# Impact case study (REF3)



Institution: Keele University

**Unit of Assessment:** UoA28 History

**Title of case study:** The impact of psychology and psychological notions in German history (Guilt, Shame, and Loss of Self-Control: How Psychology Makes German History Intelligible)

Period when the underpinning research was undertaken: 2007-2018

Details of staff conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit:

Name(s): Role(s) (e.g. job title): Period(s) employed by submitting HEI:

Prof Anthony Kauders Professor of Modern History 2005 - present

Period when the claimed impact occurred: 2013-2019

Is this case study continued from a case study submitted in 2014? N

# 1. Summary of the impact (indicative maximum 100 words)

The impact of psychology and psychological notions in German history' presents a portfolio of four types of impact deriving from Professor Anthony Kauders' research. He has interrogated the history of interrelated psychological phenomena and practices (guilt, psychotherapy and hypnosis) in Germany. This body of work has: (1) informed public debates about Jewish life and community after the Holocaust; (2) influenced the design and delivery of educational curricula across the world; (3) enhanced cultural provision in collaboration with museum professionals; and (4) challenged conventional wisdom and stimulated debate among (clinical) psychologists and psychotherapists, thereby contributing to practitioner professional development in Germany.

## **2. Underpinning research** (indicative maximum 500 words)

Since the early 2000s, Kauders' research has focussed on the reception of psychology, the history of hypnosis and the ways in which Germans and Jews have confronted psychologically demanding conditions in twentieth-century Germany.

Unmögliche Heimat (Impossible Homeland), published in 2007 with the financial assistance of the German Research Council, was the first archive-based study of Jewish life in West Germany (3.1). It focused on one emotion in particular, guilt, and how guilt determined Jewish thinking and politics in the 'land of the murderers'. This bad conscience not only distinguished them from Jewish communities elsewhere, but it also explained much of what characterized West German Jewry from 1945 to 1989: its economic structure; its especially close ties to Israel; its preoccupation with democratization; its power arrangements; and its communal life. What is more, by explaining the relationship between Jewish and German officials in the Federal Republic as a form of gift exchange (Jews providing Germans with international credibility, Germans providing Jews with a symbolic role in the Federal Republic), Kauders offered a novel way of understanding German and Jewish elite behaviour after 1945. The importance of this reassessment led the editor of the semi-official history of the Jews in Germany to include Kauders in his international team of authors (3.2).

The next project (3.3), also funded by a major grant from the German Research Council, moved from specific emotions in the aftermath of the Holocaust to the reception of psychology more generally. *Der Freud-Komplex* (*The Freud Complex*) was the first study to address German reactions to Freudian psychoanalysis in the twentieth century. It set out to trace these reactions as wider indicators of popular conceptions of selfhood, early childhood education, sexuality, and the unconscious. Kauders demonstrated a shift in perception from the initial rejection of psychoanalysis as a psychological method to the subsequent rejection of psychoanalysis as a

### Impact case study (REF3)



'Jewish' way of thinking. There was also a shift from early fears that the idea of the unconscious threatened bourgeois self-control, to later concerns that the 'creative' unconscious be protected. The research revealed the degree to which a younger generation in the 1960s and 70s embraced psychoanalytical conceptions in order to create free, unencumbered human subjects. All these responses mirrored the hopes, anxieties, and worldviews of Germans in the twentieth century. More recently, Kauders has begun to research the history of hypnosis in Germany. As in his previous research, the reception of psychological concepts, models, and metaphors lies at the heart of his work. Thus, he has documented reactions to hypnosis in terms of gender and free will, including a form of binary thinking that pitted bourgeois male hypnotists against hypnotized effeminate masses (3.4) and as a discourse that centred on the perceived struggle, located within a particular 'personality', between an individual's 'character' or 'soul' and the infiltration by a foreign or hostile force (3.5). This work involved editing two special issues of Germany's leading journal on hypnosis and hypnotherapy (3.6).

- 3. References to the research (indicative maximum of six references)
- 3.1. Anthony D. Kauders, *Unmögliche Heimat. Eine deutsch-juedische Geschichte der Bundesrepublik* (Munich: Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt, 2007)
- 3.2. Michael Brenner (ed.), *Geschichte der Juden in Deutschland. Von 1945 bis zur Gegenwart* (Munich: C. H. Beck, 2012) (translated as Michael Brenner (ed.), *A History of Jews in Germany since 1945. Politics, Culture, and Society* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2018)
- 3.3. Anthony D. Kauders, *Der Freud-Komplex. Eine Geschichte der Psychoanalyse in Deutschland* (Berlin: Berlin Verlag, 2014)
- 3.4. Anthony D. Kauders, *Verführung, Hingabe, Auftrag: Hypnose und Verbrechen in Deutschland nach dem Ersten Weltkrieg*, in: *Hypnose. Zeitschrift für Hypnose und Hypnotherapie*, 10 (2015), pp. 63-80.
- 3.5. Anthony D. Kauders 'Negotiating Free Will: Hypnosis and Crime in Early Twentieth-Century Germany', in: *The Historical Journal*, 60 (2017), pp. 1047-1069.
- 3.6. Anthony D. Kauders, 'Hypnose im Nationalsozialismus', in: *Hypnose. Zeitschrift für Hypnose und Hypnotherapie*, 11 (2016), pp. 7-25.

The quality of this research is indicated by its publication in peer-reviewed outputs in the UK and internationally and the extensive take up of this work in debates about Jewish life in Germany beyond academia (see below) 3.3 *Der Freud-Komplex*, was an official entry for the non-fiction prize at the Leipzig Book Fair in 2014 (<a href="https://www.3sat.de/kultur/buch/buchmesse-leipzig-anthony-d-kauders-100.html?mode=play&obj=42390">https://www.3sat.de/kultur/buch/buchmesse-leipzig-anthony-d-kauders-100.html?mode=play&obj=42390</a>)

Unusually for a German-language publication, 3.3. *Der Freud-Komplex* received extensive coverage in the *Times Literary Supplement* (print circulation: 28,159), where Prof Paul Lerner (in a multi-page article on 5 December 2014) praised Kauders' book as 'remarkable', <a href="https://www.academia.edu/13109715/Review Der Freud Complex">https://www.academia.edu/13109715/Review Der Freud Complex</a>

The research has been supported by considerable grants from the German Research Council: Anthony D. Kauders (PI). 'Impossible Homeland. A German-Jewish History of the Federal Republic of Germany'. German Research Council Grant. 01/07/2006-30/06/2008. €50,000. Anthony D. Kauders (PI). 'The Freud Complex. A History of Psychoanalysis in Germany. German Council Grant. 01/07/2010-30/06/2013. €218,400.

**4. Details of the impact** (indicative maximum 750 words)

Informing public debate

# Impact case study (REF3)



Unmögliche Heimat (3.1) has shaped public debates on post-1945 Jewish existence in Germany. Unmögliche Heimat became a recognised shorthand to explain and understand this community by journalists (5.1). For example, in a 2014 article German newspaper *Die Welt* (circulation: 170,000) described Germany as 'the "impossible homeland" for Jews', directly referencing the research; Austria's leading daily *Kurier* (circulation: 126,000) ran an article in 2015 entitled '*Die Unmögliche Heimat*', citing Kauders' research; *Kurier* also cited the book in an article in 2018.

Der Freud-Komplex (3.3) was discussed extensively in German newspapers and magazines, including Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Merkur, Philosophie Magazin, Psychologie heute, and Literaturen, and German/Austrian radio (Deutschlandradio, Bayern 2, SWR 2, Ö1) (5.1). The book stimulated debates within and beyond Germany, with extracts appearing in editions of Scientific American (daily readership: 5,232). In June 2019, the German political magazine Cicero (circulation: 93,100) interviewed Kauders on Freud and German culture. The subsequent front-page coverage of Kauders' text (July 2019) provoked debate, including one response by a prominent psychoanalyst in Der Freitag which prompted 144 comments from readers online (weekly circulation: 23,500) (5.1).

#### Influenced the design and delivery of the curriculum in educational institutions

Unmögliche Heimat has been used in academic programmes throughout Germany, Denmark, Canada, and the US (5.2). It has influenced educationists beyond universities. Sections from the work were published in *Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte*, ed. Federal Agency for Civic Education (*Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung*) (5.3). The *Bundeszentrale*, the State Agency for Civic Education in Hesse, and the Central Council of Jews in Germany all promote *Unmögliche Heimat* as recommended reading (5.4, 5.5, 5.6) and as such, it is widely used in high schools in Germany. In October 2020, the Federal Agency for Civil Education commissioned Kauders to write a tenpage text on Jews in the Federal Republic that will be disseminated widely from 2021 onwards.

#### Enhancements to cultural heritage provision and interpretation

In July 2016, Kauders became the consultant for Europe's largest Jewish Museum in Berlin on its future permanent post-1945 exhibition (3.1, 3.3, 5.7). Kauders' consultancy was crucial to the inclusion of key facets of German-Jewish history in the display, including life in the Displaced Person camps, restitution, migration, the relationship between Jews and non-Jews in the German Federal Republic as well as the connections between that state and Israel. All aspects have been integrated in the exhibition, which opened in August 2020. Museum leaders embraced Kauders' recommendation that the controversial relationship between Jewish officials and German politicians be highlighted: curators reported that 'his recommendations were crucial in translating our concept into reality' (5.7).

#### Challenging conventional wisdom, stimulating debate among stakeholders

Kauders' publications and presentations have facilitated practitioner reflection and debate on psychotherapy's and hypnotherapy's rich historical, intellectual and cultural contributions. The prominent practioners Marco Conci (ed. *International Forum of Psychoanalysis*) and Zvi Lothane (psychiatrist Professor, Icahn Medical School, Mount Sinai Hospital, New York) have actively promoted *Der Freud-Komplex* in the *Forum*. Kauders has presented the book's findings in front of large audiences (80-100 attendees) at the International Psychoanalytic University (Berlin), Sigmund Freud University (Vienna), Sigmund Freud Institute (Frankfurt), and the German Psychoanalytical Society (DPG, Munich).

Practitioners in Germany have engaged extensively with *Der Freud-Komplex*'s findings, resulting in invitations to Kauders to edit two special issues of Germany's leading journal of hypnosis, *Hypnose-Zeitschrift für Hypnose und Hypnotherapie*. These were the first volumes of *Hypnose* dedicated to historical themes. The work was also debated at a panel on Hypnosis in the Third Reich at the Milton Erickson Congress for Clinical Hypnosis (2,500 members) in March 2019 (5.9).

As was the case with psychoanalysts at the German Psychoanalytical Society (DPG, Munich), the 150 attendees at the Milton Erickson Congress session also claimed professional development training points from the German regulator (*Psychotherapeutenkammer*) (5.8).



The journal of the German Society for Dental Hypnosis (*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Zahnärztliche Hypnose*, 2400 copies sold bi-annually), featured discussions on 3.3 (5.10), the Editor consequently commissioning Kauders to write a piece for the journal, which was published in August 2020 (5.9). In 2019, Kauders gave the annual address to the Milton Erickson Society (Hesselbach), the Chair of the Society noted that Kauders' presentation '*prompted colleagues who are normally preoccupied with the practical day-to-day use of hypnotherapy to engage with psychotherapy as a form of knowledge or ideology*' (5.9). In 2018, Kauders (with four leading German historians of psychiatry) was asked by the German Society for Psychoanalysis, Psychotherapy, Psychosomatic Medicine and Depth Psychology to oversee the research and publication of the history of the Society.

- 5. Sources to corroborate the impact (indicative maximum of 10 references)
- 5.1. Press coverage report
- 5.2. Examples of *Unmögliche Heimat* in international academic programmes
- 5.3. 'Sixty Years of Israel', *Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte*, ed. by *Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung* (first published in 21 April 2008 but still in use) <a href="https://www.bpb.de/apuz/31290/diewestdeutschen-juden-und-der-staat-israel?p=all">https://www.bpb.de/apuz/31290/diewestdeutschen-juden-und-der-staat-israel?p=all</a> (uploaded pdf of full publication in German, weblink translates to English)
- 5.4. 'Bibliography of Recommended Literature on Jewish Life' *Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung* (first published in 5 August 2010 but still in use) <a href="https://www.bpb.de/izpb/7714/literaturhinweise-und-internetadressen?p=all">https://www.bpb.de/izpb/7714/literaturhinweise-und-internetadressen?p=all</a> (uploaded pdf in English, weblink translates to English)
- 5.5. Polis 56, Hessische Landeszentrale für politische Bildung, <a href="http://www.hlz.hessen.de/fileadmin/pdf/polis/Polis56.pdf">http://www.hlz.hessen.de/fileadmin/pdf/polis/Polis56.pdf</a> (in German)
- 5.6. Literaturempfehlungen Zum Weiterlesen, Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland, https://www.zentralratderjuden.de/service/literaturliste/ (uploaded pdf and weblink in German)
- 5.7. Testimonial from Dr Tamar Lewinsky, Curator of Contemporary History, Jewish Museum Berlin (17 September 2019)
- 5.8. German Psychoanalytical Society (DPG) Newsletter (2014) <a href="https://www.fpi.de/fileadmin/downloads/PDF/newsletter/Newslett
- 5.9. Testimonial from Dr Peter Burkhard, Chairman of the Milton Erikson Society (13 February 2020)
- 5.10. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Zahnärztliche Hypnose Journal (2016) <a href="http://nvvh.com/wpcontent/uploads/2016/10/dzzh-2-2016.pdf">http://nvvh.com/wpcontent/uploads/2016/10/dzzh-2-2016.pdf</a> (in German). The circulation is detailed on p. 5 of the most recent edition <a href="https://dgzh.de/verein/deutsche-zeitschrift-fuer-zahnaerztliche-hypnose/dzzh-uebersicht.html">https://dgzh.de/verein/deutsche-zeitschrift-fuer-zahnaerztliche-hypnose/dzzh-uebersicht.html</a> (weblink translates to English)