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The(e)ories: Critical Theory & Sexuality Studies presents  
**PSYCHOANALYSIS IN CULTURE, SOCIETY & POLITICS:**  
Reading Rob Weatherill's *Forgetting Freud: Is Psychoanalysis in Retreat?*

*A one-day intensive, interdisciplinary seminar*

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**Saturday 9 March 2013**

Humanities Institute, University College Dublin, Ireland

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**Venue Details**

**Saturday 9 March 2013:** Room H204, Humanities Institute, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland (<http://www.ucd.ie/humanities>). A campus map is available to download here: <http://www.ucd.ie/maps>

**Seminar Description**

This intensive seminar will be devoted to reading and discussing Rob Weatherill's recently-published book, *Forgetting Freud: Is Psychoanalysis in Retreat?*, from a range of interdisciplinary perspectives and psychoanalytic traditions. Closely attending to this text will provide an opportunity to open up broader discussions pertaining to psychoanalysis as a clinical practice and body of theory. The seminar will feature a lecture by Rob Weatherill on his current research, followed by a series of thematic discussions, each preceded by panels of informal (5-10 mins) responses to the issues raised in *Forgetting Freud* by academics and clinical practitioners. We will focus on three broad themes in our discussions: 1) Discourses of Psychoanalysis, 2) Ethics & Politics of Desire & Un/Pleasure and 3) Psychoanalysis & Philosophy in Culture & Society. **The emphasis will be on discussion.**

### Required Reading

All delegates must purchase a copy of *Forgetting Freud: Is Psychoanalysis in Retreat?* by Rob Weatherill (Bethesda, Dublin, Palo Alto: Academica Press 2011) in advance of the seminar. To obtain a copy, delegates need to contact the author directly: robweath@indigo.ie

### Description of *Forgetting Freud: Is Psychoanalysis in Retreat?*

In this timely monograph, Rob Weatherill asks the question, 'Have smarter, newer drugs and so-called "evidence-based" methods of psychological help overtaken psychoanalysis during the twenty-first century?' Weatherill argues that the perspective that psychoanalysis can now provide is more relevant than ever thanks to the increasing objectification of life and people. In addition, the author argues that analysis must engage with its critics, with other disciplines, and above all, with ethical demands. In his work, Weatherill draws not only on the work of key analytic figures around Sigmund Freud like Carl Jung, Melanie Klein and Jacques Lacan but also on serious critics of psychoanalysis such as Emmanuel Levinas, Jean Baudrillard, Jean Lyotard and Vladimir Nabokov.

### Rob Weatherill

Rob Weatherill is a practicing and supervisory analyst in Dublin, a member of four psychoanalytic groupings in Ireland and a founder member of two. He has a Master's degree in psychotherapy from St Vincent's University Hospital as well as the European Certificate in Psychotherapy. He currently teaches psychoanalysis on postgraduate courses at St Vincent's University College Hospital, Dublin and Trinity College Dublin. He also lectured in psychoanalytic psychology in the Milltown Institute of Philosophy and Theology for fifteen years. He currently convenes a peer supervision group for experienced analysts. He has written many papers and articles exploring the interface between psychoanalysis and culture. His most recent book, *Forgetting Freud: Is Psychoanalysis in Retreat?*, continues the critical explorations begun in *Cultural Collapse* (1994), continued through two books on the death drive, *The Sovereignty of Death* (1998) and *The Death Drive: New Life for a Dead Subject* (1999), taken up again in *Our Last Great Illusion* (2004).

### Registration

There is a registration fee of €30 (academics/waged) and €10 (students/unwaged) payable in advance or on the day of the seminar. To register please email: Noreen Giffney (noreen.giffney@gmail.com), Anne Mulhall (anne.mulhall@ucd.ie) and Michael O'Rourke (tranquilised\_icon@yahoo.com). We require the following details to confirm your place:

- Name
- Affiliation/organisation (if applicable)
- Short biographical note (c. 150-200 words) for inclusion in the seminar pack

For delegates travelling from outside Ireland, we ask that you send us your flight details by 15 February 2013 in order to confirm your place.

Early booking is advisable as places are limited. Registration operates on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Seminar Schedule

Saturday 3 March 2013

Venue: Room H204, Humanities Institute of Ireland, University College Dublin

8.45 am-9.00 am **Registration**

9.15 am-9.30 am **Opening Remarks: Noreen Giffney, Anne Mulhall & Michael O'Rourke**

9.30 am-11.00 am **Rob Weatherill, 'Psychoanalysis and the Inhuman', chaired by Michael O'Rourke**

9.30 am-10.30 am Lecture by Rob Weatherill

10.30 am-11.00 am Discussion with delegates

Lecture Description: In the old days people used to talk about psychoanalysis as 'facing one's demons', but more recently we are likely to refer to 'singularities', dignity and 'organisations of subjectivity', and so on. I will argue that this change parallels the shift from the real to the virtual and a denial of the many contradictions that have arisen with the movement which will be explored with examples.

11.00 am-11.30 am **Tea & Coffee Break**

11.30 am-1 pm **Discourses of Psychoanalysis**

In this session we will discuss chapters 6, 8 & 9 of *Forgetting Freud*.

11.30 am-12.00 pm Short, informal responses to *Forgetting Freud*

12.00 pm-1 pm Discussion of chapters 6, 8 & 9

1 pm-2 pm **Lunch**

2 pm-3.30 pm **Ethics & Politics of Desire & Un/pleasure**

In this session we will discuss chapters 4, 5 & 10 of *Forgetting Freud*.

2 pm-2.30 pm Short, informal responses to *Forgetting Freud*

2.30 pm-3.30 pm Discussion of chapters 4, 5 & 10

3.30 pm-4.00 pm **Tea & Coffee Break**

4.00 pm-5.30 pm **Psychoanalysis & Philosophy in Culture & Society**

In this session we will discuss chapters 1, 3 & 7 of *Forgetting Freud*.

4 pm-4.30 pm Short, informal responses to *Forgetting Freud*

4.30 pm-5.30 pm Discussion of chapters 1, 3 & 7

5.30 pm **Thanks & Close of Seminar: Noreen Giffney, Anne Mulhall & Michael O'Rourke**

## Seminar Sponsors

Noreen Giffney & Michael O'Rourke have been convening events together since 2001. Noreen, Michael & Anne Mulhall have been organising events together since 2007. This event is sponsored by The(e)ories: Critical Theory & Sexuality Studies, as well as the following at University College Dublin: the MA in Gender, Sexuality and Culture, the Graduate Research and Education Programme in Gender, Culture and Identity, and the Humanities Institute.

**The(e)ories: Critical Theory & Sexuality Studies** is an interdisciplinary seminar series that was founded and has been organised by Noreen Giffney and Michael O'Rourke since 2002. Originally entitled *The(e)ories: Advanced Seminars for Queer Research*, Noreen and Michael changed the subtitle to *Critical Theory & Sexuality Studies* in 2007 to reflect their broadening research interests in psychoanalysis and deconstruction respectively. Anne Mulhall joined the organising committee of *The(e)ories* in 2012. *The(e)ories* is devoted to examining issues relating to gender and sexuality within the context of critical theory across a wide range of disciplines. The term 'seminar series' is a misnomer as *The(e)ories* also includes conferences, symposia and roundtable discussions. The series has featured speakers from Europe, the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, including some of the world's most eminent thinkers in this area: Judith Butler, Judith Halberstam, Lee Edelman, Leo Bersani, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, Jeffrey Weeks, Tim Dean, Nikki Sullivan, David M. Halperin, Bracha L. Ettinger, Sally R. Munt, Sasha Roseneil, Tamsin Wilton, Del LaGrace Volcano, Luciana Parisi, Lisa Baraitser, Sara Ahmed, Nicholas Royle, Elizabeth Freeman, Lisa Downing, Robyn Wiegman and Martin McQuillan to name a few. People have travelled from Europe, Australia, Canada and the USA to attend and participate in events.

The organisers have also been keen to develop links with people working on critical theory in the context of gender and sexuality, and have been committed to inviting participants and respondents—academics and postgraduates—based at UCD, TCD, UCC, NUIG, UL, QUB, UU, DBS, NUIM, DCU, NCAD, St Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Griffith College Dublin and Independent College, Dublin among others. Specific events have also attracted a number of professionals working in contexts outside or in conjunction with the university, in the applied fields of psychiatry, psychoanalysis, clinical psychology, counselling psychology, psychotherapy, medicine and counselling. In this, *The(e)ories* operates a trans-academic policy, in which the organisers endeavour to include not only health professionals, but also activists, artists and other non-academic members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community who wish to participate in events.

**MA in Gender, Sexuality and Culture (School of English, Drama and Film, University College Dublin, University College Dublin)** Convened by Dr Anne Mulhall, this interdisciplinary MA programme draws on the extensive expertise in the area of gender studies and sexuality studies in the School of English, Drama and Film Studies at UCD. The MA offers students a dynamic and challenging range of modules where students will explore the theory, history and representation of gender and sexuality in literature, film, television, visual culture, drama and popular culture with a particular attention to the significance of race, ethnicity and class in relation to the understanding and politics of gender and sexuality across time and location. This course provides students with a thorough and wide-ranging training in the fields of literary, visual and cultural studies.

Web: [www.ucd.ie/englishanddrama/graduatestudies/maprogrammes/gendersexualityandculture/](http://www.ucd.ie/englishanddrama/graduatestudies/maprogrammes/gendersexualityandculture/)

**Graduate Research and Education Programme (GREP) in Gender, Culture and Identity (University College Dublin)** Directed by Professor Gerardine Meaney, Director of the Humanities Institute of Ireland, this interdisciplinary thematic doctoral programme hosted by University College Dublin brings together a unique combination of expertise and postgraduate training opportunities in the humanities from specialists in gender and sexuality based at University College Dublin, the University of Limerick, and Queen's University Belfast. Courses offered include two core modules (Digital Humanities and Research Methods in Historical and Literary Studies). Students are welcome, by arrangement, to take courses forming part of the MA in Gender, Sexuality and Culture, and courses offered by staff associated with the programme.

Web: [www.ucd.ie/gendercultureidentity](http://www.ucd.ie/gendercultureidentity)

**Humanities Institute (University College Dublin)** Directed by Professor Gerardine Meaney, the Humanities Institute of Ireland is a successful and prestigious resource for the humanities within University College Dublin and nationally. Building on its impressive record of doctoral completion rates and reputation as a vibrant centre for research, debate and scholarship, the Humanities Institute works to deepen its role as a catalyst for innovative and high quality research in the arts and humanities.

Web: [www.ucd.ie/humanities](http://www.ucd.ie/humanities)

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### **Acknowledgements**

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