illuminate other theories and topics throughout the edition. Taking a more clinical turn, the Treatment and Technique section addresses critical subjects such as transference and countertransference; theories of therapeutic action; process, interpretation, and resistance, termination and reanalysis; combined psychoanalysis and psychopharmacotherapy, child analysis, ethics, and the relationship between psychoanalysis and psychodynamic psychotherapy. A substantive, utterly current, and meticulously referenced section on Research provides an in-depth discussion of outcome, process, and developmental research. The section entitled Psychoanalysis and Other Disciplines takes the reader on a fascinating tour through the many fields that psychoanalysis has enriched and been enriched by, including the neurosciences, philosophy, anthropology, race/ethnicity, literature, visual arts, film, and music. A comprehensive Glossary completes this indispensable text. The Textbook of Psychoanalysis is the only comprehensive textbook of psychoanalysis available in the United States. This masterful revision will both instruct and engage those who are learning psychoanalysis, those who practice it, and those who apply its theories to related disciplines. Though always controversial, this model of the human psyche still provides the best and most comprehensive insight into human nature.

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