



# CMPS

## Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies

Presentation

### Anna Freud and ‘The Conscience of Society’

Out of the cultural and political ferment of inter-war Vienna emerged the Hietzing School, founded in the 1920s by Anna Freud and Dorothy Tiffany Burlingham. To Erik H. Erikson, who taught there, it was “the best possible school.” This lecture will explore the school’s daily operations and its significance, as both the teachers and the students remember it, all within the historical context of Viennese Social Democracy and its acceptance of psychoanalysis.

The original impulse to establish a psychoanalytically informed progressive school, however, occurred in Budapest, on September 28, 1918, when Sigmund Freud asserted that “the conscience of society will awake.” Anna Freud was present for one of the most consequential papers of Freud’s career, and from that day forward, she pursued a life of teaching and discovery that merged psychoanalysis, research on child development, and programs designed to meet the educational and psychological needs of the young child. When Anna Freud took her work to schools, clinics, and counseling centers around Vienna, she accomplished far more in marginalized communities than has been acknowledged to date.

Elizabeth Ann Danto’s talk will conclude with a screening of the new film *Anna Freud and ‘The Conscience of Society.’* The breadth of the film’s images come from a range of private and public collections in Europe and America, and the narrative is drawn from Anna Freud’s own writings on theory and practice from the 1920s through the 1960s, from Vienna to London.

2 CE Credits for Licensed Psychoanalysts and Social Workers

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2020 • 7:30 - 9:30 PM**

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PRACTITIONERS AND GENERAL PUBLIC: \$40 | STUDENTS: \$10



**Elizabeth Ann Danto, PhD**, is professor emeritus at Hunter College of the City University of New York, a writer, and an international lecturer on the history of psychoanalysis as a system of thought and a marker of urban culture. She is a consulting curator with the Freud Museum London. Dr. Danto is the author of *Historical Research* (Oxford University Press, 2008), and her book *Freud’s Free Clinics – Psychoanalysis and Social Justice, 1918–1938* (Columbia University Press, 2005) received the *Gradiva Book Award* and the *Goethe Prize*. With Alexandra Steiner-Strauss, she recently co-edited the book *Freud/Tiffany: Anna Freud, Dorothy Tiffany Burlingham and the ‘Best Possible School’* (Routledge, 2018).

#### CONTINUING EDUCATION INFORMATION

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** Participants will be able to (1) describe Anna Freud’s theories of education and child development in light of their historical context, and (2) describe the social justice dimension in the work of Anna Freud and Dorothy Tiffany Burlingham.

**Licensed Psychoanalysts:** The Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies is recognized by the New York State Education Department’s State Board for Mental Health Practitioners as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed psychoanalysts (#P-0032).

**Social Workers:** The Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies is recognized by the New York State Education Department’s State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers #SW-0206.