

## **Fritz Morgenthaler, *On the Dialectics of Psychoanalytic Practice* Edited and with an Introduction by Dagmar Herzog (Routledge, 2020).**

“Arriving when new psychoanalytic concerns – narcissism, borderline – were dislodging the hegemony of American ego psychology, but equally consonant with emergent gay, decolonial, and counter-cultural critique, Morgenthaler’s deftly subversive clinical lectures for psychoanalysts in Zurich in 1974 create extraordinary space for cultural leverage, now as then. Here is an eye for the needs of outsiders, a psychoanalysis without fixed goals, relational before its time, seeking above all to set an emotional process in motion, one which might, through ‘revolutionary psychic turbulence’, foster changes that could make all the difference. As Dagmar Herzog puts it, this is not just a tool for psychoanalytic learning, but a manifesto for nonfascist existence.”

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### **Description**

Fritz Morgenthaler was a crucial figure in the return of psychoanalysis to post-Nazi Central Europe. An inspiring clinician and teacher to the New Left generation of 1968, he was the first European psychoanalyst since Freud to declare that homosexuality is not, indeed never, a pathology, and in *Technik*, developed revolutionary ideas for transforming clinical technique. *On the Dialectics of Psychoanalytic Practice* offers the first publication in English of this psychoanalytic, counterculture classic.

Those who first picked up *Technik* encountered it at a historical moment when Marxist psychoanalyst Wilhelm Reich, popular New Left cultural critic Klaus Theweleit, and the texts of the Frankfurt School were already required reading. While not a political text in the same direct way, Morgenthaler’s *Technik* nonetheless shared many of their preoccupations and conclusions about human nature. It was read as technical guidance for psychoanalysts, but also as a manifesto dedicated to the problem of how it might be possible genuinely to live a postfascist, and nonfascist, existence. Morgenthaler was a protorelationist who recombined the traditions of ego and self psychology as he retained a commitment to drive theory. Here Dagmar Herzog makes his work available to a new generation of analysts, providing essential source material, annotations, and groundbreaking analysis of the continued importance of the work for historians and therapeutic practitioners alike.

*On the Dialectics of Psychoanalytic Practice* will interest practicing clinicians as well as intellectual historians and cultural studies scholars seeking to understand the return of psychoanalysis to post-Nazi Central Europe.

**Part I Technik:** 1. Theory of Technique and Analytic Process 2. Sequentiality in the Course of Associations 3. Setting Priorities—and Relativizing Them 4. The Actualization of the Transference-Conflict 5. Identification 6. The Transference-Resistance 7. The Dynamic of Contradictions in the Interpretive Process 8. The Working-Through of a Transference-Resistance 9. Function and Structure of Reconstructive Interpretation 10. Many Paths Lead to No Destination **Part II Supplementary Material:** 1. Review of Heinz Kohut, *The Analysis of the Self: A Systematic Approach to the Psychoanalytic Treatment of Narcissistic Personality Disorders* 2. Letter to Heinz Kohut, September 25, 1977 3. Modes of Interaction in Perversions and Perversion of Modes of Interaction