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Sergio Benvenuto is a researcher in psychology and philosophy at the National Research Council (CNR) in Italy and a psychoanalyst member of SGAI (Società Gruppo-Analitica Italiana). He is a contributor to cultural journals such as *Differentia* (New York), *Telos* (New York), *Lettre Internationale* (French, German, Spanish, Hungarian, Rumanian and Italian editions), *Texte* (Wien), *RISS* (Basel), *Journal for Lacanian Studies* (London), *L'évolution psychiatrique* (Paris). He has translated into Italian Jacques Lacan's *Séminaire XX. Encore*, as well as works by Françoise Dolto, Paul Feyerabend, Richard Rorty, and others. His books include *La strategia freudiana* (Naples: Liguori, 1984); with Oscar Nicolaus, *La bottega dell'anima* (Milan: Franco Angeli, 1990); *Capire l'America* (Genova: Costa & Nolan, 1995), *Dicerie e pettegolezzi* (Bologna: Il Mulino, 1999); *Un cannibale alla nostra mensa* (Bari: Dedalo, 2000); *Perversioni. Sessualità, etica, psicoanalisi* (Turin: Bollati Boringhieri, 2005); with A. Molino, *On Freud's Tracks* (New York: Aronson, in print) <https://www.istc.cnr.it/doc/curricula/94ENCUR-tot2.rtf> [benvenuto.jep@mclink.it]

Cristiana Cimino is a practising psychoanalyst in Rome. She is a member of the Italian Psychoanalytical Society (member of IPA). She graduated in Medicine at the University of Rome "La Sapienza" and specialized in Psychiatry at "Roma II" University. For several years, within universities, she dealt with transcultural psychiatric studies, focusing particularly on traditional African cultures. She has taken part, as external consultant, in ethnopsychiatric and neurophysiological research projects funded by the Italian National Research Council (C.N.R.). For many years she has practised as a psychiatrist in a clinic dealing mainly with psychotic patients. Her published works include: "I fenomeni proiettivi nella psicopatologia delle culture africane", *Psichiatria e Psicoterapia Analitica*, 12, 1988; "Melancholia: a Defence Mechanism – Test Study", *Perceptual and Motor Skills*, 79, 1994, pp. 487-498; "La psicosi e il continuo", *Rivista Italiana di Psicoanalisi*, 1, 2003; "Il vuoto necessario", *Rivista Italiana di Psicoanalisi*, 1, 2005; "Projective Identification and Consciousness Alteration: a bridge between psychoanalysis and neuroscience?", *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 89, 2005 [cristiana.cimino@fastwebnet.it].

Jacques Derrida (El Biar, Algeria, 1930 – Paris 2004) is one of the most famous contemporary philosophers. He taught philosophy at Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris. His works published in English include: *Of Grammatology* (Baltimore & London: Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 1976); *Writing and Difference* (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1978); *Positions* (London: Athlone, 1981); *Margins of Philosophy* (Brighton: Harvester Press, 1982); *Dissemination* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1983); *The Post-card, from Socrates to Freud and Beyond* (Chicago & London: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1987); *The Truth in Painting* (Chicago & London: Chicago Univ. Press, 1987); *Limited Inc.* (Evanston: Northwestern Univ., 1988); *Of Spirit, Heidegger and the Question* (Chicago & London: Chicago Univ. Press, 1989);

Memoirs of the Blind, the Self-Portrait & Other Ruins (Chicago & London: Chicago Univ. Press, 1993); Specters of Marx (New York & London: Routledge, 1994.); The Gift of Death (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996); Deconstruction in a Nutshell. A Conversation by J.D. Caputo (New York: Fordham Univ. Press, 1997); Of Hospitality (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford Univ. Press, 2000); The Work of Mourning (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2003); Rogues: Two Essays on Reason (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford Univ. Press, 2005).

Elvio Fachinelli (Luserna, Trento, 1928- Milan 1989) was an M.D. and psychoanalyst in Milan where, in the 1970's, he established the journal *L'erba voglio*. He published his witty "psycho-political" articles there and in the popular weekly *L'Espresso*, establishing a strong connection between psychoanalysis and the emancipatory movements at that time. Although he remained a member of the official Italian Psychoanalytic Society (SPI), in 1969 he led a public protest against the Italian psychoanalytic establishment, which he criticized for its conservative sclerosis. He authored the books: *L'erba voglio*, with Luisa Muraro and Giuseppe Sartori (Turin: Einaudi, 1971); *Il bambino dalle uova d'oro* (Milan: Feltrinelli, 1974); *La freccia ferma* (Milan: *L'Erba Voglio*, 1979); *Claustrofilia* (Milan: Adelphi, 1983); and *La mente estatica* (Milan: Adelphi, 1989).

Alessandro Figà-Talamanca was born in 1938. He has a Ph.D. in Mathematics from UCLA. After an experience of teaching in the USA, he was appointed Professor at the University of Genoa in 1970. Since 1976 he has been Professor at Rome's "La Sapienza University". He is a former president of the Italian Mathematical Society (UMI) and a former Vice-president of the European Mathematical Society. He was a Member of the Italian National University Council from 1989 to 1997 and of the National Committee for the Evaluation of the University System (CNVSU) from 1999 to 2004. From 1995 to 2003 he was President of Italy's National Institute of Advanced Mathematics (Istituto Nazionale di Alta Matematica). Over the last 44 years he has contributed to many areas of harmonic analysis. In particular, in the 1960s and 1970s, he obtained significant results on multipliers of L^p spaces and on lacunary and random Fourier series on compact groups. In the 1970s his interests moved to harmonic analysis on discrete groups, which became his main area of interest during the eighties. In particular he has studied free groups and related discrete structures. More recently he has studied diffusion and stable variables in local fields. His present research concerns "drifted" random walks on homogeneous trees.

André Green, M.D., is former Director of the Paris Psychoanalytic Institute, former President of the Paris Psychoanalytic Society, former Vice-President of the International Psychoanalytic Association, former Professor at the Freud Memorial Chair University College, London. He is author of *Le discours vivant*, *Narcissisme de vie, narcissisme de mort*, *La folie privée*, *La déliaison*, *Le complexe de castration*, *Le travail du négatif*, *La causalité psychique*. [Address: 9 Avenue de l' Observatoire – 75006 Paris – France.]

Philippe Lacoue-Labarthe (Tours, France, 1940 – Paris 2007) taught philosophy and aesthetics at the University of Strasbourg. He worked as playwright, director and actor at the Théâtre National de Strasbourg, at the Centre Dramatique des Alpes, and at the Théâtre National de la Colline; in particular, he co-wrote and co-directed with Michel Deutsch the play, *Sit venia verbo*. His books include: *The Title of the Letter (A Reading of Lacan)* (New York: SUNY Press, 1992) and *The Literary Absolute* (New York: SUNY Press, 1988), both with Jean-Luc Nancy; *Portrait de l'artiste, en général* (Paris: Bourgois, 1979); *Typography (Mimesis, Philosophy, Politics)* (Harvard: Harvard Univ. Press, 1989); *The Subject of Philosophy* (University of Minnesota Press, 1993); *Heidegger, Art and Politics* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1990); *Musica ficta (Figures of Wagner)* (Palo Alto: Stanford Univ. Press, 1994); *L'Imitation des Modernes (Typographies II)* (Paris: Galilée, 1986); *La Poésie comme Expérience* (Paris: Bourgois, 1986); *La Fiction du Politique* (Paris: Bourgois, 1987).

Jean-François Lyotard (Versailles, France, 1924 – Paris 1998) was a French philosopher who worked mainly on aesthetics, politics and history. He taught philosophy at the University of California at Irvine. Among his books: *Dérives à partir de Marx et Freud* (Paris: Union Générale des Editions, 1975); *The Post-Modern Condition. A Report on Knowledge*, translated by Geoff Bennington & Brian Massumi

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Victor Mazin, with a PhD in philosophy (Subject of Freud and Derrida), is a practicing psychoanalyst and lecturer in the theory of Freudian-Lacanian psychoanalysis in Russia. He is the founder of Freud's Dream Museum in St. Petersburg, editor-in-chief of the arts and science journal *Kabinet*, co-editor of "Psychoanalysis" (Ukraine) and Associate Editor of "Journal for Lacanian Studies". He is the author of numerous articles and books on the theory of psychoanalysis, deconstruction and visual arts, such as: *Yufit and: representation of death* (St. Petersburg: Inapress, 1998); *Cabinet of the deep experience: Freud, Moses, Michelangelo*, with P. Pepperstein (St. Petersburg: Inapress, 2000); *Introduction into Lacan* (Moscow: Pragmatica Kultury, 2004); *The Mirror Stage of Lacan* (St. Petersburg: Aleteya, 2005); *The interpretation of dreams in the era of mass communication* (Moscow: NLO, 2005). He has translated works from French and English (of S.Zizek, R.Salecl, F.Guattari, B.Stiegler, L.Althusser, J.-F.Lyotard, M.Molnar. [ppkab@dux.ru]

Mario Perniola, philosopher, teaches Aesthetics at the University of Rome "Tor Vergata". He received his formal philosophical education under Luigi Pareyson, in the famous Turin school where Umberto Eco and Gianni Vattimo also graduated. His work however also focuses on the avant-garde. His early interest was in metaliterature, that drew Eugenio Montale's attention. From 1966 to 1969 he was closely connected to the "Situationist International" founded by Guy Debord with whom he remained on friendly terms for several years. He is the author of many books, among which (translated in English): *Enigmas* (London-New York: Verso, 1995), and *Ritual Thinking. Sexuality, Death, World*, (Atlantic Highlands, USA: Humanities Press, 2000), *The Art and Its Shadow* (London-New York: Continuum, 2004). His book *The Sex-appeal of the Inorganic* (London-New York: Continuum, 2004) has raised much debate and discussion because of its paradoxical core thesis: the description of a sexuality independent from pleasure and orgasm, a sexuality which considers the human body as a feeling thing. His philosophy brings together ideas coming from various fields such as science fiction, rock music, cyberpunk and drug culture. He has edited the journals «Agaragar» (1971-3), «Clinamen» (1988-92), «Estetica News» (1988-95) and «Ágalma. Rivista di studi culturali e di estetica» (since 2000). See also: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mario_Perniola and his personal website <https://www.marioperniola.it/>

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Slavoj Zizek, Marxist philosopher, co-Director of the International Center for Humanities, Birkbeck College, University of London. Among his latest publications are *The Parallax View* (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2006) and *How To Read Lacan (How to Read)* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2007).