Preface

The chapters of this book are partially comprised of the ongoing conversations among an interdisciplinary group of scholars and researchers who collaboratively investigate the changing, current perspectives on neuropsychoanalysis as well as the historical and epistemological preconditions behind it. They are based on an exchange between three different bodies of knowledge: psychoanalysis, neuroscience, and cultural science (not to be mistaken for cultural studies).

The volume is further comprised of papers from three symposiums, the first of which, “Freud and Neurosciences. Investigating the Dialogue between Psychoanalysis and Neurosciences,” was organized by the editors as well as Christine Kirchhoff (Berlin). It took place at the Center for Literary and Cultural Research / Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung (ZfL) in Berlin, 2010. This symposium marked the beginning of a long-term collaboration supported by the ZfL, members of the International Neuropsychoanalysis Society (NPSA), and the Sigmund-Freud-Institut, Frankfurt/M. It was followed by two further symposiums, “Empathy. A Neurobiological Capacity and Its Cultural and Conceptual History” (Berlin 2013) and “‘As-if’—Figures of Imagination, Simulation and Transposition in the Relation to the Self, Others and the Arts” (Villa Vigoni 2014). The authors of this volume come from diverse backgrounds, including the fields of neuroscience, neuropsychology, psychiatry, psychoanalysis, and cultural science. Several of them are psychoanalysts with training in neuroscience.

A Neuro-Psychoanalytical Dialogue for Bridging Freud and the Neurosciences could not have been finished without the editorial help of Japhet Johnstone and Christine Kutschbach (both ZfL, Berlin). To them, and everybody who supported this project, I am very grateful.

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