

Programme for Colloquium with Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis

Saturday 21 March, 2009. 9.30am – 5.00pm

9.00 – 9.30 Registration

9.30 – 9.40 Introduction: Susan Schwartz, President of the Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis

9.40 – 10.20 Russell Grigg: *The enigma of jouissance*

Jouissance is profoundly enigmatic. It stupidly lacks meaning, even as it demands to be understood. Not only does every subject greet the emergence of another person's jouissance as traumatic and puzzling; bizarrely, they encounter their own as a curiously alien phenomenon that they can be both puzzled and traumatized by. Why is this so? Why is this encounter with jouissance both traumatic and meaningless? I'd like to discuss this issue with some comparisons between neurosis and psychosis, and between ordinary and extra-ordinary psychosis.

Russell Grigg practices psychoanalysis in Melbourne and teaches philosophy and psychoanalysis at Deakin University. He is President of the Lacan Circle of Melbourne.

10.20 – 11.00 Jonathan Redmond: *Body events and ordinary psychosis*

The theoretical implications of 'body-events' outlined in recent clinical research within the field of the ordinary psychosis has important implications within the Lacanian approach the psychoses. The theory of body-events raises important questions regarding how jouissance and anxiety are conceptualized,

differentiated, and handled within the treatment of abstract forms of psychosis. A discussion of these issues will be outlined within clinical material that provides an account of unique corporeal symptoms encountered within the treatment of a psychotic male

Jonathan Redmond completed a Masters of Science in Clinical Psychology in 2006. He spent several years within the community mental health sector in the US working primarily with adults with severe mental illness within an outpatient setting. Jonathan is currently a PhD candidate at Deakin University within the Psychoanalytic Studies department.

11.00 – 11.30 Morning tea

11.30 – 12.10 Justin Clemens: *Jouis! J'ouis!*

To be human is already to have lost something in your living body; to be already-dead, or, at least, missing something essential to life. Something has been cut-out or inter-dicted, said-within or –between, and this ‘cut made by the signifying chain is the only cut that verifies the structure of the subject as discontinuity in the real.’ If this situation is a permanent concern for Lacan, it is also true that the relations he establishes between the subject, the body, jouissance and desire shift as he sharpens his doctrine of language. From Seminar XVII onwards, the problem of jouissance is explicitly linked to the problem of the master and the slave, the origins of work, and the divergences of sexuation. For humans, the living body is always-already a body-bag.

Justin Clemens is Secretary of the Lacan Circle of Melbourne. He has published extensively on psychoanalysis, including editing Jacques Lacan and the Other Side of Psychoanalysis (Duke UP 2006), with Russell Grigg. He teaches at the University of Melbourne.

12.10 – 12.30 Questions

12.30 – 1.30 Lunch

1.30 – 2.10 Megan Williams: *Too close to see*

In the child [women] bear, a part of their own body confronts them like an extraneous object, to which, starting out from their narcissism, they can then give complete object-love. (Sigmund Freud, 'On Narcissism: An Introduction', SE XIV, 89-90) Loving in itself, in so far as it involves longing and deprivation, lowers self-regard; whereas being loved, having one's love returned, and possessing the loved object, raises it once more (99). In an epoch where the reigning ideal is that jouissance not be lost in order that narcissism remain whole and perfect, a child's place in plugging such loss is supported under the rubric of love. In this pathology of enjoyment, so ubiquitous that we no longer see it, the symptom is regarded as anything but the Mother-child relation.

Dr Megan Williams practices and supervises psychoanalysis with adults and children. She is a member and Registered Practising Analyst of the Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis and Analyst Member of the School of Psychoanalysis of the Lacanian Field. She has spoken and published on a range of psychoanalytic subjects and lectures in psychoanalysis at Victoria University.

2.10 – 2.50 Nicol Thomas-Scrutton: *The jouissance of the disappearing body*

'Man has a body' Lacan writes in Seminar II (72-73). What happens when this body is not recognized in the Imaginary? What can be said about the jouissance of an instance of depersonalization, and how can this be positioned by a perspective of Lacanian psychoanalysis? This paper aims to investigate a clinical experience of depersonalization; the subject cannot recognize the body in the mirror, and is not sure whether this experience causes anxiety or is caused by anxiety. Depersonalization, a 'disorder' of the body's image and perception, can be investigated as a jouissance of the imaginary relationship to the body, perhaps a misunderstanding between the imaginary and the body. Lacan's optical model highlights the proximity of the imaginary and the real, and points to the way of the ego via the imaginary. Depersonalization as a means of jouissance may shed some psychoanalytic perspective on a symptom of neurosis [as differentiated to psychosis] and the imaginary relationship to the ego.

Nicol Thomas-Scrutton (PhD) is a Practising Psychoanalyst with the Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis. She is currently working at Pomegranate House Psychological Services. Previously she lectured in Professional and Creative Writing, Gender Studies and Cultural Studies at Victoria University. She is also a

member of the editorial board of *Analysis*, the journal of the Australian Centre of Psychoanalysis.

2.50 – 3.15 Afternoon tea

3.15 – 3.55 Leonardo Rodríguez: *The unconscious body*

Theatrical gesture, affective expression, conversion symptom, psychosomatic disorder, ritualistic display, frozen mannerism, plastic inscription: a long list can be written of the ways and forms through which the workings of the unconscious constantly engage the body. Crystal clear or enigmatic, the unconscious lives in the human body, our only authentic place of residence on this Earth. From the arts to nuclear medicine, the body has been the object of the most diverse practices and researches. Psychoanalysis has worked with and upon it from its inception, and ‘the mystery of the speaking body’ (Lacan’s words) continues to pose vital questions for the psychoanalytic experience.

Dr Leonardo S. Rodríguez is a psychoanalyst, a founding member of the ACP an Analyst Member of the School of Psychoanalysis of the Forums of the Lacanian Field. He convenes the Master of Psychoanalysis program at Victoria University and is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychological Medicine at Monash. He published *Psychoanalysis with Children* in 1999 and numerous articles on psychoanalytic theory and practice.

3.55 – 4.30 Final questions, discussion and concluding remarks from Russell Grigg, President of the Lacan Circle.