

PHENOMENOLOGY EVENTS

3 - 5 PM

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

CUNEO HALL 302

MATEUSZ OZIMEK

PSYCHOTHERAPY AS SECULAR CONFESSION: A GENEALOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT: PSYCHOTHERAPY CAN BE READ AS A SECULAR TRANSFORMATION OF CHRISTIAN CONFESSION, RETAINING PRACTICES OF SELF-DISCLOSURE, INTERPRETATION, AND SUBJECT FORMATION. IT PRODUCES ASYMMETRICAL POWER RELATIONS WHILE AIMING AT MENTAL HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING RATHER THAN SALVATION. THIS PAPER TRACES THE HISTORICAL CONTINUITY, AMBIVALENCES, AND SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THERAPEUTIC TECHNIQUES IN SHAPING MODERN FORMS OF SUBJECTIVITY, INCLUDING THEIR ALIGNMENT WITH NEOLIBERAL IDEALS OF SELF-REALIZATION AND PRODUCTIVITY.

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