The Aims and Ends of Analysis

In “Proposition of 9 October 1967 on the Psychoanalyst of the School” Lacan emphasizes that “psychoanalysis is an original experience, that it pushes it to the point of representing its finitude so as to enable its retroactivity, an effect of time, that is fundamental to it” (Analysis 6, p. 3). The originality of the experience of an analysis, its aim in terms of the treatment and the requirements that determine its end define the field of the ACP’s theme for this year and indicate the terrain for exploration in this Symposium.

We have known for some time, at least since Lacan’s seventh seminar, The Ethics of Psychoanalysis, that an analysis is only ethical in its praxis in as much as it is oriented towards the Real of the subject who submits to being an analysand. The overall question which this paper wishes to address then becomes this: what is added to our sense of the aims of an analysis with the notion of a Real that is not the same as it is formulated in Lacan’s early teachings—there it being the Real as impossible, the Real as impossible to speak or to write, the Real in its status as beyond the Symbolic? What is added with the notion of a Real that is apart from, that is outside not beyond, the Symbolic? Outside more particularly the sense which an analysis can deliver in its deciphering of the various formations of the Symbolic, transferential, unconscious? How does the notion of the unconscious as itself Real in this sense, as the lalangue unconscious, as Colette Soler refers to it, challenge our conception of the aims of analysis? How might it indeed affect the way we work as analysts?

Dr Esther Faye is a registered practising psychoanalyst of the ACP and an AMS of the SPFLF. She lectures in the ACP's Master of Psychoanalysis program and supervises students at Victoria University, Melbourne University and Monash University. Her work has been published nationally and internationally.

10.25 – 10.55 Morning tea
10.55 – 11.45 **Leonardo S. Rodríguez**: The means justify the end

The psychoanalytic experience has had directions and aims that have varied in consonance with conceptual developments and practical necessities. The method of investigation of the unconscious created by Freud could be considered as an aim in itself, and the results and effects of psychoanalysis as by-products that are open to a number of extra-analytic influences. Is it then possible to postulate an aim (or aims) for psychoanalysis that could reasonably operate as universal guides for the work of analysands and analysts? This paper will discuss the question on the basis of the author’s clinical experience and theoretical reflections.

*Leonardo S. Rodríguez, PhD, is a psychoanalyst; founding member of the ACP; AMS of the SPLF; Senior Lecturer, School of Psychology and Psychiatry, Monash University; author of Psychoanalysis with Children and numerous articles and book chapters on psychoanalytic theory and practice.*

11.45 – 12.35 **Ursula Paton**: The end of analysis in obsessional neurosis

In his article “On beginning the treatment” Freud says that “anyone who hopes to learn the noble game of chess from books will soon discover that only the openings and end-games admit of an exhaustive systematic presentation and that the infinite variety of moves that develop after the opening defy any such description.” He considers that the same applies to psychoanalysis. Commencing with an examination of the Ratman case I will speculate on what the end-game of his analysis might entail. Then, drawing on further works of Freud and others, I will endeavour to map out the features one might generally expect to see at the end of analysis with subjects with a diagnosis of obsessional neurosis.

*Ursula Paton is a clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst. She works part-time at the Alfred Hospital and in private practice. She is a member of the Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis, and is a teacher in its programs.*

12.35 – 1.35 Lunch

1.35 – 2.25 **Silvia A. Rodríguez**: Transference and the economic problem of masochism

The transference as the spinal cord of a psychoanalytic treatment carries the history of the analysand’s libidinal ties and the possibilities of their transformation. This paper will deal with one of the most pervasive obstacles to change, following Freud’s and Lacan’s studies on masochism.

*Silvia A. Rodriguez, Founding Member of the ACP, Analyst Member of the School of Psychoanalysis, of the Forum of the Lacanian Field. Senior Lecturer at Victoria and Monash University. She is the author of several papers on psychoanalysis*
2.25 – 3.15 Carmel Davis: The language of aims and ends

This paper explores the language of the aims and ends of analysis as it pertains to the dialogues of the clinical setting. With reference to Freud- the “Papers on Technique”, “The Question of Lay Analysis”, and dream interpretation, will be examined. With Lacan comes a requirement for a different language. What are the words that now come into play in the work of analyst and analysand? Do they include reference to the unknotting of a symptom, and the retying of a new one? What of the crossing of the fundamental fantasy and jouissance? Or is the most valent term a “psychical digestion” which opens a space, via which the trauma of being human- in language but corporeal, is calmed? Some examination of representations of the analyst in popular culture (“The Sopranos” and “In Treatment”) will also throw some light on the issue.

Carmel Davis is a practising analyst with the Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis. She is also a clinical psychologist who has worked for many years in Victoria's public sector mental health services. Currently she is in private practice in Northcote.

3.15 – 3.45 Afternoon tea

3.45 – 4.35 Susan Schwartz: Of subjective destitution, disbeing and horror

In this paper I will consider the transition, in an analytic treatment from transference love to “the two of love” which indicates the approach to the end of an analysis. Lacan’s notions of ravage, a term that refers to the negative plane of the mother-daughter relation but also applies to transference love; of subjective destitution, that is the subject without the veil of his semblants and unsupported by his fantasy; and of the disbeing of the analyst, the analyst’s fall from the position of ideal for the analysand, are distinct moments in the treatment. The latter two have a relation to knowledge at the end of an analysis and implications for Lacan’s designation of the status of the unconscious as ethical.

Susan Schwartz is a psychoanalyst in private practice and Registered Practising Analyst of the ACP. She is Analyst Member of the School of Psychoanalysis of the Lacanian Field and teaches in the Master of Psychoanalysis program at Victoria University.

4.35 – 5.00 Panel discussion
Cost:  Members of the ACP: $120
       Students: $90
       General admission: $150

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Tea and coffee on arrival, morning and afternoon tea and lunch are included in the price of admission.

For further information contact Dr Susan Schwartz at susanschwartz@ozemail.com.au
wwwpsychoanalysis.org.au or Lou Christie at ldaahpt@hotkey.net.au