

Edward Shapiro M.D

Medical Director / CEO, Austen Riggs Center

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Dr. Shapiro is Medical Director and CEO of the Austen Riggs Center, a private not-for-profit psychiatric hospital and spectrum of care in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. A psychoanalyst and organizational consultant, Dr. Shapiro is Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and training and supervising analyst at the Berkshire Psychoanalytic Institute. He is co-author (with Wesley Carr) of *Lost in Familiar Places: Creating New Connections between the Individual and Society* (Yale, 1991) and Editor of *The Inner World in the Outer World: Psychoanalytic Perspectives* (Yale, 1997).

Wesley Carr PhD

Dean of Westminster

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Responsible for Westminster Abbey, one of the great churches of the world. He is a priest in the Church of England, and also has a long association with the Tavistock Institute. He has been consultant to many bodies both in the church and outside and has directed many conferences, including Leicester; and is author of several books and many articles and reviews.

"Those people were some kind of solution..." Can society in any sense be understood?

In a rapidly changing world, with boundaries of statehood, citizenship, influence and authority difficult to discern, interpreting society is a tempting but uncertain enterprise. Using their diverse experience as heads of contemporary institutions, Drs. Shapiro and Carr explore the limitations of social interpretation, suggesting that care be given to discerning the organizational and group memberships of the interpreters and that efforts be made to listen to and negotiate the differing interpretations of others. Amidst the pressure of conflicting roles and interpersonal projection, providing structured spaces that are free from interpretation may be crucial for individuals to locate themselves and claim their unique perspectives. Those who dare to interpret society should be ready to notice their limitations.