THE FUTURE OF PSYCHOANALYSIS
Richard D. Chessick

Addresses the problem of multiple theories of psychoanalysis, arguing for a return to Freud.

The Future of Psychoanalysis explores the contemporary problem of multiple theories of psychoanalysis and argues for a return to a more classical position based on Freud’s work. Using his training in psychiatry, psychoanalysis, and philosophy, Richard D. Chessick examines the special combination of hermeneutics and natural science that characterizes Freud’s psychoanalysis, and investigates what goes on in the mind of the psychoanalyst during the psychoanalytic process. He maintains that while relativistic and intersubjective theories of psychoanalysis have value, they have gone too far and generated a plurality of theories removed from Freud, which has led to chaos in the field. The Future of Psychoanalysis challenges these trends and places this debate in the context of current mind/brain controversies and unresolved questions about human nature.

"Offering a cogent plea for a return to Freud, Chessick envisions the future of psychoanalysis as resting on the consilience between psychoanalysis as a behavioral science and as a philosophical inquiry into the ethical, aesthetic, and humanistic commitments that define culture and psychological life. This is an evocative anticipation of how psychology and philosophy share an intimate concern for the future of humanity.” — Jon Mills, editor of Rereading Freud: Psychoanalysis through Philosophy

Richard D. Chessick is Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Northwestern University, Training and Supervising Psychoanalyst at the Center for Psychoanalytic Study in Chicago, and Senior Attending Psychiatrist Emeritus at Evanston Hospital in Evanston, Illinois. He is the author of many books, including Freud Teaches Psychotherapy and Emotional Illness and Creativity: A Psychoanalytic and Phenomenologic Study.

BEYOND LACAN
James M. Mellard

Traces the development of Lacanian theory, and its possible future.

In Beyond Lacan, James M. Mellard traces psychoanalytic literary theory and practice from Freud to Lacan to Žižek. While Freud effectively presupposes an unconscious that is textual, it is Lacan whose theory all but articulates a textual unconscious as he offers the epoch a cutting-edge psychoanalytic ideology. Mellard considers this and then asks, “Which Lacan? Is there one or many? Early or late?” As Žižek counters the notion of a single, unitary Lacan, Lacanians are asked to choose. Through Lacanian readings of various texts, from novels like Ellison’s Invisible Man and O’Connor’s Wise Blood to short stories by Glaspell and Fitzgerald, Mellard shows that in critical practice Lacanians produce a middle Lacan, between early and late.

Mellard concludes by examining why Žižek has perhaps transcended Lacan. More than any other, it is Žižek who has constructed early and late Lacan, making possible that middle Lacan of praxis, but in the process he has also claimed an independent authority. Ultimately, Mellard explains how Žižek offers a post-Lacanian critique—one built on a pervasive philosophy of paradox—that opens new avenues of analysis of contested cultural and literary issues such as subjectivity, political economy, multiculturalism, and religious belief.

“Mellard is courageous in applying French and Freudian concepts to a literature that openly disavows the psychoanalytical, making his approach the kind of eye-opening exercise that makes teaching criticism so important and worthwhile. As Mellard integrates advances in criticism with specific readings of the texts he treats, we must recognize that this is no small task, and others have found it more than daunting and done it less thoroughly.” — Juliet Flower MacCannell, author of Figuring Lacan: Criticism and the Cultural Unconscious

James M. Mellard is Presidential Teaching Professor Emeritus at Northern Illinois University. He is the author of many books, including Using Lacan, Reading Fiction.

A volume in the SUNY series in Psychoanalysis and Culture
Henry Sussman, editor

October 1 288 pp
8 figures
$75.00 hc 0-7914-6903-4