

It is a pleasure to announce the publication of the first volume of the complete works of Sándor Ferenczi in Hungarian, a joint venture of the Sándor Ferenczi Society and the Oriold publishing house, Budapest.

Title: Ferenczi Towards Psychoanalysis: Preanalytic Writings, 1897–1908

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The preanalytic writings of Sándor Ferenczi, which cover almost a third of his oeuvre, collectively document his medical and public activities as a physician and public intellectual up to February 1908, the historical first meeting between Freud and Ferenczi, which marked the beginning of Ferenczi's psychoanalytic period.

It traces Ferenczi's early career and his search for a professional path at the age of twenty, while the basic themes of his creative career unfold in parallel with developments in somatic medicine: psychological issues in mental illness and sexuality, the recognition of unconscious and semi-conscious processes, the then unusual call for a cooperative doctor–patient relationship, and its indispensability in the healing process. These early themes are coupled with a critique of authoritarianism and the hierarchical relationship model, the basis for Ferenczi's later credo as a psychoanalyst.

Rooted in the social and intellectual fabric of early 20th-century Hungary, the early writings offer insights into Ferenczi's professional and literary contacts, and his proficiency in the humanities and natural sciences. Ferenczi's wide-ranging interests and cultural embeddedness would contribute to the interdisciplinary openness of the Hungarian Psychoanalytical Society he founded and to the unique diversity of the Budapest School.

The more than one-hundred publications from the preanalytic period in various genres – studies, book reviews, case studies, and translations – form an integral part of Ferenczi's life's work, where we find both the traits of his personality and the core values of his psychoanalytic approach.

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