Psychoanalysis and Society – Then and Now
1918–2018
Centennial Conference at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
28 September 2018

28 September 2018 will mark the 100th anniversary of the 5th International Psychoanalytic Congress, which was held on 28–29 September 1918 at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and was attended by Sigmund Freud and other members of the psychoanalytic movement who eventually achieved greatness themselves. Organized toward the end of the First World War, the Congress focused on war trauma and options for treatment, themes represented by Sándor Ferenczi and Karl Abraham. The fact that high-ranking military officials from the Austro-Hungarian Empire also participated was an indication of how seriously this matter was taken at the time. Indeed, a plan was soon developed to open hospital wards to provide psychological treatment for those affected by war trauma. This was the point when psychoanalysis moved beyond private practice to serve the broader society, and – after Sándor Ferenczi was appointed professor of psychoanalysis in 1919 – it also became part of standard medical education.

With the participation of Austrian and Hungarian scholars, the Centennial Conference will form a bridge between previous and current theoretical and therapeutic approaches, highlighting the question of war trauma, the intense reciprocal effect between psychoanalysis and the arts, and the current place of psychoanalysis in healing and in the history of science.

The Centennial Conference will be an international scholarly event within a joint project of the Sándor Ferenczi Society and the Petőfi Literary Museum called “Budapest on the Couch: Psychoanalysis and the Arts, 1908–1944.” There are also exhibitions and other conferences being planned for the next two years. The Centennial Conference “Psychoanalysis and Society – Then and Now”, will be free of charge for students, professionals, and the general public after registration.

Judit Mészáros
President of the Sándor Ferenczi Society

Gergely Pröhle
Director General of the Petőfi Literary Museum

Further information of the forthcoming events: divany@pim.hu