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THE SYDNEY GROUP FOR LACANIAN PSYCHOANALYSIS
SYDNEY SYMPOSIUM I



Guernica, 1937 Pablo Picasso

Anxiety: Between Desire and Jouissance and scattered signifiers



November 23rd 2024, 3:00pm - 8:30pm

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP)
NSW Branch, 761 Darling Street, Rozelle 2039

or by Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85401554977?pwd=yASTWQUiV0uh9yAJMHBllolLqXlZCqy.1>

a-rgument\$

“Last time, I wrote up the three levels that correspond to the three phases of this operation [of division]. They are, respectively, jouissance, anxiety and desire. I'm going to move through this layering [...] to show you, not the mediating function of anxiety between jouissance and desire, but its median function.

How else might we comment on this important phase of our account, except to say the following, whose various terms I ask you to take up by providing them with their fullest meaning - jouissance shall know nothing of the Other except by this remainder, a.”

Jacques Lacan, Seminar X: Anxiety, lesson of 13 March 1963
(Ed. J.-A. Miller; trans. A.R. Price)

This year, we are concluding the course of a 2-year study of Lacan's Seminar on Anxiety. In the last part of the seminar, Lacan propounds a certain pedagogy of castration, which can be taken along the path of learning about castration. This would be the domain of psychology, as in the schools of Stern or Piaget. Freud, however, reveals that learning about castration is already eminently secondary to 'what the castration teaches about', and with Oedipus he constitutes it as a declared limit. Lacan's take on this, or if you would like, the Lacanian pedagogy, is situated in a different realm, beyond the bedrock of castration, and rather guided by the question – 'what castration does not teach about?' It is there where he discovers the frontiers of the five forms of object a.

“At the level of embarrassment stands what we shall legitimately call the concept of anxiety. I don't know if Kierkegaard's audacity in bringing in this term has really been taken account of. What can it mean other than that there is either the function of the concept as Hegel would have it, that is, the symbolic hold over the real, or the hold we have, the one that anxiety gives us, the sole final perception and as such the perception of all reality – and that between the two, one has to choose?”

“The analyst certainly ought to be the one who, however little, from some angle, from some line of approach, had merged his desire back into this irreducible a sufficiently to offer the question of the concept of anxiety a real guarantee.”

Jacques Lacan, Seminar X: Anxiety, lesson of 3 July 1963
(Ed. J.-A. Miller; trans. A.R. Price)

14.45 In-person registration / Zoom open room

15.00 Welcome and Introduction

Rostik Bershadsky

Symposium opening and argument: Anxiety: Between Desire and Jouissance

This year Sydney Group for Lacanian Psychoanalysis continued the study of Lacan's Seminar X – Anxiety, and exploration of anxiety's links with essentially pertinent concepts of desire, jouissance, castration, forms of object a, and death drive.

To allow the psychoanalytic discourse resonate with the profound discontents of our time and what makes the function of the real, the 'scattered signifiers' were conjured up to join in with what would be possible to articulate as a response that would not fail to be ethical.

Rostik Bershadsky, PhD, is a Lacanian psychoanalyst, forensic clinician and criminologist. He is a registered practicing analyst of the ACP and the member of the Forum of Melbourne of the International of Forums of the Lacanian Field. He is the co-convenor of the Sydney Group for Lacanian Psychoanalysis.

15.10

Leonardo S. Rodríguez

Desire in inhibitions, symptoms and anxiety

The paper discusses the vicissitudes of desire when it is alienated in the three modalities of suffering that Freud distinguished. Psychoanalysis with children offers the opportunity of working with the inhibitions, symptoms and anxiety of young patients and their families in status nascendi and the attempts at resolution that they spontaneously create. The analyst's desire, forewarned (averti), as Lacan says, should assist in dealing with the development of anxiety that such work may elicit. Clinical examples will illustrate the conceptual questions.

Leonardo S. Rodríguez, PhD, is a psychoanalyst, a founding member of the Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis, of the Forum of Melbourne, and of the International of Forums of the Lacanian Field and its School of Psychoanalysis. He is an Analyst Member of this School and has taught and published extensively on psychoanalytic theory and practice.

15.30

Ofelia Brozky

Anxiety when faced by what one cannot reconcile

Subjects don't want to know about the real; however, when faced by unthinkable trauma, each one, in its singular response to the impossible to say, experiences anxiety. We learn with Lacan that anxiety does not deceive, and its essential function is not in relation to desire, but in relation to the real.

Survivors of violence, terror, kidnapping, torture, abuse and other forms of freedom deprivation, refer to the intense anxiety they experienced at the mercy of a threatening Other. We come to know about it, either by those that arrive to our clinics, or by encounters in other settings.

Experiences of recent times, as well as meeting a survivor from Khmer Rouge Prison S-21, have resulted in scattered signifiers trying to constellate this paper.

Ofelia Brozky is a Lacanian psychoanalyst in private practice in Sydney and an overseas trained psychiatrist. She is a registered practicing analyst of the Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis and a member of the Forum of Melbourne and of the International of the Forums of the Lacanian Field. She is the co-convenor of the Sydney Group for Lacanian Psychoanalysis.

15.50

Danny Bryant

The Erotogenic Zones of Interest

Jacques Lacan nominated the object petit a as his most original contribution to psychoanalysis. Reflecting upon this, in his text, "Television: A Challenge to the Psychoanalytic Establishment", Lacan would state that he founded the affect of anxiety "on the abject [abjet] that I have come to call my object petit a". The concept of the abject was taken up by Julia Kristeva in her 1980 text, Powers of Horror: An Essay on Abjection. This paper will attempt to compare these two concepts with reference to clinical material and Jonathan Glazer's film, The Zone of Interest.

Danny Bryant is an analyst candidate and member of the ACP and a member of the Forum of Melbourne. He is the convenor of the Seminar on the Formation of the Psychoanalyst and is a participant in the working group on Desire in the works of Jacques Lacan. He works as an analyst and clinical psychologist in private practice.

16.10

Discussion

16.40

Break

17.00

Khalil Sbeit

Anxiety and uneasiness in time of war



In my speech, I will try to address a number of questions that accompany me in the shadow of the current war, which the country and the area in which I live, are going through. Does psychoanalysis and psychoanalysts have a role in a time of war, and if so, what is it? What is the act or action that an analyst can propose, when the "analyst" or more precisely, the one affected by this discourse, is himself included in the situation of the war? In what way is the subject's anguish and/or uneasiness reflected in the clinic during the war? Is it possible to preserve and be loyal or close to the analytical discourse under the erupting real of the war and its threats?

In an effort to answer these questions, I will try to rely both on the psychoanalytic literature, clinical work experience, and my own path in psychoanalysis as an analysand.

Khalil Sbeit, Member of the Israeli Society for Psychoanalysis in the New Lacanian School (GIEP-NLS). Member of NLS and WAP. Founder and former director of "Little Hans" a Hebrew-Arabic psychoanalytic centre for counselling and therapy for children and adolescents, in the city of Haifa. Lives and works in the city of Haifa, Israel.

18.00

Discussion

18.30

Break

19.00

Claire Baxter and
Krzysztof Sobkowicz

The Name of The Horse

In the Name of the Rose, on their journey, William and Adso encountered monks who were searching.

'Are you looking for the horse?' William asked.

'Yes! When did you see him?'

'We haven't seen him', replied William, *'But if you are looking for Brunellus, he went in that direction.'*
'Brunellus!? How did you know it was him?' exclaimed the monks.

'It is obvious that you are hunting for Brunellus, the abbot's favorite horse, the fastest and most beautiful.'

The bewildered monks went in the direction William indicated. Shortly afterwards, the monks walked past with the horse they had been seeking.

'That was my master's way. He not only knew how to read the great books, but he also knew the way monks read the books of Scripture, and how they thought through them.'

It was as if William had said to the monks *'Are you looking for the mother with a penis?'*

And the monks replied, *'Yes! But how on earth could you know? They are so rare that they literally don't exist.'*

What does perversion teach about anxiety and castration? Does Umberto Eco, who famously criticized Lacan for having too much ontology, nevertheless reach the same conclusion about anxiety?

Krzysztof Sobkowicz is a screenwriter and video editor in Warsaw, Poland, with an interest in the depiction of dreamwork in films. He has an MA degree in Screenwriting from Buckinghamshire New University. He previously worked as journalist and video editor for Polish Television 'Superstacja'.

Claire Baxter is a psychologist in Melbourne who has an interest in exploring the phenomena of 'ADHD' outside of the medical model.

Krzysztof and Claire are the co-directors of an amateur, international, online theater company dedicated to the exploration of Greek tragedy.

19.20

Gary Gallagher

It is not there

Anxiety causes repression (Freud). In a sketch... Freud's repression comes in two tranches. The first *Urverdrängung* [primal repression], the second *Verdrängung* - repression proper. Leading into the moment that Lacan takes up the notion of *Verwerfung* in psychosis (**On a question Prior to any Treatment of Psychosis**) he articulates metaphor as function (in the direction of the mathematical sense). The bar in the matheme taken as repression appears twice. If we read the first as *Urverdrängung* and the second as *Verdrängung* (reading the formation of the matheme right to left) we notice that the phallus only becomes a possibility if the function of metaphor is successfully produced. A theoretical question can then be posed as to whether anxiety, cause of repression, is produced with *Urverdrängung* or *Verdrängung*.

"The problem is that what you teach it ...[subject of the unconscious] to read has absolutely nothing to do, in any case, with what you can write of it" **Encore** (p.37)

Gary Gallagher is a member of the ACP and is a nurse working in respiratory medicine. He is currently employed as a Clinical Nurse Consultant in the Cystic Fibrosis Clinic of the Alfred Hospital.

19.40

Indranil Mitra

A Study of Anxiety and Jouissance in Yasuzo Masumara's "Blind Beast"

My presentation will attempt a Lacanian reading of the 1969 Japanese Film, *Blind Beast*, directed by Yasuzo Masumara, in the light of seminal Lacanian concepts such as anxiety, jouissance and the death drive. The model Aki Shima is abducted by the blind sculptor Michio, whose only desire appears to be motored by the erotic wish to sculpt the body parts of beautiful women. His visual disability is compensated by the "art of touch" that is sustained by the sensuous pleasure of caressing the sculpted body parts. Aki will be the model for his magnum opus. She seems to appropriate and become an object of his jouissance, going blind herself, descending into bestial sadomasochistic sexual acts with him, and finally demanding that he cut off her limbs. My reading will introduce a subtle twist, arguing that the entire abduction narrative is Aki's own psychotic delusion. From the beginning she has a disturbed relation with her body image, and the delusion seems to end in a regression towards a primal undifferentiated jouissance, accompanied by experiences of fragmentation of her body.

Indranil Mitra is Assistant Professor of English in an undergraduate college affiliated to the University of Calcutta. He is also pursuing his PhD at the Department of English at Presidency University, Kolkata.

His research focuses on Freudian and Lacanian Psychoanalysis; the interface between psychoanalysis and culture studies; science fiction and speculative fiction.

20.00

Discussion

20.30

Finish