

Calendar of Events

1986-87

Lacan and the Human Sciences: An International Colloquium

Held 20-22 November 1986 at Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge), this conference was sponsored by the Center for French and Francophone Studies and the Department of French and Italian. Speakers included Joel Fineman (University of California, Berkeley); Jane Gallop (Rice University); Jean-Joseph Goux (Brown University); Alain Grosrichard (University of Geneva); Denis Hollier (University of California, Berkeley); Jean-Claude Milner (University of Paris); Dennis Porter (University of Massachusetts); Ellie Ragland-Sullivan (University of Florida); Francois Regnault (University of Paris). The wish was expressed at the start of the conference that Louisiana again lead the way in critical debates, as they had in the 1930s with the establishment of *The Southern Review* and launching of the New Criticism. The conference papers did indeed reflect points of critical difference in literary theory today. Although the conference referred itself to Lacan, opinion was clearly divided regarding what his teaching means. Some speakers tried to explicate difficult concepts and theoretical difficulties in psychoanalysis and in Lacan, while others gave readings of Lacan filtered through a Derridean interpretive grid. Jane Gallop asked if psychoanalysis is a science or a "humanities." In addressing the slippage between the biological and the human, Gallop considered the difficulties involved in linking feminism and psychoanalysis. In "Mistranslating Lacan" Dennis Porter (who is currently translating a seminar of Lacan's) discussed deconstructive ideas of translation (Paul de Man) and theories of Walter Benjamin to argue that Lacan's theory reverses de Man's ideas, finding splits not in style but in subjectivity (the Oedipal code). Alain Grosrichard developed the theory that literature itself poses the question of style in confronting a graver problematic: the nothing or silence underlying things places a scopic perspective in style. François Regnault's paper, "Lacan and Experience," took up the

question of what "human sciences" were for Lacan. Distinguishing between *experimentum mentis* (theory) and *experimentum crucis* (crisis), Regnault showed why Lacan rejected the idea of "human sciences" and placed psychoanalysis between science and ethics. The subject of science, meanwhile, oscillates between experiment and experience. Jean-Claude Milner spoke on "Lacan and the Ideal of Science." Clarifying the difference between an ideal science (Imaginary material) and an ideal of science (a structural concept), Milner discussed the difference between Lacan's "letters" when pertinent to language (as signifiers or phonemes) or when pertinent to science (as mathemes). His paper also took up issues of continuity versus rupture in thought, enabling him to put forward the idea of three eras: theology, philosophy, psychoanalysis. Joel Fineman's paper, "Shakespeare's Will: The Temporality of Discourse," asked questions about the scope of Lacan's extra-literary psychology, framed within a study of the semiotics of rape. Demonstrating the intricate interplay of image and sound in *The Rape of Lucrece*, Fineman argued that when letters became textual objects the literary subject could then be theorized, not just produced. In "La vérité en marche" Denis Hollier used the theory that sexuality escapes

definition by the "natural" as a basis for his interpretation of Zola's *oeuvre*. Zola's male characters fear the feminine (equated with paralysis) and the truth linked to feminine *jouissance* and God. Jean-Joseph Goux discussed a new concept of the sign: the "letter" as visible, rather than the image as archetype. Lacan's mathematics and "pure signifiers" were portrayed as something inhuman and foreign to Man; the Symbolic order as a-historical and the Imaginary as based on tricks. Ellie Ragland-Sullivan spoke on the materiality of language in Freud and Lacan, drawing together Freud's ideas on the complexity of memory and Lacan's development of the *écrit* (between the oral and written). How do the objects of desire and the effects of language and experience on the constitution of a subject weave together to create a materiality of the subject that goes beyond simple biological or sociological explanations?

GIFRIC (Groupe interdisciplinaire freudien de recherches et d'interventions cliniques)

This year GIFRIC is offering four enrichment sessions (in French) for mental health professionals and clinicians interested in psychoanalysis

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on the following theme: "The Logic of the Psychoanalytic Cure of Neurosis."

The resource persons are Willy Apollon, Doctor of Philosophy and analyst, Danielle Bergeron, psychiatrist and analyst; and Lucie Cantin, psychologist and analyst. These resource persons will participate via theoretical papers and clinical presentations, and will lead group discussions arising out of the work presented by those participating. Case demonstrations or reviews of clinical literature will be expected from all participants. A research paper (including clinical observation) will be required, in addition, in the intervals between sessions.

Experience in clinical practice is a prior requisite for enrollment. Sessions will run from 9:00 am on Friday mornings till 5:00 pm on Saturdays.

SESSION ONE

"Structure and Characters in the Narrative of the Ego," 7-8 November 1986

The family myth built up by each individual determines the structure of a narrative, in which the ego (*moi*) constitutes itself as a central character. But the failures and vicissitudes of life eat at the substance of this narrative and the search for cure often comes as a final effort to reconstitute the former and salvage its meaning.

How does psychoanalysis, in a total reorganization of the dramatics of its life as a subject, engage being?

SESSION TWO

"Interpretation as an Interruption of the Narrative,"
12-13 December 1986

- The unconscious is not organized like a narrative.

- The unconscious provides no outlet to conversation. These two principles shall determine the analyst's action. How can the analyst prevent himself from entering into the analysand's "individual myth" to the point of becoming one of its characters? Scanning discourse, abstention, the analysis of the transference and interpretation make no reference to the analysand's story. Nor do they aim at reconstituting its meaning but, rather, at throwing it off course, at breaking down its meaning, in order to bring unconscious structures into play.

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SESSION THREE

"The Structure of Conversation as an Obstacle to Interpretation," 6-7 March 1987

Faced with the anxiety aroused by interpretation, the analysand sometimes tries "to enter into a relationship" with the analyst, challenging his expertise, demanding a statement of opinion, or some form of intervention, etc. How can this moment in the cure (i.e., of breakdown in the narrative) be an opportunity for hesitation about going on with the cure or even, in some cases, for halting it completely (in the guise of a field trip, marriage plans, pregnancy . . .)?

The unconscious communicates to both patient and analyst—via dreams, Freudian slips and other *lapsi*—the main ways of proceeding in a shaky situation.

SESSION FOUR

"The Signifier: Placing it in the (Signifying) Chain," 8-9 May 1987

By his handling of the dream, the vehicle of the Other's discourse—"the royal road to the unconscious"—the analyst distances himself from the structures of narrative and conversation, and puts in place the signifiers of the analysand's unconscious.

How does one recognize these signifiers? A second phase of the cure begins at this juncture. How will the analyst support the patient's efforts in this stage of the cure, where modifications are introduced bringing him or her to a wholesale refashioning of his or her life?

The sessions will be held at G1ERIC's social headquarters: 342, St-Cyrille W., Quebec City, PG Canada G1S 1R9, Telephone: (418) 687-4350.

Centre for Psychoanalytic Research

ACTIVITIES FOR 1987

Seminar

The fortnightly seminar at Prince Henry's Hospital, run in conjunction with the Department of Psychological Medicine, Monash University, will continue this year. It will be held on the first and third Tuesdays of

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the month, 8:00-9:30 pm and will continue the study of Lacan's "The Agency of the Letter in the Unconscious or Reason since Freud."

Cartels

At this stage two cartels have been organized for 1987. These are on psychosis (Leonardo Rodriguez, coordinator) and on hysteria (Russell Grigg, coordinator). Anyone interested in joining either of these cartels or in forming another is requested to contact Russell or Leonardo.

Colloquium

The colloquium will be held in September this year. The theme and date will be announced later in the year. The address of the Centre is P.O. Box 509, Carlton South, Victoria 3053, Australia.

News from the United Kingdom

We are happy to report the activities of the Cultural Centre for Freudian Studies and Research, London, whose founder members include Bice Benvenuto, Bernard Burgoyne, Richard Klein, and Darian Leader. The group held a conference on 12-13 April 1986 entitled "Lacan in England: Questioning Psychoanalysis? Topics included anorexia, holding, interpretation, psychosis, child analysis, feminine sexuality, historical development of Lacan's work, and the relation of psychoanalysis to the sciences and to the arts. The Centre also sponsored a series of seminars in the spring of 1986, held at the Ivy House site of Middlesex Polytechnic in North End Road, Hampstead (Anna Pavlova's old house), and at the All Saints site in White Hart Lane, Tottenham. Seminars run from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. and are open to anyone interested in theoretical or practical aspects of psychoanalysis. The Cultural Centre also publishes a journal, *Syngraphia*, which is on sale at Karnac's, Dillon's, Compendium, and the I.C.A. bookshop in London. Anyone interested in the Cultural Centre for Freudian Studies and Research should write to Bernard Burgoyne, Middlesex Polytechnic, Queensway, Enfield, Middlesex EN3 4SF, or telephone 01-804-8131.

News Briefs from the U.S.A.

A conference will be held in tandem with *October/Ornicur?* Special issue 40. The film of Jacques Lacan, *Télévision* (directed by Benoit

Jacquot, 1973, 120 minutes), will be screened in New York and introduced by Jacques-Alain Miller in a colloquium with Joan Copjec, Joel Fineman, Jeffrey Mehlman, Annette Michelson, Judith Miller, John Rajchman, Jennifer Stone, Sam Weber, Slavoj Zizek, Shoshana Felman,

and Stuart Schneiderman. The conference will be held Thursday and Friday, 9- 10 April 1987 at the Great Hall in Cooper Union, New York City. Preregistration fees are \$30 regular and \$15 for students with ID. Mail registration (checks made payable to SPARK) to: SPARK, P.O. Box 1861, New York, NY. 10011. For further inquiries telephone (212) 255-5537. The film has been subtitled in English and will be distributable for viewing from April on.

The Paris-New York Psychoanalytic Workshop is directed by Stuart Schneiderman and Jacques-Alain Miller. For information contact Stuart Schneiderman, 310 East 46th St. 24H, New York, N.Y. 10017, (212) 682-6678, or Jacques-Alain Miller, 74 rue d'Assas, 75006 Paris, France. The next meeting will occur in July 1987.

A seminar in Freudian psychoanalysis sponsored by the English department of Barnard College is conducted by Stuart Schneiderman and Prof. Marie Jaanus of the English Department. This seminar, open to the public, is spending the academic year 1986-87 doing a close reading of Jacques Lacan's *The Four Fundamental Concepts of Psychoanalysis*. There are no formal lectures. Each meeting, every other Wednesday evening, is organized around a presentation either by a member of the seminar or by a guest, with open discussion and debate. Meetings are held at 8:30 p.m. in room 409, Barnard Hall (Broadway above 116th St.) across from the entrance to the Columbia University campus. This seminar is held under the auspices of the Paris-New York Psychoanalytic Workshop. For further information, please contact Stuart Schneiderman at the address in the previous paragraph. A clinical "cartel" organized by Paolo Mieli and Don Moss meets every two weeks in New York City. For further information contact Don Moss at 80 University Place, 5th floor, New York, N.Y. 10003.

The Lacanian clinical forum organized by John Muller meets three times during the year in two-day sessions, both days devoted to case presentations. Membership in the group is limited in order to foster clinical discussion. The next meeting will be 25 -26 April in New York.

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We would like to hear about other workshops and study groups who spend time discussing Lacan's teaching. In order to connect the various networks that are unaware of each other, *NFF* will be happy to list your group with address and information as to orientation (clinical, theoretical, film, and so on). Please contact the editor for such inclusion.

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L'Âne: le magazine freudien is interested in social symptoms, forms of political discourse, the ideologies of social improvement, mental health and pedagogy, as well as the uncontrolled discourse of science, and cinema-as-anthropology. Publishing and mathematics also have a place; there are interviews with government ministers and marginals alike. *L'Âne* serves as a "mini" mass-media outlet for writings reputed to be too difficult for discussion. It is a magazine of current affairs worth collecting. Annual airmail subscription rate for four issues in the USA and Canada: 230 FF.



Ornicar? Established in 1975 at the Department of Psychoanalysis of the University of Paris VIII, this Review of the Freudian Field is the main organ of diffusion for Lacan's teaching. *Ornicar?* appears quarterly and, barring exceptions, each number begins with a text by Jacques Lacan. It combines Freudian studies, theoretical papers, clinical cases, and so on. Apart from these areas, and the "Reading Room" section, the "Analysts' Gallery" presents in every number a profile of one of the leading psychoanalysts of our time. Annual airmail subscription rate for four issues in the USA and Canada: 325 FF.



Address inquiries to Navarin Editeur, 31, rue de Navarin, 75009 Paris, France. Telephone, 878-0565.



CALL FOR PAPERS

Lacanian Theory of Discourse

a special issue of Prose Studies

Prose Studies, a journal devoted to the theory and practice of nonfictional prose, invites submissions for a special issue on Lacanian theory of discourse. The editors welcome submissions that explicate and analyze Lacan's writings about discourse, develop the relevance of other Lacanian concepts for discourse analysis, examine the theoretical implications of Lacan's discursive practice, or investigate the significance of Lacanian theory of discourse for critical or pedagogical practice.

Early inquiries, proposals, and suggestions are welcome. The deadline for submissions is December 15, 1987 (two copies, please). Manuscripts should follow the MLA Style Sheet (2nd. ed.).

Address all correspondence to: U
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