

Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis

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Sydney Lacan Workshop 2019

Psychoanalysis, the Body and its Treatment

Saturday November 16th
761 Darling Street, Rozelle
RANZ College of Psychiatrists NSW Branch HQ

9.00 - 9.20 **Registration**

9.20 - 9.30 **Welcome and Introduction**

Ofelia Brozky

9.30 - 10.10 **A Traumatic Body**

Esther Faye

The *parlêtre* believes in and adores its body, as Lacan says in *The Sinthome* (52), because it is oblivious to its constitutive and traumatic hole, the *trou* around which the form of its body has been, if all goes well, arranged. So, what happens when the primary affirmation on which this belief in, and attachment to, the body is based is disrupted? What happens when a body, that once functioned for a subject as a body that could be taken pleasure in and made use of, comes to be experienced as a traumatic body, a body of holes, the consequence of invasive medical interventions? My presentation will consider the question of what the body is for the *parlêtre* in the light of Lacan's later thinking about the body, and in relation to a young woman analysed who, as a result of traumas experienced in her body, has been *exiled* from the body she once believed in.

Esther Faye is a registered psychoanalyst in private practice, a member of the Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis and teacher in its Program of Studies. She is also an Analyst Member (AME) of the International School of Psychoanalysis of the Forums of the Lacanian Field.

10.10 - 10.45 **Beyond the Formulation of Sexuation?**

Nicol Thomas

Lacanian thinking today is turning towards a need to examine what 'trans' sexuality and gender mean for a psychoanalysis whose praxis is oriented in the unconscious that is structured like a language.

When Lacan proposed the Formulations of Sexuation (Lacan 1973, 78), he located something of analytic discourse according to the positions masculine (Φx) and feminine ($-\Phi x$).

The Formulations of Sexuation have described for Lacanian thinking very key concepts about the divided subject of the unconscious; the relation to the phallus, jouissance, castration and love/desire.

Our contemporary times include a new understanding of human sexuality and gender that is no longer being hidden or zoned towards the pathological. This is the phenomenon 'trans'.

The life of the polis is now incorporating gender categories that are not either meant to be masculine or feminine but other to these positions.

What does this mean for Lacanian thinking and praxis? Given that we understand via Lacan that 'gender' is precisely not biological or essential, what happens to the positions masculine and feminine? Can 'trans' be located for us utilizing the phallic grounding of the Formulations of Sexuation, or this a redundancy?

In the clinic of psychoanalysis, we treat the Real of the body with trans analysands, but what of the divided subject of the unconscious? What of the unconscious that is structured like a language? Can we ask then, where is sexuation located for the trans analysand, and what does the Real of the body have to do with it?

How can trans operate when what we know of 'masculine' and 'feminine' is a relationship to Φx and $-\Phi x$? How does this affect contemporary Lacanian thinking and praxis, both theoretically and clinically?

Lacan, J (1973). 'A love letter; Seminar of March 13, 1973'. In Lacan, J (1999). *The Seminar of Jacques Lacan, Book XX: Encore, On Feminine Sexuality, the Limits of Love and Knowledge 1972-1973*. Ed. J-A Miller. Trans. B Fink. New York; WW Norton & Company. 78-89.

Nicol Thomas is a Lacanian psychoanalyst practising in Melbourne. She is a member of The Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis and a Member of the School of the IF-SPFLF. She is also the Editor of Analysis: The Journal of The Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis.

10.45 - 11.15 **Morning tea**

11.15 - 11.50 **The subject *has* a body: some clinical consequences**

Susan Schwartz

The body is strange to the subject and when a patient speaks about his or her body an immediate question is posed: what is the body for that subject? This is initially a diagnostic question of structure and hence will give the analyst an orientation in the treatment. There is a body specific to each of the three registers and from there, many other questions follow, the answers to which will always be singular: how is this subject knotted to the enjoying substance of the body? What use does the speaking being make of its body?

Susan Schwartz is a Registered Practising Analyst of the ACP and a teacher in its Program of Clinical and Theoretical Studies. She is an Analyst Member of the School 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 The Marks of a Psychoanalysis, by Luis Izcovich.

11.50 - 12.30 **Direction of a Possible Treatment of Active Psychosis at High Risk Level of Violence**

Rostik Bershadsky

Rostik will present an introductory lecture to an article currently written in collaboration with a colleague from Israel - Nadav Farkash-Chain. This paper discusses ways and presents guidelines for treatment of psychotic patients; specifically, referring to a group of patients defined as being at a high-level of risk for violence. Due to so-called medical treatment resistance and regardless of other psychotherapy treatments offered in the psychiatric wards, these patients remain in an active and chronic psychotic state. They do not reach the condition known in psychiatry as a remission from the illness and continue to exhibit positive symptoms of psychosis. It is the authors' opinion that, alongside conventional first-line drug

therapy, the variety of psychotherapies reviewed do not address this group of patients for several reasons:

1. *Unwillingness to work with active psychotic condition.* In many cases, this stems from an insufficient theoretical foundation or the assumption that psychotherapeutic work is possible only after reaching full remission.

2. *Attempting to combat or refute positive symptoms of psychosis, with an emphasis on delusions.* Delusions viewed as symptoms that distort the reality testing principle. Attempts to combat delusions rely on the assumption that restoring reality testing is the main functioning criterion for the recovery process. This practice usually leads the way down the rabbit-hole towards internal split, concealment of psychopathology, non-cooperation and overt resistance from patients.

The authors propose a different approach that relies in part on Lacan's suggestion not to back away from psychosis. Rostik will present guidelines for working with patients' delusions at the structural level and at the level of signification. Rostik will refer to two clinical cases that he treated in a forensic psychiatric ward, with the aim of illustrating what the authors view as beneficial effects. These include a considerable lowering of the levels of risk, that can be achieved in relying on psychoanalytic orientation and its ethics. In the final discussion, Rostik will outline guidelines for dealing with similar conditions.

Rostik Bershadsky, PhD, is a practicing psychoanalyst, former member of The GIEP - Israeli Society for Psychoanalysis in the New Lacanian School. Rostik is also a senior forensic clinician and a criminologist. He had previously worked in psychiatric hospitals and forensic mental health settings in Israel. Rostik is also a member of Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology (ANZSOC) and a former member of Israeli Society of Clinical Criminology.

12.30 - 1.30 **Lunch**

1.30 – 2.00 **Psychoanalysis is not without a body**

Ofelia Brozky

While science ignores the subject and tries to eliminate symptoms, psychoanalysis treats a body marked by the signifier and relates to symptoms as events of that body. However, *not all* of the subject is a signified body.

Lacan's conceptualization of the body changes throughout his teachings; in his last period, he locates the spoken body of the speaking being (parletre) in the field of jouissance, emphasises the Real of the drive & the One of jouissance and focusses on the singularity of the symptom. However, not all presentations have envelopes like the symptom, which makes it metaphorizable; others, like the psychosomatic, doesn't.

In 1966, during a panel discussion on Psychoanalysis and Medicine, Lacan referred to an epistemo-somatic gap; his lens was then on jouissance, between demand and desire. In our clinic, we encounter different presentations, depending on the subject's encounter with the Other of language. In some cases, when the phallus is installed in the gap, the subject presents to analysis with a symptom. However, in others, the subject presents without a symptom, but with a phenomenon (psychosomatic, autoimmune); its response to the encounter with the demand of the Other, without the intervention of the symbolic order regulated by a master signifier, appears to be a reaction instead of a question.

This paper aims to elaborate on the body in Lacanian psychoanalysis, explore the relationship between the body and the subject and consider the question of some presentations in the clinic, with special attention to those without a symptom.

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.

2.00 - 2.30 **Concluding remarks and questions**

Full Cost: \$120 Members of ACP: \$100 Concessions: \$60

Includes coffee, morning tea and lunch

Information and reservations: Ofelia Brozky 0425-221269

Email: ofelia@ozemail.com.au. **Please confirm attendance**

Sydney 2019 Workshop Registration Form and Payment Details

Payments can be made **on the day** or in advance by:

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Transfer the payment amount to the ACP, Bank Commonwealth, BSB: 063172, Account Number: 1015 3043.

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