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Lacanian Compass

Psychoanalytic Newsletter of Lacanian Orientation

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Editorial Committee

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Editorial

Dear Readers,

The Lacanian Compass is out again trying to reveal what the Lacanian Orientation is doing for Psychoanalysis in several cities in the United States.

Confronted with new forms of subjectivity and demands for treatment, it is necessary to demonstrate that our practice has “no counter-indications” and the encounter with a psychoanalyst is always beneficial if he/she is “available to be used”, (even in the most uncharacteristic settings) as long as he/she is oriented ethically allowing the emergency of the spoken word and the divided subject.

The horizon of psychoanalysis has been expanded today to new frontiers, beyond private practice, taking place in every aspect of the field of mental health, and it is incumbent not to step back when confronted with anorexia, bulimia, addictions, panic attacks, maintaining the difference with other offers that basically try to rehabilitate or reeducate, unwilling to confront with what is “singular” to each subject.

New symptoms are not so new, however there are a response to the culture that has been transformed by unemployment, individualism and isolation, all-important indicators that we need to be aware of when we listen to the responses that each subject constructs with respect to this discontent.

We must work with other discourses as well, specially the medical and psychiatric one, therefore we must be attentive as to how and when to introduce our discourse making very relevant its efficacy. We don't oppose science but we need to respond to the scientific illusion that genetics or biology will occupy the entire space of subjectivity.

But to give adequate responses to these issues, to be free of prejudices, of ideals, to not inflate with “meaning”, to go against totalization, operating the effect of the not-all, to be able to occupy the place of an “object” for a patient, one thing is essential, the “formation of the analyst” according to certain principles.

Are we committed here in the USA to “form” ourselves as analysts that will be up to represent psychoanalysis as having therapeutic efficacy as it is demanded?

This is our challenge; a lot of things are happening here that gives the impression that we are heading in the right direction.

Enjoy this issue, until next time!



Beacon

ANXIETY, A TOPOLOGICAL ISSUE

By Alicia Arenas

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In today's world, there is a rise in symptoms linked to states of anxiety: this is the opinion of many psychiatrists and psychologists, and it is also said with insistence by the media. Panic attacks, social phobia, post-traumatic stress disorder are among the most frequently quoted. At the same time, more research is suggested.

What is true is that there is not very much knowledge about the structure of anxiety in our world. That said, for psychoanalysis, the issue of anxiety has been an object of research initiated from Freud's first works. It allows psychoanalysts to speak about the matter, and, most importantly, to give numerous clinical examples pointing out either the difficulties or the efficacy of its treatment.

That is why the Schools that are part of the World Association of Psychoanalysis have been organizing conferences all over the world to exchange works on the subject of anxiety today, taking into account the presence of contemporary discourses and its relationship with these symptoms.

It is not possible to keep silent when we are certain about the consequences of anesthetizing anxiety with medicines, or calming it with educational psychotherapies. For psychoanalysis, anxiety is not something to avoid or to retribute to a previous state, but a paradoxical manifestation that touches upon structurally incurable aspects of subjectivity which, at the same time, require to be treated.

What Lacan calls the "incurable" finds different forms of presenting itself in the clinical field, the DSM IV only classifies them, but the treatment of anxiety requires to go further in understanding its structure and developing the necessary strategies to address it. First situate it, then treating it.

Lacan's seminar On Anxiety (1962-63), establishes a moment of change on his teachings where he points out on what way the symbolic elaboration of the symptoms show signs of being insufficient to reach certain types of jouissance within practice. Regarding anxiety, Lacan underlines the presence of a dimension that goes beyond language, a point where the Other is not able of giving an answer anymore.

Lacan calls it opacity, a point where there is neither answer nor reflection, something the subject experiences as foreign while at the same time as very familiar. He cannot deny it comes from himself; nevertheless, it is a moment of helplessness.

Approaching it has to do with situating the point of view of the structure of the speaking being, its subjectivity, its body, its objects, which establishes very complicated topological issues the analyst has to take in account to intervene.



Beacon cont'd



Regarding this structure, the emergency of a point of opacity shows a disturbance where the Symbolic doesn't give a frame to the Imaginary, implying a disorder of the images, a drifting, that leads to anxiety.

For the subject, when subjectivity loosens its fastening to the recognizable, the situation becomes restless, anxiety creating in the subject an intent of defending himself. Ideals, ego, identity, fundamental fantasy: all of the elements giving the subject a point of stability, have stopped answering him. In some cases, subjective indetermination may rise a degree of infinity; obsessive neurosis shows us many examples of this. In this sense, Lacan says that anxiety is a moment where the subject is exiled from its subjectivity, an experience occurring of displacement into the status of object, an objectification.

This loss of reference of a previous knowledge of the world, introduces the presence of the non-imagined and the not ruled, at the same time. Freud gives us many examples on his article "The Uncanny", Lacan gives also a few on seminar X, specifically from horror stories, or from the stories of Chekhov, where an everyday presence turns out to be unexpectedly eery. What Lacan explains about this change is that the dimension of the seeing suddenly becomes the dimension of "the look."

But if anguish is an intent of calling to the Other, when there is no answer the subject will try to escape from It, which will be the reason of many compulsions and "passages à l'acte", because anxiety introduces urgency. The time of anxiety doesn't tolerate waiting; there is a failure of the Symbolic support to temper it

The spaces that topologically sustain and organize the inside/outside structure of Imaginary, Symbolic and Real are in disarray, appearing as an erasure of the subject's particular relationship with the world.

If we think about the fundamental question the subject addresses to the Other: "What do you want...from me?" ("Che vuoi"), the answers are more than one. It could be that of the narcissistic identification where the Demand of the Other reassures with the "...wants me", implicating the ego through the act of recognition. Another way is facing the Desire of the Other, where there is a lack of the dimension of recognition and what appears is the fact that the Other's desire goes beyond the subject, or, in spite of the subject. There is furthermore the Jouissance of the Other, which leaves the subject at his mercy, on an absolute helplessness. These are the dialectics where we see the emergence of the function of the anguish, which, once situated, will be a guide to the treatment.

If what comes from the Other is an answer that confirms the erogenous investment that supports the subject, the fundamental fantasy and the order of the world will remain on its place. But if there is a different occurrence, the libidinal support will brake at this moment of unexpected emergence. The anxiety will point out something that can even turn out to be persecuting, which brings about the dimension of the superego in anxiety.

Beacon cont'd

Lacan situates the difference between the structure of the acting out and that of the "passage à l'acte". The first one being intent of recuperation and avoidance of anxiety, as a way of continuing on the scene the subject addresses to the Other. And the second a falling from the scene, therefore, from the structure the Other provides.

But the most interesting aspect of anxiety is its privileged relationship with desire, bringing into play a different dimension of the object, the cause of desire. That is why Jacques-Alain Miller reminds us that anxiety is also an antihypnotic which forces us to awake. This is the vital aspect of anxiety, beyond its eery side.

Precisely, the treatment of anxiety requires a passing by desire. When referring to Zen Buddhism, Lacan says that "desire is only illusion" as it is not sustained by any object from reality yet it is caused by a lack. That is why the analyst doesn't give meaning to anxiety; his interventions are addressed to produce the emergence of the cause.

To operate, it will be necessary to situate the function of the fundamental fantasy as a dimension where the subject finds a way to treat jouissance yet linked to desire, in such a way that makes possible the veiling of the Real.

Anxiety is the signal of the presence of the object of jouissance when the resources of the fundamental fantasy fail to continue sustaining the relationship of the subject with the world.

The structure of anxiety allows for an explanation of the rise of anxiety symptoms in our society. The Other that doesn't exist makes a good match with the "subjective emergencies" of our times where the technological father substitutes for the symbolic one. The subject lending the images of fear our society offers him.

One of last year's expositions at the Museum of Modern Art of N.Y. (MOMA), called "SAFE", was an unfolding of numerous "objects d'art" which, at the same time, were thought for the physical protection of the citizens in case of different attacks: bombing, gas, fire, gunning, etc. etc.

The problem with prevention is that it doesn't really treat anxiety; moreover, it reinforces it, because there is a substitution of the external reality at the place of the "extimacy". Even if we protect ourselves with the "dernier cri de la mode", there is a suffocation of desire, which ultimately leads to a "protect me" jouissance.



Bookmark



“HOW TO BE ALONE” by Jonathan Franzen

Reviewed by Jose Armando Garcia

Such a title seems to suggest the name of a book of self-help, but this is not such a book.

Actually one must wonder how come there isn't such a book, considering that loneliness is a very problematic sign of the contemporary subject.

Then how to be alone, is only used by its author in a very ironic way, only to display a critical view of the post-modern times.

Franzen writes a series of 14 essays, published in different magazines, to try to call the attention of reader's on an issue that should have been underlined time ago.

The compilation of articles in this book touches upon contemporary themes of our culture and man's discontent in it. The tone is between ironic and tragic. Franzen confronts the loneliness and perplexity of man with all the propositions and resources given by our culture to "be happy".

In the author's own words, the texts of this book, that were published in 2002, have a common denominator, 'the problem to preserve individuality' and the culture of masses, that is noisy and distracts from the issue of being alone.

This book also contains an article revindicating smoking in an era of "health fundamentalism" and another one titled 'Why bother?' known elsewhere in other publications by the title of Harper's Article, where he questions the writer's place today and the destiny of writing.

The themes are varied, but all of them touch upon issues of contemporaneity, always from a controversial point of view.

The most interesting aspect of this book is that it's a preparation for his novel "The correction". For psychoanalysis this book is important because it talks about the contemporary symptoms and what medicine cannot alleviate.

It is very pleasant to read although it surprises us at every step, I strongly recommend its reading for all those preoccupied with our times where anything goes and nevertheless doesn't cure the discontents of our civilization.

Log

By Kareen Malone and Yael Goldman Baldwin

The seventh annual conference of the Affiliated Psychoanalytic Workgroups (APW) was devoted to the topic of "Addictions" as approached through a clinic founded in a Lacanian orientation. The conference took place on March 10-12th 2006 and was held at The University of West Georgia in Carrollton, Georgia, and a pre-conference workshop was held at Emory University. The pre-conference workshop was led by Rik Loose.

Rik Loose (Dublin, Ireland) and Fabian Naporstek (Buenos Aires, Argentina), recognized for their clinical knowledge in the field and noted publications in the area of addiction, were the invited plenary speakers. Dr. Naporstek's plenary presentation, entitled "New drug usages," highlighted the question of addictions in terms of a break with the phallic signifier and a certain erasure of the remainder. The cultural and clinical implications of addictions were explored. Without endorsing a psychiatric model, Dr. Loose, in his keynote address entitled "The cause is the effect: The phallacy of dual diagnosis in addiction," furthered discussion of the issue of dual diagnosis in the study of addiction, pointing out the significance of subjective structure in the understanding of addiction, both in terms of the drug's effects, diagnostic structure, and the manner in which the drug functions in the "administration" of jouissance and the subject's governance of anxiety and the Other.

The two lively keynote addresses were accompanied by presentations from a wide range of speakers and discussants, from well-known Lacanian clinicians and scholars to graduate students. Presenters included Maria-Cristina Aguirre, Alicia Arenas, Kate Briggs, Bruce Fink, Alex Fleck, Rolf Flor, Yael Goldman, Patricia Gherovici, Gustavo Klurfan, Adrian Johnston, Shannon Kelly, Liliana Kruszel, Mark Kunkel, Cristina Laurita, Maria Lopez, Kareen Malone, Christopher Meyer, Michael Miller, Dany Nobus, Mark Stafford, and Thomas Svolos. The presentation of case material predominated with much discussion focused on the functioning of the object and the role of drugs as participating in an absence of symbolization within the real of the body. The issue of the production of the analysand's desire and the place of interpretation were also considered. Indeed, there were a myriad of approaches to the topic, including cultural and clinical aspects. Other approaches included seeing addiction as related to sexual identity, sexual relations, repetition, new symptoms, the drives, loss, anxiety, and to Das Ding, for example.

The issue of what psychoanalysis has to offer regarding the treatment



Log cont'd



of addictions and how one deals with the “addiction clinic” was also introduced as an important problematic. Discussing addictions from a Lacanian perspective provided a unique contribution to the topic of the treatment of addictions, particularly in the United States where treatment tends to follow the 12-step program or behavioral models. Ultimately, very lively discussions of the particularities of the papers and the cases led discussion towards articulating the knowledge of the field of addiction within a Lacanian ethics and framework. Participants remarked that the clinical/scholarly papers, the intellectual community that was fostered, and the convivial surroundings promoted an atmosphere of collaborative exchanges on the topic of addiction and many discussion periods were extended beyond their allotted time.

The conference provided a very unique opportunity for Lacanians to discuss the topic of addictions, a topic that is not often addressed in Lacanian circles and the literature. Indeed, the publication of the conference proceedings is already underway under the editorship of Yael Goldman Baldwin, Thomas Svolos, and Karen Malone.

Sentinel

Clinical Study Days 2

“Psychic Suffering and Treatment Challenges in the Postmodern World”



A Program of the
World Association of Psychoanalysis
In the United States

With the Participation of

Marie-Hélène Brousse

Psychoanalyst, Paris, France
Member, École de la Cause Freudienne and
World Association of Psychoanalysis

Miami, Florida
January 13, 2007

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To be preceded by a Seminar on
“The Lacanian Orientation in
Practice”

January 12, 2007

<> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <>

For additional information, or to be placed on the mailing list for further details and registration, contact a Member of the Coordination Committee:

Maria Cristina Aguirre
Alicia Arenas
Thomas Svolos

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tsvolos@radiks.net

Chart

Collected by Liliana Kruszel

ON-GOING ACTIVITIES:

HOUSTON, TEXAS

Houston Library Adherent to the Libraries of the Freudian Field

Downtown Seminar

Seminar on Psychoanalysis Studies, # 4

Effect of the Symbolic on the Real.

Parmenides, One real, Clinic's Real studies.

Responsible: Carmen Navarro Nino.

Fridays 5:30 to 6:45pm. Free admission

Frequency: Every two weeks. January- June.

Borders Bookstore (2nd Floor)

3025 Kirby - On Kirby near the corner of W. Alabama St.

Houston, TX 77098

Information: Tel/fax (281) 897 8295

Contact: Carmennavarro11@hotmail.com

MIAMI, FLORIDA

Clinical Seminar

Responsible: Alicia Arenas

Wednesdays at 7pm, through July

School nights of NEL-Florida

"Psy-Forum"

"The Formation of the Analyst"

Responsible: Juan F. Arango, M. Prandi.

Cartel Nights

Responsible: Maria Eugenia Cardona

Library Nights

Responsible: Liliana Kruszel

FLORIDA CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN PSYCHOANALYSIS (INSTITUTE)

Fundamentals I and II,

Responsible: Alicia Arenas, Juan Felipe Arango, Maria Eugenia Cardona, Liliana Kruszel and Monica Prandi

Research Seminar: Masculine sexuality symptoms

Responsible: Alicia Arenas and Liliana Kruszel

Research Seminar: Children and Violence

Responsible: Juan Felipe Arango and Monica Prandi

Advanced course: Femininity and masculinity, positions and love ties in our times.

Responsible: Alicia Arena, Juan F. Arango, Liliana Kruszel, Monica Prandi





Chart

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NEW YORK-NEW YORK

THE NEW YORK FREUD LACAN ANALYTIC GROUP - NYFLAG

Reading Group:

The Name of the Father: Concept and Uses in the 21st Century

Readings from Seminar XVII – The Other Side of Psychoanalysis (1969-1970)

We will discuss articles that address the question of the Name-of-the-Father in Lacan's work and in contemporary society

Wednesdays 8 pm. Barnard Hall, Room 407, Broadway at 117th St., NYC

March: 8 & 22

April 5 & 19

May 3, 17 & 31

June 14 & 28

Clinical Seminar

This Seminar is dedicated to the presentation of clinical cases focusing on our clinical practice and its many challenges. We will discuss what makes Lacanian oriented psychoanalysis a unique and powerful tool to address the challenges of the newer forms of psychic suffering today and the new demands placed on the subject in our contemporary civilization.

Wednesdays 8 pm. Barnard Hall, Room 409, Broadway at 117th St., NYC

March 15

May 10 & 24

June 7 & 21

Responsible: Maria Cristina Aguirre

Contact: nyflag@yahoo.ca

OMAHA, NEBRASKA

Seminar on "The Passion of Ignorance in Therapeutic Utopianism". Examining the beliefs and practices of the psy field today.

1st Friday of the Month, 1:30-1:00, March through May

Seminar on "Image, Signifier, Matheme, Knot"

2nd and 3rd Fridays of the Month, 11:30-1:00, January through May

Responsible: Thomas Svolos,

Contact tsvolos@radiks.net, 402-551-4712

SPECIAL and UPCOMING EVENTS

April, 2006

MIAMI – NEL

April, 1st 2006

Guest Speaker: Dr. Guillermo Belaga (Psychiatrist, Psychoanalyst from Buenos Aires, Argentina)



Lacanian Compass

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OMAHA, NEBRASKA

April 13, 2006

Guest Speaker: Jean-Pierre Klotz: "A Response to the New Forms of Psychosis Today" and "Clinical Case Discussions"

Additional information at http://cpp.creighton.edu/workshops_schedule.asp?wsID=20

April 14, 2006

Seminar presentation by Jean-Pierre Klotz: "Contemporary Treatment Demands and the New Forms of the Transference"

Additional information at http://cpp.creighton.edu/workshops_schedule.asp?wsID=20

NEW YORK - NYFLAG

April 27, 2006 8pm

Lecture: "Why the Unconscious is not a natural phenomenon"

Guest Speaker: Eric Laurent

Barnard Hall room B409, Broadway at 117th St., NYC

May, 2006

MIAMI

Seminar by Monica Febres-Cordero Espinel

From NEL-Guayaquil

PUBLICATIONS

Lacanian Ink 27, Spring 2006, Summary:

Articles by Jacques-Alain Miller: Introduction to Jacques Lacan's Seminar Anxiety part II. On the Names of the Father

Alain Badiou: The Formulas of "L'Etourdit"

Mehdi Belhaj Kacem: . On Giorgio Agamben's Profanations

Slavoj Zizek: The Cunning of Reason - Lacan as Reader of Hegel. The Fundamental Perversion: Lacan, Dostoyevsky, Bouyeri

Cathy Lebowitz interviews Josefina Ayerza on Charlie White

RESOURCES IN LACANIAN PSYCHOANALYSIS

(collected by Tom Svolos)

The World Association of Psychoanalysis: The aim of the World Association of Psychoanalysis is to promote the practice and the study of psychoanalysis following the teachings of Jacques Lacan. It was created by Jacques-Alain Miller in February 1992 and today has over a thousand members in Europe, America and Australia. The WAP creates Schools that develop and transmit psychoanalysis, ensure the formation of analysts, found their qualification and guarantee the quality of their practice. The World Association of Psychoanalysis holds a Scientific Congress and an Assembly of members every two years. It works in coordination with the Foundation of the Freudian Field and the Institute of the Freudian Field, sharing the responsibility for submitting psychoanalysis to regular criticism of its fundamentals and of its role in today's world. Information on the WAP-its activities and publication-



Chart cont'd

can be found on the WAP website: <http://www.wapol.org/en/index.html>

New Lacanian School: NLS is the English-language School of the WAP. Information on the constituent societies and groups, as well as events and publications can be found at <http://www.amp-nls.org/>

New York Freud Lacan Analytic Group: NYFLAG sponsors regular activities in New York as well as Seminars and other special programs with visiting psychoanalysts. For more information or to get on the mailing list, contact Maria Cristina Aguirre at nyflag@yahoo.ca

NEL-Miami and LOGOS: These groups sponsor regular activities and special programs in Florida in English and Spanish. For additional information, contact Nelflorida@aol.com

Affiliated Psychoanalytic Workgroups: APW sponsors an Annual Conference as well as Workshops for the promotion of Lacanian psychoanalysis. APW also publishes the online journal ERR. For more information, go to <http://www.apwonline.org/>

Lacan.com: Online resources on Lacanian psychoanalysis: <http://www.lacan.com/>

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

Mental (published by NLS; French print journal and English online journal): <http://www.mental-nls.com>

Psychoanalytical Notebooks (published by London Society of the NLS; print journal with selected online papers): <http://www.londonsociety-nls.org.uk/Welcome.htm>

Almanac of Psychoanalysis (published by the Israel Society of the NLS; print journal): information available from Yotvat Oxman, Editor, yotvatt@zahav.net.il

International Lacanian Review (online journal published by Jacques-Alain Miller): <http://www.lacanianreview.com.br>

Lacanian Compass (published by WAP; newsletter of Lacanian activities in the US): <http://www.wapol.org/es/lacanian/lacanian.asp>. For free subscription: lacaniancompass@yahoo.com

Lacanian Praxis: International Quarterly of Applied Psychoanalysis (online journal published by the WAP): http://www.mental-nls.com/LacanianPraxis_01.pdf

World Association for Psychoanalysis Letter for Europe (online newsletter of the WAP): <http://www.amp-europe-lettre.com/>

Journal for Lacanian Studies (paper journal published by Karnac Books; with select online articles): <http://www.jlsjournal.com/>

Lacanian Ink (paper journal published by Josefina Ayerza; online excerpts): <http://www.lacan.com/covers.htm>

The Symptom (online journal published by Josefina Ayerza): <http://www.lacan.com/thesymptom.htm>

(Re)-turn: A Journal of Lacanian Studies: <http://www.missouri.edu/~raglande/Lacan/>

