



# CMPS

Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies

*Extension Division Seminar for Clinicians*

## The Iron Law of Oligarchy: Can Psychoanalysis Escape It?

This paper addresses the current crisis in psychoanalysis—its fall from public favor and its shrinking patient and student base.

“*First, I consider the left and far left ideological commitments of the European founding analysts and pioneers, in particular their concern about social justice as reflected in the establishment of free clinics, and second, the impact of Marxist ideology on the theory and practice of a cohort of American-born psychoanalysts. I propose a line that evolved from Hegelian dialectic and dialectical materialism to the centrality of conflict and compromise formation. In their practice these psychoanalysts were committed to a view of therapeutic optimism that patients could be changed, just as Marxists believed that society could be changed. The organizational structures they developed were based on the certainty of their convictions, centralized control, and oligarchic relationships.*”

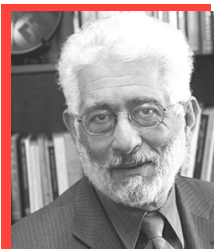
2 CE Credits for Social Workers and Psychologists

■ **Friday, October 30, 2015 • 7:30–9:30 PM** ■

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Open to clinicians and the public at no charge ■ Followed by a social gathering



### **Arnold Richards, MD**

Editor of *JAPA* (1994–2003) and previously of *TAP*. Currently publisher of *international psychoanalysis.net* and *ipbooks.net*. Training and supervising analyst at the New York Psychoanalytic Institute; member of the New York Freudian Society; honorary member of the Karen Horney Clinic and the New Jersey Psychoanalytic Society. Faculty, Tongji Medical College of Huazhong University of Science and Technology in Wuhan, China. He has coedited four books and authored and coauthored 60 papers on a wide range of topics. In 2000 he received the prestigious Sigourney Award.

#### CONTINUING EDUCATION INFORMATION

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** Participants will be able to (1) describe the left and far left political influences on the early European and American psychoanalysts, and (2) describe the impact of the social philosophy of the early psychoanalysts on the profession's theory, practice, and organizational structure.

**Psychologists:** CMPS is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. CMPS maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

**Social Workers:** CMPS (SW CPE #0206) has received conditional approval from the New York State Education Department's State Board for Social Work to offer continuing education to licensed social workers, effective 6/15/2015. The Department may subsequently notify the provider that a particular course or courses is/are not acceptable. This conditional approval is in effect until the Department makes a final determination to approve or deny the provider application.