

## REPORTS ON CONFERENCES & COLLOQUIA, ANNOUNCEMENT OF CURRENT AND FUTURE EVENTS

Professor Fredric Jameson, Director of the Graduate Program in Literature at Duke University and Professor Leigh DeNeef, Professor of English and Associate Dean of the Graduate School at Duke, invited Slavoj Zizek and Ellie Ragland-Sullivan to give workshops and lectures on Jacques Lacan on November 6-7, 1989. Politics and gender were highlighted, along with many other questions raised by students and faculty

A Lacanian panel called "The epistemology of clinical practice: Lacanian perspectives on knowledge in the analytic relationship" was presented at the annual meeting of the Division of Psychoanalysis (39) of the American Psychological Association, New York City, April 5, 1990.

For some American practitioners of psychoanalysis, two words in the title of this symposium, epistemology and Lacan, signify a superfluous intellectual struggle with precious esoterica and the obfuscations of a sham psychoanalyst. Those who attended this panel heard Stuart Schneiderman and Stephen Friedlander attempt to speak understandably about the relevance of both Lacan and epistemology to the practice of psychoanalysis by focusing, not on purely abstract matters such as metapsychology, but on the phenomenology of the clinical encounter. The orienting concept was the *sujet-suppose-savoir* considered in relation to what patients know about themselves, what analysts know about their patients, and

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how the patient's and analyst's ideas about analytic practice reciprocally influence the evolution of answers to these questions. An analytic patient of Friedlander's once said in a slip of the tongue, "I heard her buzzing you (i.e. on the office intercom) *to tell me that I was here.*" *His* parapraxis was the perfect metaphor for the problem addressed by the panel.

In journal articles and books galore, psychoanalysts propound theories -and offer examples of how the theories are applied to actual persons - about why people think, feel and behave the way they do. This discourse suggests that we, the analysts, know something true and useful about the individual who comes to us as a patient, and that we undertake to arrange for him/her to learn from us. Patients also assume this, and assume that we will want to convey ("transfer") this knowledge to them, a fact that might seem almost too trivial to warrant discussion.

Transference is rather generally identified with affective expression in clinical practice here, but Lacan locates the essential kernel of transference in the patient's assumption that there is a knowledge about himself which is already in the possession of the analyst. The patient's conception from within the transference is that the analyst will fulfill the patient's wish to be augmented or enhanced as a person through acquiring a good phallus in the form of another's knowledge. Since analysts are notoriously reticent, the transference is dramatized in the patient's effort to figure out how to satisfy the analyst's desire. Lacan formulates the goal of psychoanalysis in terms of becoming free from unconscious commitments to other people's desires, and in discovering that knowledge of one's own desire comes through speaking for oneself.

Schneiderman differentiated among categories of "knowledge" such as that there are "parts" of a person the person does not know about, knowing the importance of identifying these unknown parts, knowing "the unconscious meaning" of one's symptoms, knowing the stages of development and where one is with respect to the general developmental process, knowing what happened in one's early life and how it affects one currently, knowing the difference between illusion and reality and between contemporaneous persons and significant figures from the past, knowing how to express oneself fully and coherently, and so forth.

Friedlander utilized vignettes from his practice to differentiate the Lacanian dimensions of transference from conceptions prevalent in this country. Then he illustrated how even the analyst's attentive silence can function as an interpretation. Selections from

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Cormac McCarthy's novel, *Blood Meridian*, were used as an allegorical description of a Lacanian psychoanalytic process. The fictional text fortuitously echoed the dialogue between Friedlander and his patient about a child's memory of loneliness, his current feelings of emptiness and despair, how the patient's experience in analysis is shaped by his assumptions about it, and the "dance" of destiny. Liberating *psychoanalytic interpretation* from a reductive identification with explanation opens possibilities for the patient to engage in direct, personal communication about existential matters.

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The Maison Francaise of Columbia University in New York City (10027), under the direction of Jacqueline Desrez, sponsored the inauguration of the Lacan American Clinique (L. A. C.) on Saturday April 7, 1990 at the Casa Italiana. The event took place under the patronage of Mr. Benoit d'Aboville, Minister Plenipotentiary and Consul General of France in New York. From 9:30 am to 6:30 am, there were presentations by Lacanian analysts from Europe and North and South America, as well as a panel discussion of controversial points in clinical practice at 8:00 pm, after an interim cocktail hour. The Director and Founder of L.A.C. is Dr. Hourik Zakarian, practicing psychoanalyst and supervisor, member of the Ecole de la Cause freudienne (France), and Professor at the University of Paris VII in Clinical Human Sciences.

(E. R-S. )

The First Annual Lacan Conference (1990) took place at Barnard College, Columbia University, in New York City at Barnard Hall on Saturday and Sunday, April 14 and 15. Professor Jacques-Alain Miller spoke at the conference on "Jacques Lacan: Seminar of the Freudian Field with Text." His topic was 'A Reading of Some Details of Lacan's *Television/A Challenge to the Psychoanalytic Establishment* in Dialogue with the Audience.' (*Television* appeared in English translation with Norton in 1990). On Saturday afternoon Danielle Bergeron of Quebec City (Canada), Slavoj Zizek of Ljubljana (Yugoslavia) and Ellie Ragland-Sullivan of Columbia, Missouri presented papers in the "Seminar on the Freudian Connection."

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On Sunday afternoon four analysts from various European countries, also members of the Ecole de la cause freudienne, spoke on the "Cure," the French word for "treatment": Colette Soler on "Ethics in the Cure," Carmen Gallano on "The Beginning of the Cure," Jean-Pierre Klotz on "Passion in the Cure," and Anne Dunand on "The End of the Cure."

The **Second Annual** Lacan Conference (1991) will **again take** place at Barnard College on Saturday and Sunday April 20-21. Friday April 19 has been reserved as a pre-conference day for participants who wish to present papers on any aspect of Lacanian analysis. Not only will this foster discussion, it will enable interested students and professors to have their travel costs defrayed by their universities. If you want further information or are interested in presenting a paper, please send a 75-word abstract to either of the Conference co-directors: Maire Jaanus, Lacan Conference 1991, Barnard College, 3009 Broadway, New York, New York 10027-6598, (516) 267-3537; or Ellie Ragland-Sullivan, Lacan Conference 1991, English Department, Tate Hall, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, Mo. 65211, (314) 882-6066. The tentative title of the 1991 conference is "Female Sexuality and the Name-of-the-Father." Featured speakers are Jacques-Alain Miller and others to be announced.

(E. R-S. )

A Lacan session was moderated by Ellie Ragland-Sullivan at the Fifteenth Annual Meeting of The International Association for Philosophy and Literature on "Bodies: Image, Writing, Technology," held at the University of California, Irvine, on April 28, 1990. The theme of the session was "The Body and the Drives: Lacan and the Issue of Causality" Speakers were Charles Shepherdson, Slavoj Zizek Teresa Brennan, Willy Apollon, Joey Slaughter, Maire Jaanus.

(E. R-S. )

Professor Fredric Jameson of Duke University invited Slavoj Zizek and Ellie Ragland-Sullivan to present brief papers on why Anglophone academics need Lacanian psychoanalysis anymore and what the implications of Lacan's teaching are for politics. Professors

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Jameson, Perry Anderson and Peter Wollen responded to the speakers in initiating the discussion that followed. Professor Don Wayne coordinated the Colloquium which took place at the University of California - San Diego on Saturday, April 28, 1990.

The San Francisco Society for Lacanian Studies hosted lectures from April 23 to 29, 1990, by Bruce Fink on "Science and Truth," Slavoj Zizek on "The Sublime Object of Ideology," and Ellie Ragland-Sullivan on "The Phallus and the Phallic Signifier." Members of the society presented papers throughout the year - clinical, literary and philosophical. In addition, two different seminar series were conducted by Professor Andre Patsalides, Lacanian analyst and Professor of Psychology from the University of Louvain in Belgium.

The Center for Literature and Psychoanalysis located in the English Department at Kent State University in Ohio, along with the *Newsletter of the Freudian Field*, sponsored a conference on May 24-27, 1990, on "Lacan, Culture, and Sexual Identity." Guest speakers included Willy Apollon, Danielle Bergeron, Lucie Cantin of Quebec City (analysts and directors of the Psychoanalytic Center for Psychotics and among the directors of GIFRIC), Marie-Helene Brousse of Paris (analyst and member of the Ecole de la cause freudienne), Jean-Pierre Klotz of Bordeaux (analyst and member of the Ecole de la cause freudienne), Diana Rabinovich of Buenos Aires (analyst, professor of psychoanalysis and founder and president of the Analytic Society, Buenos Aires), Slavoj Zizek of Ljubljana (professor of philosophy), Henry Sullivan of Columbia, Mo. (professor of Spanish), Joan Copjec of New York City and Buffalo (Editor of *October* and visiting professor of English), Ellie Ragland-Sullivan of Columbia, Mo. (Editor of *NFF* and professor of English), Kaja Silverman of Rochester and Berkeley (professor of English). Over seventy-five additional papers were given in simultaneous panels, examining various aspects of the topic. Mark Bracher and Vera

Camden organized this conference. Mark Bracher deserves particular recognition for having organized three successive, stimu-

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lating conferences on Lacan at Kent State University in three successive years. Several volumes of essays will appear, combining various material from these conferences. For further information, contact Mark Bracher (216) 672-2676.

The Lacan Seminar in English, Paris Workshop, went into its second year from June 18 to July 4, 1990. The text from which participants worked was *Seminar XI, The Four Fundamental Concepts of Psychoanalysis*. More than fifty students, professors and clinicians from the USA, Australia, Canada, Yugoslavia, Germany and Israel attended the two and one-half week session in Paris. On June 16-17 a preconference gave students, professors and clinicians an opportunity to present their understanding of Lacan's teaching and to set up a basis from which to discuss Lacan among themselves and with those who spoke at the Seminar. Among the Paris analysts and faculty members who kindly agreed to speak were Colette Soler, Marie-Helene Brousse, Francois Regnault, Pierre-Gilles Guegen, Eric Laurent, Dominique Miller, Anne Dunand, Jacques-Alain Miller and Jean-Pierre Klotz. Guest speakers from other countries included Slavoj Zizek, Russell Grigg, Ellie Ragland-Sullivan, Richard Feldstein, Bruce Fink, Bob Samuels, Darian Leader, Mark Bracher, Henry Sullivan, Silvia Rodriguez and Leonardo Rodriguez. Topics covered were "Science and Truth," "The Subject and the Other," "The Deceptiveness of Transference," "Lacan and Descartes," "Interpretation- Optics and Vision," "Alienation and Separation," "The Name of the Father," "Representation and the Real," "Presence of the Analyst," "The End of Analysis," "The Drive," "The Gaze," "Relation of the Voice and the Gaze," "Lacan and the Sexual Identity of the Dramatist," "Transference," "The Logic of the Four Concepts," "Psychosis," "Psychoanalysis of Children," "The Two Walls of the Impossible." "Identification and Discourse," among others. Jacques-Alain Miller gave his first talk to the Seminar at the Ste Anne Hospital on June 22, in the Unit headed by Francoise Gorog. His topic was "Discoveries." In his second talk he placed *Seminar XI* in an historical context and then showed how Lacan began to disagree with Freud in this Seminar, showing himself as someone who always begins anew.

The **Third** Lacan Seminar in English, Paris Workshop, will be held **again** in the summer of 1991, starting on June 21st. Final dates

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and speakers are to be announced in the near future. The texts to be read in summer 1991 are selections from *Ecrits*, "Kant with Sade," and some parts of *Television*, along with a screening of the film in a follow up to the First Annual Lacan Conference at Barnard (1990). For further information contact Richard Feldstein (401) 942-1175, Bruce Fink (619) 458-9044, ext 269, or Ellie Ragland-Sullivan (314) 882-6066.

(E.R-S. )

The Sixth International Conference of the Freudian Field was held in Paris from July 6-9, 1990. The topic was "Traits of Perversion in Clinical Structures." The theme of this *rencontre* followed logically from the two previous international conferences (neurosis in 1986 and psychosis in 1988). A collection of articles on the conference theme was published by Navarin (Paris, 1990) with the same title as the conference. Twenty-one countries contributed articles. More than 1,500 people participated in the conference where there was simultaneous translation into English, Spanish, Portuguese and French. The next international

conference will be held in 1992 in Caracas, Venezuela on "Strategies in the Transference." For further information, contact Gerardo Reguir, Ateneo de Caracas, 4th piso, Plaza Morelos, Caracas, Venezuela.

(E. R-S. )

The Lacan Study Group of Pittsburgh, in conjunction with and sponsored by the Department of Psychology, Duquesne University and the Ielase Institute of Forensic Psychology with the help of The Pittsburgh Association for the Theory and Practice of PsychoAnalysis, is proud to present the Pittsburgh premier of the film "Jacques Lacan's "Television" with *subtitles* on Friday, December 1, 1990, from 7:30-9:30 pm, Duquesne University, 114 College Hall. In addition, two short papers will be presented by Mark Grabau and Mario Beira. For further information about this event or the psychoanalytic conference on Lacan which is being planned for Spring 1991 by various analytic groups in Pittsburgh, please contact Mario Beira (412) 422-6118.

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On February 9-10, 1991, The Center for Psychoanalytic Study in Chicago will sponsor a second workshop on Lacanian analysis. Among invited speakers are Willy Apollon, Danielle Bergeron, Lucie Cantin from Quebec and Ellie Ragland-Sullivan from Columbia, Mo. Other speakers are to be announced. For further information contact Lucia Villela-Minnerly (312) 721-9505 or Charles Turk (312) 269-9180.

The First European *Rencontre* of the Freudian Field and the Ecole de la Cause freudienne will take place on May 4-5, 1991, at the Palais des Congres of Lyon, France. The theme is "Reality Since Freud." In 1967 Lacan introduced his discourse at the Institut Francais de Milan in these terms: "Si etonnant que cela puisse paraître, je dirai que la psychanalyse, soit ce qu'un procede ouvre comme champ a l'experience, *c'est la realite.*" That is, reality has nothing to do with a "reality" to which one is meant to adapt. Nor does it have anything to do with the taxonomies in *DSM III* which only hide "reality" Individual inscriptions are 600 FE Institutions, 1000 FE Students, 400 FE For further information contact Ecole de la Cause freudienne (ECF), 1, rue Huysmans, 75006 Paris, France, Tel. (1) 45.49.02.08.

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