

Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis

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Sydney Lacan Workshop 2021

A Lacanian Lens on Sex and Gender Reflections on Love, Desire and Jouissance

Saturday November 6th

Online

9.00 Zoom Room Open

9.15 Welcome and Introduction

Ofelia Brozky

9.30 Sexual difference & trauma

The Woman does not exist ==> the Mother does not exist?

Nicol Thomas

What is Mother? phallic mother, perverse mother, crocodile mother, helicopter mother, tiger mother; all have a relation to phallic jouissance, which is precisely *not* the not-all of jouissance. Subjects begin with the *lalangue* of the archaic maternal superego [Rodríguez] and pass into the Symbolic via the language of the Mother.

Language being the phallic jouissance of the Mother, provides something complex for the ~~woman~~, who looks to the Mother—she ‘seems [...] to expect more subsistence’ from Mother [Lacan]; but what does that mean?

If language is connected to the Mother’s phallic jouissance, then the Mother sits on the side of the phallus and its jouissance, the Mother we hear of in the clinic who invades the [female] subject’s body. What does this mean for the ~~woman~~, the not-all, her unsymbolizable jouissance? If the Woman does not exist, does this mean the Mother does not exist? If there is no sexual relation, there is no sexual relation between Mother and child; what is it to choose—or not—to Mother? Is there a sexual difference—always traumatic—between Mother and ~~woman~~?

Dr Nicol Thomas is a psychoanalyst in private practice in Melbourne, Australia. She is a Registered Practicing Analyst with The Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis, a Member of the School of the IF-SPFL, and the current Delegate of the Forum of Melbourne.

10.00 Some Reflections on the Theory of Sexuation and its Firm Logic

Rostik Bershadsky

For Lacan, the definition of men and women is grounded in logic and refers, not to the biological foundation or anatomy, but precisely to which mode of jouissance the subject accommodates. My guiding question is concerned with the insistence of such logic expressed in the formulas of sexuation, in an era where the so-called sexual difference is perceived to be transformed from binary into sequential. This transformation gives rise to multiplicity of sexual identities, rendering the distinction between man and woman fluid, and its limits significantly blurred. I would like to offer a different reading of the contemporary phenomena of this fluidity and suggest that the logic of sexuation is still firm, and perhaps even more so –

it is actively expressed in the common discourse around sexuality, sexual identities and sexual difference.

Rostik Bershadsky, PhD, Psychoanalyst and Clinical Criminologist. Rostik practices psychoanalysis in a private clinic. He is also a senior forensic clinician, had previously worked in psychiatric hospitals and forensic mental health settings in Israel, and is currently working within the corrective services of NSW. He is a member of the Australian Centre of Psychoanalysis and the Forum of Melbourne of the International of Forums of the Lacanian Field. He is also a member of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology (ANZSOC).

10.30 If that is the answer, what is the question? Part II

Susan Schwartz

This paper is the continuation of my thinking about the transgender subject, starting from the point I concluded in my presentation at the ACP Symposium in August this year. Here I am taking a different perspective, considering the subject's claiming of a gender identity different from the one assigned at birth as a sinthomic solution of an enigma by means of a nomination. Significantly, in its knotting of desire and jouissance with the Imaginary, Symbolic and Real in a singular way, the sinthome does not exclude the social bond. This perspective can orient our conceptualising of transgender in psychoanalytic terms and hence has consequences for the direction of the treatment and its end.

Susan Schwartz is a Registered Practising Analyst of the ACP, Analyst Member of the School of Psychoanalysis of the International of the Forums of the Lacanian Field, and co-translator, with Esther Faye, of Colette Soler's Lacan: The Unconscious reinvented, and Luis Izcovich's The Marks of a Psychoanalysis.

11.00 Discussion

11.30 Morning Break

11.45 Sexual nominations and the impossibility of a sexual relation

Ofelia Brozky

In today's clinic, we encounter different sexual nominations - binary and non-binary. We are then, continually caused to consider, case by case, the question of gender identity, which Lacan suggests stems from a process of identification with the signifier of the Other's desire - the phallus; and the question of how the effects of language, from which gender proceeds, mark each singular body.

The semblance – imaginary and symbolic identifications – is holed by the real, in a singular way for each one; and, in its division, each subject, characterized by its own mode of jouissance, tries to veil that hole. When the subject attempts to move beyond the desire to be the One of jouissance, love assists, not only in making the social bond, but also, and essentially, in making up for the impossible relation between two different modes of jouissance, that is, for the impossibility of sexual relation.

This paper will try to elaborate on the contingency of love, and on the *a*-sexuality of the object (trans?).

Ofelia Brozky is a registered psychoanalyst in private practice in Sydney, a member of the Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis, the Melbourne Forum of the Lacanian Field and the International Forums of the Lacanian Field. She is the Convenor of the Sydney Lacan Seminar.

12.15 A reflection on sexuality and trauma

Leonardo Rodriguez

A revision of our conceptual tools concerning sexuality, sexual difference, trauma, the law, and the trio love-desire-jouissance is worthwhile, as they are fundamental in our praxis and open to the progress made in the psychoanalytic clinical experience and historical changes in our culture. Lacan's aphorism, one that 'foregoes any preconceived order', '*Only love allows jouissance to condescend to desire*', condenses a good number of questions around the traumatic dimension of sexuality, which this paper attempts to address.

Dr Leonardo Rodriguez is a psychoanalyst, a founding member and an Analyst Member of the School of Psychoanalysis of the Forums of the Lacanian Field, a founding member of the Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis, a teacher of psychoanalysis at the ACP and the author of Psychoanalysis with Children (London and New York, Free Associations Books, 1999) and numerous book chapters and articles on psychoanalytic theory and practice in different languages.

12.45 Discussion and concluding remarks