The Future of the Self in the Digital Age: A Conversation about the BBC series *Black Mirror*

Co-sponsor: MIP’s Academic Outreach Committee

Following upon the recent MIP Symposium, *The Fate of Potential Space in the Virtual Age*, we will continue the conversation about the experience of selfhood in the digital age. As a background for this discussion, we will be showing clips from the provocative BBC series “Black Mirror”, which uses a Twilight-Zone style format to tell stories that examine the impact of current and future uses of technology on the self and society.

With a panel made up of a philosopher, an art historian and a psychoanalyst, we will create a broad interdisciplinary discussion with the audience, one that allows us to think together about the changes that we are currently facing as digital technology plays an increasingly influential role in our everyday lives. Our focus will primarily be on what impact the virtual age is having on memory, self-identity and the digital representation of experience.

Richard Frankel, Ph.D is a psychoanalyst in private practice in Cambridge, MA. He is a faculty member and supervisor at The Massachusetts Institute for Psychoanalysis. He teaches and supervises at The Boston Institute for Psychotherapy and is a teaching associate in psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. He is the author of *The Adolescent Psyche* (1998) and various articles on the topic of psychoanalysis and technology, including "Digital Melancholy" (2012). He and Victor J. Krebs are currently writing a book on the psychoanalytic and philosophical dimensions of virtual reality.


Diane O’Donoghue, Ph.D. is an art historian and archaeologist at Tufts, currently Senior Fellow for the Humanities at the University’s Tisch College. She is an affiliate scholar member at the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute and on its faculty. Her research interests in areas related to psychoanalysis have focused on visualities, especially in Freud's early constructions of the unconscious. She has just completed a book project to appear as part of the “Psychoanalytic Interventions” series at Fordham University Press. Her writing has been awarded the CORST and Deutsch Prizes, and she was recently an Erikson Scholar at the Austen Riggs Center.

Thursday, March 3rd
7:30-9:30PM
Location: Sherrill Library, Rm 350
Lesley University
89 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA 02138