Letters of Endorsement – Unterstützungserklärungen

**Dominic Freud**
Urenkel von Sigmund Freud, Vorsitzender der Freud Foundation US, New York

**Stefano Bolognini**
Psychoanalytiker, Präsident der Internationalen Psychoanalytischen Vereinigung, Bologna

**Judith Butler**
Philosophin und Philologin, University of California, Berkeley

**Gerhard Roth**
Schriftsteller, Wien

**Siri Hustvedt**
Schriftstellerin, New York

**Thomas Kohut**
Psychoanalytiker und Historiker, Williams College, Massachusetts

**Carol Seigel**
Direktorin des Freud Museums London
Letter of Endorsement

To me, the Sigmund Freud Museum in Vienna embodies a place that is deeply connected with my family’s history. My great-grandfather lived and worked at Berggasse 19 for the bulk of his illustrious career until he had had to flee his beloved Austria following the Anschluss by Hitler’s Germany in 1938.

This is one of the messages the Sigmund Freud Museum has to pass on to future generations – there was a time, not long ago, when millions were killed or expelled from Germany and Austria. It is important to preserve the museum as a symbol and as a resource for information, and thus support society in reminding itself of the cruelties and crimes of totalitarianism and racism.

Anna Freud, my great aunt, was involved in the founding of this museum and her courage and determination are an inspiration to me and anyone who considers it important to preserve my great-grandfather’s intellectual heritage.

The Freud family has great appreciation for the work of the Sigmund Freud Museum in Vienna, its research projects and events, the vast and profound library and the discursive exhibition programmes.

It is of great importance to develop this museum further, support its aim to connect Freud’s work at Berggasse 19 with the present discourse and not only preserve the infrastructure but make this unique site an enduring place for discussion, research and development in the spirit of Sigmund and Anna Freud – for both my family and for the worldwide culture that was profoundly influenced by Sigmund Freud.

Sincerely,

Dominic Freud
LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT

As the President of the International Psychoanalytical Association, founded by Sigmund Freud in 1910 in Nuremberg, which collects and represents 116 societies and more than 18,000 member analysts and candidates across the world, I want to strongly support the project of the Sigmund Freud Museum renovation and realignment, as planned by its current Director Dr. Monika Pessler.

The immense scientific, cultural and human legacy of Freud and the impact of that legacy on the contemporary world are invaluable.

The diffusion of Psychoanalysis not only to North America and Latin America, but now also to the Middle East (Lebanon and Iran) and to the Asia-Pacific Region (there are already official psychoanalytic societies in Japan, India, China, South-Korea, Taiwan and Australia) makes Psychoanalysis a common patrimony which is shared everywhere.

Freud’s home in Berggasse 19 is considered by all analysts and analytic psychotherapists as the absolute symbol of their science; not only for analysts, this place concretely represents the highest peak of our modern culture, and needs to be preserved and opened to all interested visitors.

Furthermore, in no other professional field is the specific and very peculiar home/office system so clearly interconnected as in the home of a psychoanalyst: visiting the Sigmund Freud Museum one can experience first-hand how the founder of Psychoanalysis lived and worked for so many decades, before Nazism brutally interrupted his activity and he had to move to London.

We think that supporting the Sigmund Freud Museum renovation and realignment project is our duty as a scientific, professional and educational organization, and we strongly recommend public institutions, private founders and potential donors to provide the necessary means for implementing that plan.

Stefano Bolognini

President of the International Psychoanalytical Association
LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT

The Sigmund Freud Museum in Vienna

The Sigmund Freud Museum in Vienna is the most important cultural site for the history of psychoanalysis in the world. The City of Vienna and the State of Austria have numerous cultural treasures – award-winning novelists and playwrights, magnificent symphonies and museums, and the tradition of psychoanalysis, initiated by Sigmund Freud. The museum not only testifies to the life and work of Freud himself, but to the great contributions of Anna Freud and 20th century psychoanalysis. Under its current directorship, the Freud Museum has demonstrated in the most impressive way that psychoanalysis is a living tradition, maintaining enormously valuable connections to art, philosophy, the study of culture, and contemporary reflections on the life of the mind. The importance of the Freud Museum for acknowledging the great cultural contributions of the most important of Jewish intellectuals should not be under-estimated. The story of Freud’s discoveries as well as his forced migration remind us of the inestimable contributions of his work to the theory and practice of psychology, psychiatry, theories of culture and myth, spanning the neurosciences and the creative arts. The museum documents the centrality of Jewish thinkers to the great cultural contributions of German-language intellectuals throughout the 20th century. Psychoanalysis allows us to understand both what is most perilous and most promising about the human psyche. The museum preserves and animates the history of the mind, its conflicts, its aspirations, its capacity for destruction and creation. To withdraw funding for this museum is to disavow this brilliant and living tradition, a source of pride and wonder for the entire world. As we confront the possibility of continuing war and the destruction of human life, we most profoundly need to remember the difficulty and the necessity of preserving the value of leading thoughtful lives. The museum not only represents a most invaluable past, but remains a beacon for our collective future.

Judith Butler

Maxine Elliot Professor of Critical Theory

University of California, Berkeley
BEGÜRWTUNGSSCHREIBEN

Berggasse 19


In London fand er schließlich den Ort, an dem er in Ruhe sterben durfte.

Wien ist diesem großartigen Wissenschaftler mehr als verpflichtet.


Meine Enttäuschung darüber ist in der Zwischenzeit noch größer geworden, denn alle Versuche der Direktion, das notwendige Geld für die dringende Renovierung aufzutreiben, sind bisher gescheitert.


Gerhard Roth
August 2016
LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT

Freud Museum in Vienna

When I visited the warren of rooms on the second floor of Bergasse 19 in 2011, the year I delivered the Sigmund Freud lecture for the museum in Vienna, I walked through the apartment’s spaces where Freud and his family lived for 47 years, and I populated them with familiar ghosts. I saw, among others, the insurrectionist Dora, who would generate thousands of pages of scholarly commentary on Freud’s pages on her; and Hilda Doolittle, the American imagist poet, who had writer’s block when she came to the doctor but not when she left him; and the poor Wolf Man who tortured butterflies when he was a child. But I also saw the SS ransack the apartment in 1938, and I saw Nazi soldiers usher Anna Freud into a car and drive to Gestapo headquarters, and when I looked into Freud’s consulting room, I viscerally felt the absence of the couch. It is in London.

The Freud Museum then is a memorial both to the story of psychoanalysis and to historical horror, but more than that, it is a site of and for the proliferation of ideas, a place where Freud’s living influence on contemporary thought can be documented and appraised: from the fluidity of human sexuality and gender to models of the brain-mind in neuroscience to the omnipresence of “the talking cure,” albeit in myriad forms. And it is the ongoing vitality of Freud’s thought in many disciplines that the Freud Museum has rightly seized upon, as well as the truth that accompanies it: Without Freud, we would look different to ourselves.

Siri Hustvedt
Freud Museum Renovation Endorsement:

Berggasse 19

For forty-seven years, Sigmund Freud lived with his family at Berggasse 19. It was at Berggasse 19 that Freud engaged in his pioneering introspective investigation of his psychological life. And it was there in his consulting room that Freud treated the patients who came to him for help with their psychological problems, listening to them and learning from them. At Berggasse 19, based on his self-analysis and his collaborative work with his patients, Freud developed his theories about the psyche and its functioning as well as his method of knowing the hidden psychic world that, together, became “psycho-analysis.” Following the Anschluss of Austria by Nazi Germany, Freud and his wife Martha left Berggasse 19 in June 1938 for a new address, 20 Maresfield Gardens in London, where he lived, amidst most of their possessions brought from Vienna, until his death on 23 September 1939. Following Freud’s departure, Berggasse 19 became a “Sammelwohnung” for nearly twenty mostly elderly Jews, a way station on their path to the gas chambers. But Freud, his family, his patients, his possessions, and the Jews living in the Sammelwohnung are now all long gone from Berggasse 19. As a result, Berggasse 19 could easily be nothing more than an empty space, a once famous address, a symbol of absence, of what Vienna, Austria, and Central Europe lost as a result of National Socialism.

But it’s not. Instead, today Berggasse 19 is the Freud Museum, a vital, populated, living museum. More than 90,000 visitors come to Berggasse 19 annually to experience the place where Freud and his family lived, where Freud treated his patients, and where Freud developed psychoanalysis. Scholars of the history of psychoanalysis and of fin de siècle Vienna, psychoanalysts, and other researchers come to Berggasse 19 to use Europe’s largest psychoanalytic research library. In addition, Berggasse 19 houses a vibrant academic and scientific program, with lectures, panels, workshops, and reading groups. Intellectuals in a wide range of disciplines come to the museum from all around the world to investigate and discuss topics relating not only to Freud and the historical origins of psychoanalysis but to psychoanalysis in our contemporary world, as a mode of psychological treatment and as a way of making sense of and seeking to master current cultural, social, and political issues. Finally, Berggasse 19 is the site of sophisticated and frequently challenging artistic, historical, and scientific exhibitions relating to Freud and psychoanalysis and to the ways of understanding ourselves and our world that have emerged from it. In short, Berggasse 19 not only commemorates an illustrious history; it brings that history to life in a form that reflects and relates to the world in which we live today. The humanistic values and ways of understanding people expressed by Freud at the beginning of the twentieth century, which were driven out of Vienna, Austria, and Central Europe by the Nazis, are alive at Berggasse 19, but in ways thoroughly adapted to our twenty-first century world.

Although the Freud Museum is a flourishing twenty-first century institution in terms of visitors, of library resources, of academic and scientific programming, and of the exhibitions in Freud’s former office and apartment, Berggasse 19 as a building is well behind the times, sorely in need of renovation and reconfiguration to make it suitable for the important activities that go on there. I therefore strongly endorse the planned renovation and reconfiguration proposed by Monika Pessler, the Museum’s
director. The Freud Museum is unique and important not simply because of what it represents about the past but even more because of its contribution to our contemporary world. Given the Museum’s programming, Berggasse 19 requires a renovated and reconfigured physical space that reflects and supports the Freud Museum’s contemporary status, mission, and importance.

Thomas A. Kohut

Sue and Edgar Wachenheim III Professor of History
Williams College
Fulbright-Freud Visiting Scholar of Psychoanalysis at the Freud Museum, 2015-2016
Mag. Monika Pessler, MSc
Direktorin Sigmund Freud Museum
Berggasse 19, A-1090 Wien
Austria

20 August 2016

Dear Monika

I am very happy to provide a letter of support for the proposed development of the Sigmund Freud Museum in Vienna. The Museum at Berggasse 19 is an immensely important cultural and historical monument, not just for Vienna but for all of Austria and beyond. The exciting plans that you and your team want to put in place are essential for preserving this historic site and for creating a 21st century museum.

Sigmund Freud was one of the great, innovative thinkers of the twentieth century and changed the way in which we all view ourselves. The apartment in which Sigmund Freud and his family lived and worked for many years is already a huge draw for visitors from all over the world, and must be both preserved and improved. This is one of the most important sites in Vienna, telling the story not only of the founder of psychoanalysis but related stories of European history and the Holocaust.

I write from the Freud Museum London, housed in the home where Freud settled when he fled from Nazi occupied Vienna, and where he died in 1939. The two museums are now partners and complement each other, one resonant with the ideas, writing and practice of the ‘talking cure’ and the other housing the material possessions – the iconic couch, antiquities, furniture and books from Vienna – which followed Freud out of Austria. I look forward to moving forward together on our important mission of explaining Freud’s legacy to current and future generations.

Freud’s home and working space must be preserved. It is vital that the necessary investment is made to allow the Sigmund Freud Museum to develop as it should, to tell the important story of Sigmund Freud, and to honour one of the most influential inhabitants not just of Vienna but the world.

I know that you and your team are doing wonderful work at the Museum and I wish you luck in the development project. I am happy to be contacted by anyone working on this project to explain my support or give further information.

Best wishes

Carol Seigel

Carol Seigel
Director, Freud Museum London