Psychoanalysis and Politics: Exclusion and the Politics of Representation, Lene Auestad ed. London: Karnac 2012. Thinking psychoanalytically about the nature of social exclusion involves a self-questioning on the part of the interpreter. While we may all have some experiences of having been subject to stereotyping, silencing, discrimination and exclusion, it is also the case that, as social beings, we all, to some extent, participate in upholding these practices, often unconsciously. The book poses the question of how psychoanalysis can be used to think about the invisible and subtle processes of power over symbolic representation, in the context of stereotyping and dehumanization: What forces govern the state of affairs that determine who is an ‘I’ and who is an ‘it’ in the public sphere? More information: www.psa-pol.org/exclusion-book/

Nationalism and the Body Politic: Psychoanalysis and the Rise of Ethnocentrism and Xenophobia, Lene Auestad ed. New International Library of Group Analysis. London: Karnac, 2014. This volume aims to question the recent revival of neo-nationalist policies in the light of what unconscious fantasies are involved in these developments. It examines both recent movements of right-wing extremism and the way in which rearticulated neo-ethnic ideas have been adopted by mainstream politicians and in mainstream public discourse. Politicians from other than the right-wing populist parties have tended to resist specific ways of talking that are considered too extremist, rather than their underlying frame of interpretation. More information: www.psa-pol.org/nationalism/book/

Special section on Psychoanalysis and Politics in Psychoanalysis, Culture & Society, Volume 20, No. 4, December 2015, Lene Auestad ed. The special section is published in open access, available here: http://link.springer.com/journal/41282/20/4/page/1

Shared Traumas, Silent Loss, Public and Private Mourning
Lene Auestad ed. London: Karnac, 2017. This book aims to question the junctions of the private and the public when it comes to trauma, loss and the work of mourning, notions which, it is argued, challenge our very notions of the individual and the shared. It asks, to paraphrase Adorno: What do we mean by ‘working through the past’? How is a shared work of mourning to be understood? This poses the question of what mourning might mean and what its social dimension consists in. More information: http://www.psa-pol.org/shared-traumas/

Traces of Violence and Freedom of Thought, Lene Auestad and Amal Treacher Kabesh eds., Forthcoming, Palgrave Macmillan, Studies in the Psychosocial series. We are all tainted, whether we are actively engaged or not, by violence in its countless and troubling manifestations. Images and fragments of traumatic and violent scenarios are transported from one generation’s unconscious to that of another, leading to cycles of repetition and retaliation, restricting one’s freedom to imagine alternatives and inhabit alternative positions. This book focuses on the workings of violence and power. Four themes are addressed: violence of speech, violence and domination, repetition and violence, and the possibility of reparation or renewal. The articles point to the fusion of temporalities and argue that the past persists in the present. More information: http://www.psa-pol.org/traces-of-violence-book/

Further publications are planned.