

ACU CONFERENCE: FREUD, WITTGENSTEIN, AND THE UNCONSCIOUS

WHEN: 28-29 July, 2025.

WHERE: Level 18, Tenison Woods House, 8 - 20 Napier Street, North Sydney

THE EVENT IS FREE BUT REGISTRATION REQUIRED taliamorag@acu.edu.au

FOR THOSE OUTSIDE OF SYDNEY: remote access is available via Zoom. Please email taliamorag@acu.edu.au to access a link.

This conference takes up the Wittgenstein-Freud connection from a conceptual rather than an historical point of view. Wittgenstein famously criticized Freud's notion of the unconscious as part of his general critique of scientism. In this conference we explore three main questions and other themes related to the unconscious:

1. Is a viable notion of the unconscious salvageable from Wittgenstein's criticisms of Freud's formulations of the unconscious? And, if so, what is its role in philosophy, psychoanalysis, or social critique?
2. What further insights about philosophy or psychology can be gleaned from rethinking Wittgenstein's critique of Freud?
3. Can Wittgenstein's own work be seen as presupposing or dependent upon a notion of the unconscious? If so, what importance does that have for his philosophy?

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: Naomi Scheman (Minnesota); Stephen White (Tufts)

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CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:

MONDAY, JULY 28:

9:30-10:00 Registration

10:00-11:15 Naomi Scheman (Minnesota): How Could You Not Have Known?: Wittgenstein and The Epistemology of Ignorance

11:15-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-12:45 – David Macarthur (Sydney) Wittgenstein on Reasons & Causes: Reassessing Wittgenstein's critique of Freud

12:45-2:00 Lunch

2:00-3:15 – Richard Colledge (ACU): The Unconscious and Hermeneutics: Disagreement and philosophical incommensurability reappraised.

3:15-4:30 – Dorit Lemberger (Bar Ilan) As if I could read the darkness: Wittgenstein's Conceptual Reframing of the Unconscious

4:30-4:45 Coffee

4:45-6:00 Sophie-Grace Chappell (Open University, UK) Paying Attention

TUESDAY, JULY 29:

10:00-11:15 – Stephen White (Tufts) The Hermeneutic Freud, The Hermeneutic Wittgenstein, and the Hermeneutic Searle

11:15-11:30 – Coffee

11:30-12:45 – Talia Morag (ACU) From the "secret room" to "free association" - the unconscious as patterns of inattention.

12:45-2:00 – Lunch

2:00-3:15 – Justin Clemens (Melbourne) Language On Holiday: Freud contra Wittgenstein

3:15-3:30 – Coffee

3:30-4:45 – Matthew Sharpe (ACU) Psychoanalysis in reverse: Algorithms, primary processes, and collective regression in the age of social media