



# MEET THE MOSCOW PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY

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## Psychoanalysis in Russia: Blooming and fading (1900-1930)

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*Lou Andreas-Salome (1861-1937)*

Early history of psychoanalysis in Russia signifies a noticeable involvement in the psychoanalytic movement.

A number of Freud's prominent followers, for instance Lou Andreas-Salome, Max Eitingon and Sabina Spielrein, were hailed from Russian; as did Sergey Pankeev, one of Freud's famous cases, "The Wolf Man".



*Sabina Spielrein (1885-1942)*



Freud thought that even those Russians who were not neurotics seemed “closer to the Unconscious than Western people”. In a letter to Jung written in 1912, Freud notes that “there seems to be a local epidemic of psychoanalysis” in Russia. In 1914 he says “In Russia, psychoanalysis is very generally known and widespread; almost all my writings as well as those of other advocates of analysis have been translated into Russian”.



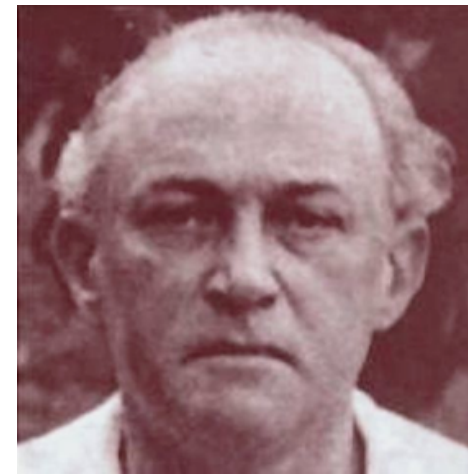
*In 1910 Russian psychiatrist Nikolaj Osipov had visited Freud, with whom he developed friendly professional bond which he kept till his death in emigration in Prague in 1934. He had met also Jung and Bleuler. His was a big role in propagating of psychoanalysis and publishing Freud's oeuvres in Russia.*

However, in the next sentence Freud notices, “But a deeper grasp of the analytic teaching has not yet shown itself in Russia”. He adds that the work of Russian physicians and psychiatrists remains unremarkable and that, with the exception of Moshe Wulff,



*Institute of Psychology (1912)*

there are no qualified analysts in Russia. Among the important representatives of Russian psychoanalysis, only Spielrein and Wulff had personal experience of analysis. Nevertheless it is worth noting that Russian cultural and historical context of the beginning of 20s century made a good seedbed for planting and growing of psychoanalytic ideas.



*Moshe Wulff  
(1878–1971)*

For instance, Russian symbolism which had been a widespread movement in art, literature and philosophy at that time had been seeking the answers to the same questions as was psychoanalysis: what is inner world of a human being and how it could be grasped, what is the role of sexuality in human life, what are the basic conflicts of religion and culture, etc.



**Valentin Serov. Portrait of Ida Rubinstein (1910)**

**Vyacheslav Ivanov (1866–1949)**

*One of the founders of the Russian Symbolism, prominent representative of the so-called “Silver age”. Poet, philosopher, philologist. Emigrated to Italy in 1924.*





As it probably happened with Marxism, the strong tendency to idealization in Russia made many intellectuals to read psychoanalytic ideas not as a set of hypothesis to elaborate but as an instruction to active transformation of personality in a desired fashion.

That would help to understand the post-revolutionary enthusiasm to implant psychoanalysis as an active practice with the objective to create a “new man”. For instance the first Minister of education of Soviet government Lunacharskyi commented: “getting to know what are the laws of child development, we’ll bring to light the process of production of a new man in parallel with production of new equipment”.



In the 1920s and early ‘30s, the Russian Psychoanalytic Society (1922–1930), the State Psychoanalytic Institute (1923–25), the “International Solidarity” Experimental Home for Children (1921–1925), and the outpatient unit (1925), were all established under the Soviet Ministry of Education.

### ***“International Solidarity” Experimental Home for Children (1921–1925)***

*The “Detski Dom” (also known as the “Solidarity International Experimental Home”) was opened in Moscow August of 1921. The “Detski Dom” shared space with the Psychoanalytic Institute in the luxurious former home of Stepan Ryabushinsky who fled after the Revolution of 1917.*

*Among the staff were Vera and Otto Schmidt, Ivan Ermakov, Sabina Spielrein, Alexander Luria et.al.*

*“Detski Dom” was closed by the decree of the Soviet Government in 1925.*

**In 1924 Russian psychoanalytic society after negotiations with Freud and Abraham became the interim society of the IPA.** Characteristically for that period, famous soviet psychologists A.Luria and L.Vygotsky wrote in 1925: “here in Russia “Freudism” draws exclusive attention not only of the scientific circles but also of a mass reader. Nowadays almost all Freud’s works were translated into Russian and published (the most prominent editor and publisher of Freud’s works before 1929 was Ivan Ermakov). Before our eyes a new and original current begins to take shape in psychoanalysis with attempt to synthesize Freudism and Marxism with the help of doctrine of conditioned reflexes”.



**Soviet sports parades**  
*(photo 1937–1938)*

**Still the popularity of psychoanalysis under the revolutionary government didn’t live long.** It was soon discovered that psychoanalysis could hardly be used as a means of shaping the “soviet personality”; moreover it’s

intrinsic value of truth, individuality and personal freedom obviously came up as a sharp contradiction to the perverted social attitudes in service of State dictatorship. In 1930s psychoanalysis was turned into “scientia non grata” in the Soviet Union, psychoanalysts got dispersed and only a few managed to go abroad and survive. Almost complete vacuum then went on for many decades.



**No more need in psychoanalysis**

## Revival (1980 - 2005)

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The psychoanalytic tradition began to revive in the 1980s, when a few enthusiasts began their analytically oriented practice. This was done in secret and without necessary training.



During that time small circles of colleagues (first of all, B.Kravzov, J.Aleshina, S.Agrachev, P.Snezhnevsky and others) read and discussed the available works of Freud, and attempted to “analyze” patients.

After the fall of the Iron Curtain, the first contacts with the international psychoanalytic community were established.

*Underground musicians, Moscow, early 1980s.*



**From the late '80s to the late '90s there seemed to be a real explosion of interest in psychoanalysis in Russia.** This resulted in an “epidemic” dissemination of various psychoanalytical associations and institutes across the country.



***Queue at the opening of the first McDonalds in Russia, Moscow. 30 000 people had visited McDonalds 31 January 1990.***

**Nevertheless the absence of trained analysts remained one of the chief characteristics of Russian psychoanalysis.** Visiting Russia then a prominent American analyst remarked with surprise: “There are psychoanalytic associations, but no psychoanalysts!” (situation reminding that of the 1920s).

**Gradually things were changing: Russian would-be analysts were able to attend conferences and meet analysts in the West.** Some prominent analysts from the USA, Germany, France and other Western countries generously responded to invitations to come to Russia and teach; also long-term theoretical and supervising programs were organized in Moscow.

In the '90s a few people left Russia in order to carry out psychoanalytic training in the West (in the USA, France, and Great Britain). Roughly at the same time the first ‘shuttle analyses’ began in Germany and the Czech Republic, later in France, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Finland, and Yugoslavia.

In the late 1990s the help given over ten years by the IPA and its affiliated societies, as well as the EPF and particular experienced IPA analysts began to bear fruit.



**Marina Agracheva**

*The treasure of the MPS: everything changes, but the treasurer stays for more than 25 years.*

From 2002 training could be carried out via the Han Groen-Prakken Psychoanalytic Institute for Eastern Europe (PIEE). When the IPA gave Moscow Psychoanalytic Society and Moscow Group of Psychoanalysts a Study Group status in 2005, psychoanalytic training finally became available in Moscow.

# Moscow Psychoanalytic Society

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**The Moscow Psychoanalytic Society was founded in 1988**, initially as the Division of Psychoanalysis of the Association of Psychologists in Practice.

**The Division of Psychoanalysis became the Moscow Psychoanalytic Society in 1995:**



***Sergey Agrachev (1952–1998)***  
***President 1992–1998***

*Sergey played a major role in consolidating and promoting the psychoanalytic movement in Russia in its “underground years” as well as in the formation of MPS. His outstanding personality that combined high intellectual abilities and insightfulness with energy, generosity and friendliness much helped the first generation of MPS members to stay together and share the spirit of devotion to psychoanalytic development over the years.*



***Pavel Snezhnevsky,***  
***Chair 1988–1992***



MPS then expanded training opportunities for its members by collaborating with the Eastern European committees of the IPA, the EPF, the DPV, the Czech Psychoanalytical Society, and other IPA groups, and later with the PIEE. Four members of the MPS began their “shuttle training” with IPA training analysts in Germany and the Czech Republic in 1995-1996. By 1999 all ten members of the MPS were undergoing shuttle training in a variety of European countries – the Germany, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic.

Gradually the cooperation between the MPS members and various institutes of the IPA and the EPF managed to develop into a rather coherent educational structure. In 1999 Igor Kadyrov at that time President of the Moscow Psychoanalytic Society, became the first of the Russian colleagues to be accepted as a member of the IPA



**Igor Kadyrov the first IPA Russian analyst**

*President of MPS 1998–2006*

*Director of Training 2006–2014*

## **In the IPA frame 2005-today**



By 2005 the MPS had 11 IPA members and more than 20 candidates. In the same year the Moscow Psychoanalytic Society received the **Study Group** status at the Rio de Janeiro IPA congress.

**Marina Arutyunyan**

*President of MPS Study group 2006–2011*

## **In January 2011 MPS received the Provisional Society status.**

The last years of MPS as Study Group and then as Provisional Society of IPA was functioning in cooperation and under the guidance of Sponsoring and Liaison Committee which consisted of Federico Flegenhimer (Italy), Kitty Schmidt (Austria) and Anders Zachrisson (Norway).

We are deeply indebted to them and to all those IPA analysts who took part in our development as psychoanalysts and as a society.

Along with regular psychoanalytic training some MPS candidates and younger members have been ( and some still are) involved in additional training like, f.i., PIEE training program on Child and Adolescent Psychoanalysis or the program of American Psychoanalytic Association.

In the decade since 2005 with the constant support and valuable help of the IPA Sponsoring and Liaison Committees we managed to create full-fledged psychoanalytic institute in Moscow providing training in accord with the Eitingon model.



**Ekaterina Kalmykova**  
*Director of training since 2014*



**Alexander Uskov**  
*President of MPS Provisional  
society 2011-2015*

**In 2015 at Boston IPA congress we became component society of the IPA.**

At present we are 23 members, 9 training analysts and about 30 candidates.



***Tatiana Alavidze***  
*President since 2015*

The first generation of MPS analysts with regard to their training has been influenced by various psychoanalytic cultures – which is, on one side, enriching and, on the other side, presents a challenge to create enough theoretical coherency.

Numerous theoretical and clinical discussions among members and candidates provide this latter objective.



***IPA congress in Boston***, the MPS  
*Scientific Secretary Elina Zimina, MPS*  
*President Tatiana Alavidze, MPS*  
*training analyst Vitalij Zimin*





***MPS 1997  
After the weekly  
clinical meeting***

***MPS «20 years later»  
With Liaison Committee in  
2015***



## Scientific life of the Society

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The majority of MPS members works in regular supervision and intervision groups in Moscow, London, Berlin, Hamburg and Cologne. Our members take part in international boards and committees of psychoanalytic organizations. Many of the MPS members combine clinical practice with tutoring and research in universities and academic institutes. We are now collaborating with the Lomonosov Moscow State University on a master degree program on psychoanalytic psychology.

### Big Tuesdays

Society members, candidates or specially invited guests have the opportunity to deliver their scientific papers during monthly scientific meetings, which are open to wider audience of the Society's guests. These meetings are very popular and thanks to them many young psychoanalytic psychotherapists, psychologists, and doctors have become interested in training as psychoanalysts.

### International psychoanalytic training

Our training analysts had been students and then became teachers at the Han Groen-Prakken Psychoanalytic Institute for Eastern Europe (PIEE). This experience provided MPS members and candidates a unique opportunity to collaborate with prominent analysts and candidates from different parts of the world. At present MPS is deeply involved in Seminars and Summer Schools of the European Psychoanalytic Institute (EPI), which is a joint creation of IPA and EPF. Igor Kadyrov is EPI director.

**MPS annual russian-speaking conference** is being held since 2012 and attracts participants from Russia, Ukraine and Belorussia.

**2012: Inner space, dreams and psychoanalytic process**

**2013: Oedipus complex today**

**2014: Male sexuality and perversion in analytic work**

**2015: Psyche, body, culture: container and (un)contained**

**The Society is engaged in translating and publishing activities, publishing anthologies and books.**



***Anna Kazanskaya  
(1956–2007)***

*Anna took initiative in 1992  
in translating and publishing  
of modern psychoanalytic  
literature.*

Since 2010 the Moscow Psychoanalytic Society, along with The International Journal of Psychoanalysis publishes the **Russian Annual of The International Journal of Psychoanalysis** aiming to introduce the Russian reader to the key issues of contemporary psychoanalysis. (Chief editor - Igor Kadyrov, executive secretary - Natalia Kigai).



***Natalia Kigai***  
*Executive secretary of the Russian Annual of The  
International Journal of Psychoanalysis*



Since 2014 MPS annually publishes the selected collection of original papers written by its members and candidates – **Bulletin of the Moscow Psychoanalytic Society.**



**Natalia Kholina**  
*Editor in chief of the  
Bulletin*

**A small sample of chapters and titles from different volumes can be a representation of members' and candidates' reflective work.**

### **Psychoanalytic theory and practice**

- I. Kadyrov. The loneliness of a psychoanalyst.
- V. Zimin. On some ways to create stagnation ( psychoanalytic view on middle-age crisis)
- E.Trishkina. The inner space of a woman: complexity of perception and integration
- E.Zimina. Illusions of victory, illusions of defeat. Oedipal phantasies in pre- oedipal patients
- M. Agapova. The adhesive identification. Autistic phenomena in non- autistic patients
- E.Rajzman. Avoidance of Oedipus complex.

### **Psychoanalysis and Society**

M.Timofeeva. The trauma of the past  
( Stalin's regime) in clinical material of the  
patients.

### **Psychoanalysis of children and adolescents**

R.Nesterenko. The ugly duckling.

### **Essays on Arts**

E.Misko. Is the Analyst alive or is the  
analyst dead?  
M.Muchnik. The winners are not judged.

### **Psychanalytic research**

I.Kadyrov, A.Oksimetz. Defensive Personality  
organization in affective disorders and its  
dynamics within the psychoanalytic  
interview.

### **Education**

I.Ebravidze. Identity of a  
psychoanalyst, identification  
in the process of the  
psychoanalytic education,  
inner object of  
psychoanalysis.

## The Analyst at work

Another interesting joint venture of the Moscow Psychoanalytic Society and the International Journal of Psychoanalysis is a conference entitled “The Psychoanalyst at Work”, which takes place every three years in Moscow.

**The theme and format of the conference is directly linked with “The Analyst at Work ”**

**section of *IJP*:** outstanding analysts from different psychoanalytic cultures present their analytic work (process material) which consists of detailed description of verbal and nonverbal activity in the sessions of the analyst and the patient, accompanied by a brief introduction to the patient’s history. We invite two colleagues representing different perspectives to make their commentaries on the presented material.



**The aim of the discussants is to enter the area of creative play, imagine themselves in the analyst’s chair, let their associations to lead them and to formulate their own pictures of the presented sessions.** Thus we hope to build bridges between different psychoanalytic schools.

In the first four conferences in 2004, 2007, 2010 and 2013 the speakers and discussants included Andre Green, Ron Britton, Paul Williams, Jean-Michel Quinodoz, Antonio Ferro, Gigliola Fornary Spoto, Franziska Henningsen, Henry Smith, Michael Feldman, Jorge Canestri, Jose Carlos Calich, Dana Birksted-Breen and Igor Kadyrov, as well as other colleagues from Europe, the USA and Russia. The fifth conference took place recently in May 2016 where Jorge Canestri, Dana Birksted-Breen and David Bell presented their clinical work. Leading Russian psychoanalysts made the discussions.

## Psychoanalysis and culture

In the framework of the regular monthly meetings of MPS with wide professional audience (Big Tuesdays) MPS members and invited guests present papers not only on clinical matters, but reflecting on cultural events: movies, arts, literature, history. Here we'll list only some speakers and topics 2007-2015:

**Igor Kadyrov (MPS).** *Discussion of Emily Cooper's film "Laid Down".*

**Alexander Uskov (MPS).** *"Spider-Man: the history of one's mind. Psychoanalytic reflection on films: "Spider-Man 1, 2, 3".*

**Alexander Uskov (MPS).** *Discussion of Adam Curtis's movie "The Century of the Self" (2002), part 1 "Happiness Machines" – the influence of psychoanalysis... (how psychoanalysis influenced social, economic and political development of XX Century civilization).*

**Igor Kadyrov (MPS).** *"Simple things and simple thoughts. What does the film "Prostye veshchi" ("Simple things") by Alexei Popogrebski reveal and conceal?"*

**Maria Timofeeva (MPS).** *"Peter Pan Archetype. Ideas, associations, images".*

**Natalia Kholina (MPS).** *"Seduction by narcissism". Discussion of the film "Medea" by Paolo Pasolini.*

**Harai Golomb. (professor of Tel-Aviv university).** *"Endings" (on material of Chekhov's plays and Mozart's operas).*

**Igor Kadyrov (MPS).** *"Games of the mind and games of madness" – A cinematographic and psychoanalytic study of psychosis and creativity of John Nash – discussion of Ron Howard's movie "A Beautiful Mind".*

**Marina Arutyunyan (MPS).** *"Orlando furioso" (on the novel by Virginia Woolf).*

**Harai Golomb (professor of Tel-Aviv university).** *"Chekhov from within and from outside: the presence through the absence".*

**Natalia Kholina (MPS).** *"Don Juan or Don Nobody": narcissistic constellations in different versions of the Don Juan legend in literature and opera".*

**Marina Muchnik (MPS).** *"Fail and victory undistinguished": Shakespeare, Verdi and Freud on Macbeth.*

**Alexey Orlov (MPS' candidate).** *"Leaving the claustrophobic space". Discussion of Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's "Birdman".*

**Ksenia Korbut (MPS).** *"To be in the human skin: living and avoiding life in a perverted world". Jonathan Glazer's film "Under the skin".*

**Alexander Etkind (professor of European University Institute, Florence).** *"Warped mourning: Historical memory, Society and Psychoanalysis".*



The first **Film Festival** “The Screen of Obvious — The Screen of Unconscious” took place in Moscow in 2014. It was organized by Bureau of Psychoanalytic Solutions (chair Igor Kadyrov) together with the Moscow Psychoanalytic Society.

The leading Russian film directors such as Zvyagintsev (“The Return”, “Leviathan” ), Khrzhanovsky (“4”), Sigarev (“To live”), Lopushansky (“The Role”) presented their productions which were discussed by MPS psychoanalysts. This event was extremely successful and is to be continued.

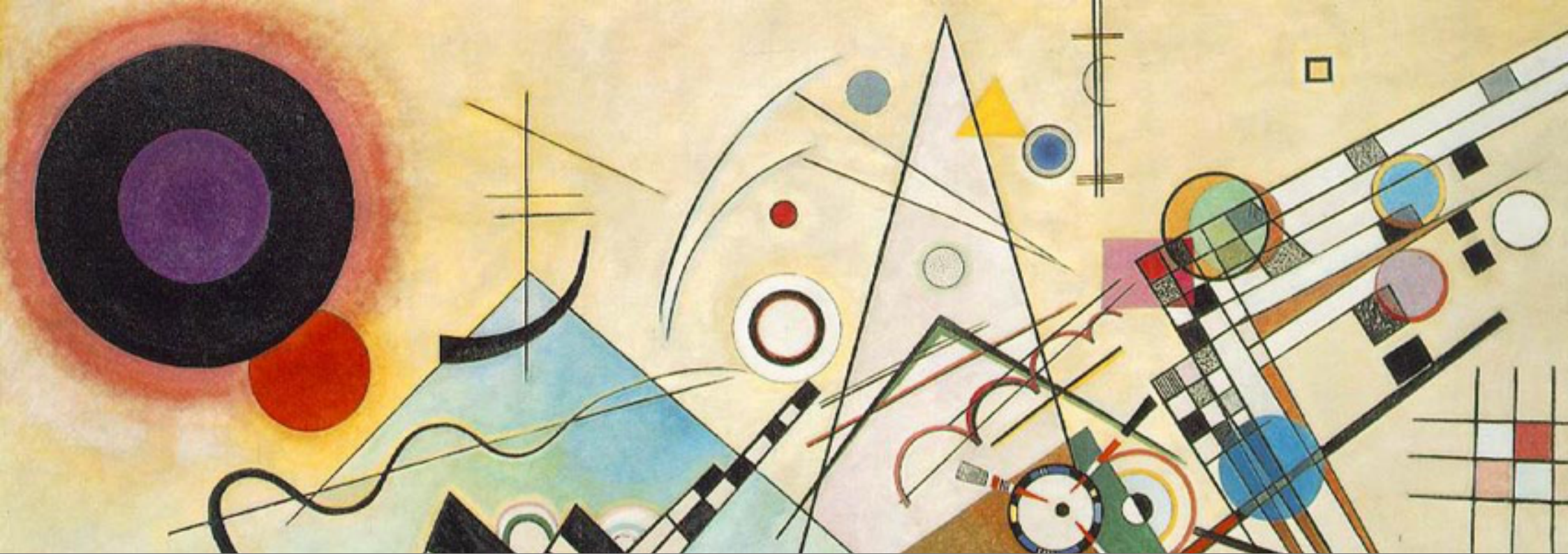


**This is a brief overview of activities and initiatives of our “young” society. We strongly intend to further promote the psychoanalysis in Russia, to continue developing our society: next generation of gifted and eager psychoanalysts has already stepped in. We only hope that the epoch will be auspicious for our plans.**

*Panel on Zvyagintsev’s “Elena”  
Biscussant Marina Arutyunyan,  
chair Igor Kadyrov*

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**Etkind A.** “Eros of the Impossible: The History of Psychoanalysis in Russia”. SPb, 1993.



[www.psychoanalysis-mps.ru](http://www.psychoanalysis-mps.ru)

**Text and presentation:** Tatiana Alavidze, Marina Arutyunyan  
**Design:** Tatiana Alavidze, Marina Arutyunyan, Alina Mityushova