

HYSTERIA

Psychoanalysis as both a theory and a praxis was born from the treatment of hysterical patients by Freud, and his colleague Breuer, in the 1890s. Hysteria is a psychopathology of representation, a neurosis in which a psychic conflict finds expression through a conversion symptom in the body. While Freud focused on the formation of the hysterical symptom, Lacan considered hysteria primarily as a structure. This unit will examine a number of Freud and Lacan's writings about hysteria in order to consider

- the distinction between anxiety hysteria, characterised by a phobia and hysteria as a structure characterised by the conversion symptom
- the distinguishing features of the hysterical structure: the subject's relation to the Other, the object, the body, jouissance and desire
- symptom formation in hysteria and modes of unconscious defence against an incompatible idea, that is, one linked with the real of sexuality
- link between the representation of sexuality and the quantum of affect in the body as causative of neurosis
- Freud's splitting of the ego, Lacan's divided subject and the discourse of the hysteric
- hysterical mechanisms, including identification
- the distinctive features of the hysterical fantasy
- the choice of neurosis and the hysteric's question
- transference and the direction of the treatment in hysteria

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READING

Sigmund Freud

- (1894a) The Neuro-Psychoses of Defence SE III: 43.
(1895b) *Studies on Hysteria* [with J. Breuer] SE II.
(1895b [1894]) On the Grounds for Detaching a Particular Syndrome from Neurasthenia under the Description of 'Anxiety Neurosis' SE III: 87.
(1896b) Further Remarks on the Neuroses of Defence SE III: 159.
(1896c) The Aetiology of Hysteria. SE III: 187.
(1900a) *The Interpretation of Dreams*. The 'smoked salmon' dream and its analysis. SE IV: 146.
(1905e [1901]) Fragment of an Analysis of a Case of Hysteria SE VII: 3.
(1908a) Hysterical Phantasies and their Relation to Bisexuality SE IX: 157.
(1909a [1908]) Some General Remarks on Hysterical Attacks. SE IX: 229.
(1909b) Analysis of a Phobia in a Five-Year-Old Boy SE X: 3.
(1909c) Family Romances SE IX:237.
(1912c) Types of Onset of Neurosis. SE XII: 229.
(1914c) On Narcissism: An Introduction SE XIV: 67
(1915e) The Unconscious SE XIV: 161.
(1916-17) *Introductory Lectures on Psycho-Analysis* SE XV-XVI. Especially lectures XVII, XVIII, XIX, XXII, XXIII.
(1918b [1914]) From the History of an Infantile Neurosis SE XVII: 7.
(1924b [1923]) Neurosis and Psychosis SE XIX:149
(1924e) The Loss of Reality in Neurosis and Psychosis SE XIX:183
(1926d [1925]) *Inhibitions, Symptoms and Anxiety* SE XX: 77. Sections IV, V, VII.
(1930a) *Civilisation and its Discontents* SE XXI: esp. chapter VIII.
(1950a [1887-1902]) Draft K: The Neuroses of Defence (A Christmas Fairy Tale), Extracts from the Fliess Papers. SE I: 220

Jacques Lacan

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- (1962-63) *The Seminar Book X, Anxiety*. Unofficial trans. C. Gallagher.
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- (2006 [1958]) Subversion of the subject and the dialectic of desire. *Écrits*: 671-702.
- (2006 [1960]) The direction of the treatment and the principles of its power. *Écrits*: 489-542. esp. section V.
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FURTHER READING

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