

## **Sándor Ferenczi Society**

The Sándor Ferenczi Society was founded on 12th of September 1988 in Budapest as a non-profit organization (NGO) educational organization that received government recognition for its outstanding public service in 1999.

The Society continues the psychoanalytic heritage established by Sándor Ferenczi, one of Freud's closest friends and colleagues. It conducts research into the theoretical development and history of psychoanalysis, and offers a forum for discussion of modern psychoanalytical issues. Ferenczi and the Budapest School of psychoanalysis of his time collaborated with outstanding figures of literature, the social sciences, and the arts, contributing significantly to Hungarian cultural and artistic life in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Hungarian psychoanalysts in emigration continued with the tradition in their later work and became important teachers and theoreticians in international psychoanalysis.

The Society is interdisciplinary and may be joined by members of any scientific discipline that intersects and dialogues with psychoanalysis. They therefore include clinical psychoanalysts, social psychologists, historians, philosophers, and academics in all disciplines.

All activities of the Society are based on the voluntary work of the members. The programs and projects are supported through public tenders and grants.

### **THE FOUNDING AIMS OF THE SOCIETY**

organizing scientific forums to present modern theories, interdisciplinary relationships and therapeutic methods of psychoanalysis

conducting research with regard to the history of psychoanalysis in Hungary and its international connections

collecting and archiving documents, books, periodicals and photos,  
establishing sound archives (oral history)

furthering education, training and research activities related to psychoanalysis

establishing a professional journal to publish the theoretical and practical results of psychoanalysis and related areas of science on a regular basis and to initiate international dialogue

establishing a foundation for financing the different goals and activities of the Society

establishing the Sándor Ferenczi Museum, Archives and Library to offer a suitable place for professional preservation and display of documents of cultural and historic value and provides research opportunities for professionals with special interests.

## ACTIVITIES of the SOCIETY

### SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY –CONFERENCES/RESEARCH

The Society has regularly organized scientific conferences (international and local), done relevant research in the field of history of psychoanalysis, created contacts and cooperated with international organizations. (See the list of the conferences and the PADD)

- **Psychoanalysis and Society** – conference, 1989, Budapest
- **The First East European Seminar** – international seminar in cooperation with the European Psycho-Analytical Federation, 1989, Budapest
- **Psychoanalysis and Hermeneutics** – conference, 1990, Budapest
- **Toward the End of Millenary: Political Changes and Psychoanalysis** – international conference, 1991, Budapest
- **Géza Róheim's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday** – international conference in cooperation with the Folklore Department of the Budapest University (ELTE) and the Hungarian Psychoanalytical Society, 1991, Budapest
- **The Talking Therapy: Ferenczi and the Psychoanalytic Vocation** – international conference, 1993, Budapest
- **Social Changes – Prejudice – Xenophobia** – symposium in cooperation with the Soros Foundation, the Cserépfalvi and T-Twins Publishing Houses, 1994, Budapest
- **La catastrofe e i suoi simboli. Il contributo di Sándor Ferenczi alla storia della psicoanalisi** – Symposium in cooperation with the University of Florence, November 12-13, 1999, Firenze, Italy
- **Lost Childhood** – international conference, February 23-25, 2001, Budapest, Hungary  
This conference was the first part of a series of international events consisting of three scientific conferences. The second part entitled "**Lost Childhood and the Language of Exile**" took place in London (12-13 May, 2001), and the third part entitled "**Mother, Motherland and Mother Tongue**" was held in Paris (November 23-24, 2001).

Selected papers of the conferences was published in English: Lost Childhood and the Language of Exile. Eds. Judit Szekacs-Weisz & Ivan Ward, Imago MLPC and The Freud Museum, 2004

- **Clinical Sándor Ferenczi** – Symposium in cooperation with the University of Turin, July 18-21, 2002, Torino, Italy
- **Why Did You Let It Be So? The Role of the Third One in the Development of Psychic Trauma** – 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary international conference, June 18-19, 2004, Budapest, Hungary
- **Sándor Ferenczi and the contemporary psychoanalysis** - Symposium in cooperation with the Istituto H.S. Sullivan, October 1, 2005, Firenze, Italy

- **Transgenerational Traumas and 'Trauma Redemption'** – conference in cooperation with the KÚT Foundation, November 25-26, 2005, Hungary
- **Clinical Sándor Ferenczi Conference** - Symposium in cooperation with A.L. Silver, August 2-6, 2006, Baden-Baden, Germany.

#### **SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY – PSYCHOANALYTIC DOCUMENT DATABASE (PADD) [www.padd.at](http://www.padd.at)**

**Research:** the society, since its foundation, has collected a significant amount of original documents, photos, books, and valuable heritages originating from psychoanalysts, who create further opportunities for those who intend to conduct serious research. The members of the society have published gap-filling books, studies and articles related to the history and theoretical development of psychoanalysis, which were published in Hungarian as well as several foreign languages.

As a result of research in the history of psychoanalysis based on original documents, the Society took part in creating an internet database program – **Psychoanalytic Document Database** – in cooperation with the Freud Museum, Vienna and the Wellcome Trust Library, London. The work was supported by the European Union's 'Culture 2000 Program' (2004-2005). The Psychoanalytic Document Database program was selected in 2008 as one of the '**Best Practice**' projects between 2000-2006 (Program organizer: Sigmund Freud Privatstiftung, Christian Huber, program co-ordinator on behalf of the Ferenczi Society: Judit Mészáros)

#### **SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY – ONGOING DIALOG IN THE FIELDS OF MEDICINE**

and psychology with general practitioners, psychologists, philosophers and students at the university in Debrecen. Program co-ordinator: Attila Bánfalvi (member of the executive board of the Ferenczi Society)

#### **SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY AND DISSEMINATION OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE – JOURNAL THALASSA, FILM, EXHIBITIONS, PROGRAM SERIES OF ART/LITERATURE AND PSYCHOANALYSIS**

- **Thalassa – the periodical of the Sándor Ferenczi Society since 1989**

Thalassa is the periodical of the Sándor Ferenczi Society. It was founded in 1989, and has been published ever since. It is an interdisciplinary journal devoted to free investigations in psychoanalysis, culture and society. Thalassa has roots in the historical traditions of Hungarian psychoanalysis, but is not committed to any particular school or authority. Thalassa publishes theoretical papers, essays on the philosophical and social aspects of psychoanalysis, articles dealing with theory of psychoanalysis, psychoanalytical interpretation of political, cultural and artistic phenomena, clinical case studies, research findings, historical documents, and book reviews. Thalassa means "sea" in Greek. It reminds us of Ferenczi's classical study, and it also symbolises the ancient sea, the source, the womb, the beginning. Thalassa welcomes all original contributions, historical, theoretical, clinical or critical, dealing with the common problems of psychoanalysis and the humanities.

Thalassa comes out twice a year, with one single and one double issues.

#### **Topics covered in Thalassa up to 2008**

**Psychoanalysis and society** (1990/1), **Sándor Ferenczi's life-work** (1991/1), **Psychoanalysis and hermeneutics** (1991/2), **Psychoanalysis and politics** (1992/1), **Géza Róheim's life-work** (1992/2), **Language, fiction, knowing** (1993/1), **Jacques Lacan's work** (1993/2), **The Holocaust and psychoanalysis** (1994/1-2), **Psychoanalysis, the masses and power** (1995/1-2), **Feminism and psychoanalysis** (1996/1), **Lipót Szondi and Sándor Ferenczi** (1996/2), **various topics** (1996/3), **Psychoanalysis and postmodern** (1997/1), **Hungarian psychoanalysts in Paris** (1997/2-3), **Ego development and psychopathology** (1998/1), **Desire and secret** (1998/2-3), **Trauma and countertransference** (1999/1), **Ten years of Thalassa** (1999/2-3), **Psychoanalysts on the Pikler-method** (2000/1), **The split between past and present – psychoanalysis in Eastern Europe** (2000/2-3), **Early attachment and borderline personality disorder**, (2001/1), **Psychoanalytic discourse** (2001/2-3), **The unknown István Hollós** (2002/1-2), **Biographical journeys** (2003/1), **Creation and attachment** (2003/2-3), **Cities, frontiers, relationships 1.** (2004/1), **Cities, frontiers, relationships 2.** (2004/2). **Visual arts and psychoanalysis** (2004/3), **Sexuality and the subject** (2005/1), **József Attila – influences and parallels** (2005/2-3), **150. anniversary of Freud's birth – patients' memoirs** (2006/1), **Psychoanalysis and the critique of society** (2006/2-3), **"Wild" psychoanalysis** (2007/1), **A Kristevan journey** (2007/2-3), **In Memoriam George Devereux** (2008/1)

An English selection of articles published in Thalassa was printed with the support of Collegium Budapest by the Central and East European Review - an American publication - in 1997.

The website is: [www.mtapi.hu/thalassa](http://www.mtapi.hu/thalassa) where digital versions of issues between 1995 and 2000 are accessible. It also contains a biography of Hungarian publications of Sigmund Freud and Sándor Ferenczi.

**Editorial Board:** Ferenc Erős (Chairman of the Board), Tihamér Bakó, Antal Bókay, Anna Borgos, György Péter Hárs, György Hidas, Anna Kovács, Kata Lénárd, Judit Mészáros, Júlia Vajda, Anna Valachi. (Members of the board are members of the Ferenczi Society)

#### **SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY AND DISSEMINATION OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE – FILM, EXHIBITIONS, PROGRAM SERIOUS OF ART/LITERATURE AND PSYCHOANALYSIS**

- **Film on Sándor Ferenczi** – in the Hungarian Television series "Hungarians who made a significant impact on the century", 2001. Edited by Edit Szendi, scientific advisor: Judit Mészáros. The film is based on interviews with experts: Carlo Bonomi, Judith Dupont, Ferenc Erős, André Haynal, Paul Harmat, Judit Mészáros, Paul Roazen, Judith Vida and original documents. The English subtitled film was presented on various psychoanalytic conferences: Clinical Sandor Ferenczi Conference, Turin, 2002; IPA Congress in New Orleans, 2004; and publicly at the Freud Museum, London, 2003/2004; at the Hungarian House in Paris, 2007. The film is an educational tool used teaching the history of psychoanalysis for students at universities in Hungary.
- **Exhibitions:**
  - Ferenczi and the Budapest School of Psychoanalysis** – exhibition at the Freud Museum of London as part of the Year of Magyar Magic, 2004. Curator: Judit Mészáros. Exhibition was presented at the annual scientific congress of the Hungarian Psychiatric Association, 2006.

**Ferenczi and the Budapest School of Psychoanalysis in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century** – The exhibition dedicates special attention to the period of Stalinism and to the post-Stalinist

years, focusing on those psychoanalysts. Gallery of the Open Society Archives of the Central European University. Budapest, 2006. Curator: Judit Mészáros

- **Art/Literature and Psychoanalysis** – Discussion series for both professionals and the general public. Its objectives are: psychoanalytic approaches of arts to the wider audiences. The program has been launched by the Ferenczi Society in 2002. Events are organized 10 times a year jointly with the Attila József Society and the Petőfi Museum of Literature. Programs are attended approximately by 650-700 people a year. Program co-ordinator: Anna Valachi (member of the Executive Board of the Sándor Ferenczi Society)

#### **THE FERENCZI HOUSE PROJECT – FUNDRAISING FOR ESTABLISHING A FERENCZI MUSEUM, ARCHIVES AND INTERNATIONAL CENTER**

The Ferenczi House project – to establish a museum, archives and international center in the former villa of Sándor Ferenczi was initiated by the Sándor Ferenczi Society in 2005, when one of the owner of the former villa wanted to sell his apartment. The apartment is exactly Ferenczi's former office. During the last years of his life, Ferenczi worked on Naphegy (Sun Hill) in District I of Budapest receiving both his patients and disciples there. Many of these disciples went on to spread his innovative teachings abroad. It was also here where he wrote his most influential works among them his Clinical Diary. The project and the fundraising was developed and promoted by the Associazione Culturale Sándor Ferenczi ([www.ferenczi.it/house.ferenczi.it](http://www.ferenczi.it/house.ferenczi.it)), The International Ferenczi Foundation, and the newly established (2007) French association named Maison Ferenczi. Until now the ¼ of the total sum (that is 80.000 EUR for the apartment) could be collected. See the list of the donors and final reports on the fundraising at the website of the Associazione Culturale Sándor Ferenczi ([www.ferenczi.it/house.ferenczi.it](http://www.ferenczi.it/house.ferenczi.it)) and of the Sándor Ferenczi Society ([www.ferenczisandor.hu](http://www.ferenczisandor.hu))

#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE SÁNDOR FERENCZI SOCIETY**

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