

THEORY OF THE UNCONSCIOUS AND REPETITION—FROM FREUD TO LACAN
2012, SEMESTER 1 & II

The unconscious is *the* foundational concept of psychoanalysis. In our study of this concept, and of the related fundamental concept of repetition, the different theorizations of the unconscious in Freud and Lacan will be examined, as well as the epistemological and clinical questions they pose.

Topics will include:

- Freud's discovery of the unconscious as a structure composed of repressed inscriptions which repeat. Study of the Freudian psychoanalytic experience will include the history of the concept, epistemological questions, and the different formations of the unconscious—dreams, parapraxes, jokes, symptoms etc
- Lacan's theories of the unconscious as structured as a language, as an ordered, differential, and dialectically structured system of signifiers; and as *lalangue*.
- The Lacanian psychoanalytic experience will therefore involve the study of the important concepts of speech, language, discourse, *lalangue*, the Letter, desire, fantasy, jouissance, the body, the symptom and *sinthome*, as well as theories of the subject and of the speakingbeing (*parl//tre*)
- The three registers of the Imaginary, Symbolic and Real and the different emphases placed on these over the course of Lacan's teachings will be studied, as well as their relationship to Lacan's theorizations of the unconscious.

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