

Biographies

Carolyn Laubender, PhD, is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychosocial and Psychoanalytic Studies and the founding Co-Director of the MA in Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University of Essex. Her first book, *The Political Clinic: Psychoanalysis and Social Change in the 20th Century* (published in 2024 with Columbia University Press) was the 2025 winner of the Book Prize of the American Psychoanalytic Association. She is currently working on a commissioned new edition of Oxford UP's *Very Short Introduction to Freud*, expected 2027. She also serves as the Book Reviews Editor for *Psychoanalysis & History*.

Barry Watt is a psychoanalytic psychotherapist in private practice. He is Chair of the Training Committee of The Site for Contemporary Psychoanalysis, a member of the Training Committee of The Guild of Psychotherapists, and a Co-Director of the Psychosis Therapy Project. He is an editorial board member of the *British Journal of Psychotherapy*. Previously he was the Senior Psychotherapist at St Mungo's Community Housing Association. He teaches widely on psychoanalytic trainings. He has published on psychoanalytic work with those experiencing homelessness, the psychoanalysis of community, the history of psychoanalysis, and psychoanalysis and political activism.

Hannah Proctor is a historian of the human sciences interested in intersections between left-wing politics and the psy' disciplines, Communist and anti-Communist theories of the mind, histories and theories of radical psychiatry, theories and practices of Freudo-Marxism, and emotional histories of the left. She holds a Wellcome Trust University Award at the Centre for the Social History of Health and Healthcare at the University of Strathclyde.

Her most recent book *Burnout: The Emotional Experience of Political Defeat* (Verso, 2024) explores the psychological toll of political struggle in historical perspective, asking how activists have made sense of or worked through the emotional impacts of their political experiences, whether collectively or in isolation. Her first monograph *Psychologies in Revolution: Alexander Luria's 'Romantic Science' and Soviet Social History* was published as part of the Palgrave Macmillan series 'Mental Health in Historical Perspective' in 2020. She is currently working on an academic monograph provisionally titled: *Communist Minds: Soviet and Chinese Emigres, US Social Science and the Cold War*. She is a member of the editorial collective of *Radical Philosophy*, a contributing editor at *Parapraxis* and web/reviews editor of *History of the Human Sciences*.

Ankhi Mukherjee is Professor of English and World Literatures at the University of Oxford and a Fellow of Wadham College. Her most recent monograph, *Unseen City: The Psychic Lives of the Urban Poor* (Cambridge University Press, 2021), has won

Columbia University's Robert S. Liebert Award for "outstanding scholarship in the field of applied psychoanalysis" and was a finalist for the 2025 European Society for the Study of English book award. Mukherjee's second monograph, *What Is a Classic? Postcolonial Rewriting and Invention of the Canon* (Stanford UP, 2014), was awarded the British Academy Prize in English Literature. Her other publications include *Aesthetic Hysteria: The Great Neurosis in Victorian Melodrama and Contemporary Fiction* (Routledge, 2007), and the collections of essays she has edited, namely *A Concise Companion to Psychoanalysis, Literature, and Culture* (with Laura Marcus, Wiley-Blackwell, 2015) and *After Lacan* (Cambridge University Press, 2018). She has co-edited (with Ato Quayson) a collaborative volume titled *Decolonizing the English Literary Curriculum* (Cambridge UP, 2023). Mukherjee has published in competitive peer-reviewed journals, including *PMLA*, *MLQ*, *Contemporary Literature*, *Parallax*, and the *Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry*, and sits on the editorial boards of several international journals. She has been a postdoctoral research fellow of the British Academy (2003-2006), a visiting fellow at the Humanities Research Centre at the Australian National University (2015), and the John Hinkley Professor at Johns Hopkins University (2019). She was invited faculty at Harvard University's Institute for World Literature (IWL) in summer 2023 and 2024. At present, Mukherjee is completing two books: *A Very Short Introduction to Postcolonial Literature* in the widely circulated VSI series (Oxford University Press) and *Mavericks and Charlatans: Empire, Modernity, and the Authorization of Dreams* (Princeton University Press).

Stephen Frosh is Emeritus Professor of Psychology at Birkbeck, University of London, where he was Pro-Vice-Master and also founding Head of the Department of Psychosocial Studies. He has a background in academic and clinical psychology and was Consultant Clinical Psychologist and Vice Dean at the Tavistock Clinic, London, in the 1990s. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, a Fellow of Birkbeck, University of London, an Academic Associate of the British Psychoanalytical Society, a Founding Member of the Association of Psychosocial Studies, and an Honorary Member of the Institute of Group Analysis. He has been Visiting Professor at the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa, and at the University of São Paulo, Brazil. Stephen Frosh is the author of over twenty books and many papers on psychosocial studies and on psychoanalysis. His most recent book is *Antisemitism and Racism: Ethical Challenges for Psychoanalysis*, published by Bloomsbury in 2023. Previous books include *Those Who Come After: Postmemory, Acknowledgement and Forgiveness* (2019) (winner of the British Psychological Society Best Academic Monograph award for 2023); *Hauntings: Psychoanalysis and Ghostly Transmissions* (2013), *Feelings* (2011), *A Brief Introduction to Psychoanalytic Theory* (2012), *Psychoanalysis Outside the Clinic* (2010), *Hate and the Jewish Science: Anti-Semitism, Nazism and Psychoanalysis* (2005), *For and Against Psychoanalysis* (2006), *After Words* (2002), *The Politics of Psychoanalysis* (1999), *Sexual Difference* (1994) and *Identity*

Crisis (1991). He is co-editor of the *Palgrave Handbook of Psychosocial Studies* (2024) and of the *Routledge International Handbook of Psychoanalysis and Jewish Studies* (2025). His latest book is *How to be Real*, published by Verso in autumn 2025.

Raluca Soreanu is a psychoanalytic and psychosocial thinker and writer. She is Professor of Psychoanalytic Studies in the Department of Psychosocial and Psychoanalytic Studies, University of Essex, and psychoanalyst, member of the *Círculo Psicanalítico do Rio de Janeiro*. She is the author of *Working-through Collective Wounds: Trauma, Denial, Recognition in the Brazilian Uprising* (Palgrave, 2018) and the co-author, with Jenny Willner and Jakob Staberg of *Ferenczi Dialogues: On Trauma and Catastrophe* (Leuven University Press, 2023). She is the project lead of FREEPSY: Free Clinics and a Psychoanalysis for the People: Progressive Histories, Collective Practices, Implications for Our Times (UKRI Frontier Research Grant) and Editor of the *Studies in the Psychosocial* series at Palgrave.