



THEME FOR 2025 – 2026

Love, desire, jouissance and the ethics of psychoanalysis

Freud's genius brought about an important break from the conventional theories of ethics because unlike others, he did not start from previously accepted ethical principles when it came to a theory of psychoanalysis. He allows us to reconsider ethics with the inception of the polymorphously perverse drive, with its perverse wishes and fantasies in the human libidinal economy. Lacan takes up this point and stresses that anyone who attributes an inherent morality to the subject's libidinal life misses the most important point of Freud's discovery of the unconscious. In Seminar VII on the Ethics of Psychoanalysis (1959-60), Lacan goes further than Freud and tells us that psychoanalysis is an ethical stance in relation to the unconscious and cannot be separated from ethics. Its ethics lies in the experience of the unconscious.

The moral experience involved in psychoanalysis is the one that is summed up in the original imperative proposed in what might be called the Freudian ascetic experience, namely *Wo es war, soll Ich werden*, with which Freud concludes the second part of his *Vorlesungen* (Introductory lectures) on psychoanalysis. The root of this is given in an experience that deserves the term 'moral experience' and is found at the beginning of the entry of the patient into analysis. (Seminar VII, p. 7)

This fundamental imperative for psychoanalysis tells us that the unconscious is an ethical imperative for the subject. For Lacan, this places ethics at the very heart of psychoanalysis, the heart of its existence and the essence of the problems it presents us with as psychoanalysts, both in theory and in practice. Psychoanalysis is not the adoption of the ideal or the moral good but is an encounter with the real of the unconscious which is akin to a confrontation with the unconscious, and a search for desires that go against the ethical rules and ideals that have defined the subject. According to Lacan, that confrontation leaves each subject 'standing at the door' because 'the ethical limits of psychoanalysis' coincide with the limits of its practice.' (Seminar VII, p. 21). As Lacan says 'isn't its true duty to oppose that command?' (Seminar VII, p. 7).

Our theme during 2025 and 2026 will be the ethics of psychoanalysis, following the theme of the International Forums of the School of Psychoanalysis of the Lacanian Field (IF-SPFLF). The work of the ACP will address this theme and to study and research this subject 'duty'. How does the subject respond to 'duty' in the way that they love, desire and enjoy?

ORIENTATION SESSION

Seminar convenors and the co-ordinators of the Introductory Course and Four Year Program of Studies will present their planned activities.

Date

February 15

Time

10.30am – 12.30pm

Venue

Treacy Conference Centre, Parkville

Contact

Carmelo Scuderi
T 0438 281 789
carmelo.scuderi@psychoanalysis.org.au

ACP PROGRAM OF CLINICAL AND THEORETICAL STUDIES

Four Year Program of Clinical and Theoretical Studies

Participants of the Four-Year Program are engaged in a systematic study of the key concepts of Freudian and Lacanian psychoanalysis across four years. Emphasis is given to clinical practice and the ethics particular to psychoanalytic practice.

The program provides a theoretical foundation for those wishing to undertake training in psychoanalysis with the ACP. The course runs over two semesters, for the duration of fourteen weeks each semester.

Date

Semester One

February 22 – June 21

Semester Two

August 2 – November 22

Saturdays Time

8.45am – 12.30pm

Venue

Treacy Conference Centre, Parkville

Contact

Helena Sandahl
Convenor
T (03) 9380 4458
helena.sandahl@psychoanalysis.org.au

Year One Participants are introduced to the foundational concepts of the unconscious, discourse, sexuality, the drives, and the object.

Year Two Participants will study the fundamental concepts of repetition and transference, then undertake a rigorous study of psychopathology and clinical structures established by Freud and by Lacan.

Year Three Participants will study the fundamental ethical questions linked to the clinical practice of psychoanalysis. This includes a study of Freud and Lacan's contribution to the field of Ethics and Lacan's concept of the analyst's desire.

Year Four The program concentrates on psychoanalysis with children and adolescents, and on special clinical problems such as addictions, psychosomatic phenomena, contemporary issues of sexual identity, mental retardation, eating disorders and criminology.

Those interested in studying with the ACP please contact the Co-ordinator of the four-year program Helena Sandahl. Any member of the ACP or previous participant who wishes to refresh their knowledge is also welcomed and encouraged to contact the Co-ordinator.

INTRODUCTORY COURSE IN PSYCHOANALYSIS

This series of seminars is suitable for professionals who want to develop an understanding of psychoanalysis and is open to anyone interested in learning about it through the study of Freud's cases and the perspective that Jacques Lacan brings to bear on them. The course thus aims to introduce participants to the fundamental concepts that lie at the heart of psychoanalysis and to provide a broad introduction to the work of both Freud and Lacan. Through the use of clinical material to highlight theoretical concepts, the course aims to assist participants in linking these concepts to their own practice, whether in the clinic or in other settings. It is thus suitable for both those who intend to practice clinically and others with a more general interest.

Date

Semester One

February 22 – June 21

Semester Two

August 2 – November 22

Saturdays Time

10.30am – 12.30pm

Venue

Treacy Conference Centre, Parkville

Contact

Deborah McIntyre
Convenor
acpintrocourse@gmail.com

STUDENT STUDY DAY

Students of the ACP are invited to present their work.

Date

Saturday December 6

Time

9.30am – 1pm

Venue

Treacy Conference Centre, Parkville

Contact

Helena Sandahl
Convenor
T (03) 9380 4458
helena.sandahl@psychoanalysis.org.au

INTERNATIONAL LACAN SEMINARS

Organised by the ACP and the Forum of Melbourne (IF-SPFLF). This Seminar is open to all colleagues interested in psychoanalysis. Please check the website for further details.

The Borromean Clinic with Cevasco and Chapuis (Online)

Rithée Cevasco and Jorge Chapuis

These seminars are oriented by Lacan's seminars, from Seminar XIX (*... or Worse*), when he first presented the Borromean knot, to Seminar XXVI (*Topology and Time*) seminar. It is an introduction to the Borromean methodology and writing, which constitute a new paradigm in psychoanalytic theory and clinical praxis.

ACP XXVI SYMPOSIUM and FORUM OF MELBOURNE COLLOQUIUM

The annual Symposium/Colloquium will be a presentation of papers on the theme for the year.

THE SEMINAR FOR CONTEMPORARY STUDIES IN FREUD AND LACAN

The four fundamental concepts of psychoanalysis and the Real (Réel) unconscious.

The seminar will take place at the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists in Sydney, and online, every two weeks on Friday, beginning 28th February.

SYDNEY LACAN SYMPOSIUM II

This symposium will be conducted by the Seminar for Contemporary Studies in Freud and Lacan.

CLINICAL SEMINAR

The clinical seminar program will be guided by the ethics of clinical practice specific to the practice of psychoanalysis as founded by Freud and elaborated by Lacan. The seminar will show how this unfolds for the analyst and analysand using the presentation of analytic cases by members of the ACP.

Date

Semester One

Date to be advised

Semester Two

Date to be advised

Contact

Carmelo Scuderi

T 0438 281 789

carmelo.scuderi@psychoanalysis.org.au

Nicol Thomas

IF-SPFLF delegate

forumofmelbourne@gmail.com

Julie-Anne Smith

IF-SPFLF delegate

forumofmelbourne@gmail.com

Date

Saturday June 28

Venue

Treacy Conference Centre, Parkville

Contact

Carmelo Scuderi

T 0438 281 789

carmelo.scuderi@psychoanalysis.org.au

Nicol Thomas

IF-SPFLF delegate

forumofmelbourne@gmail.com

Julie-Anne Smith

IF-SPFLF delegate

forumofmelbourne@gmail.com

Date

Semester One

Begins February 28

Semester Two

Begins August 1

Time

6pm – 8pm

Contact

Rostik Bershadsky

rostik.berhadsky@gmail.com

Ofelia Brozky

ofelia.brozky@psychoanalysis.org.au

Date

Saturday November 29

Contact

Ofelia Brozky

T 0425 221 269

ofelia.brozky@psychoanalysis.org.au

Date

Semester One

March 1, March 29, May 10, May 31

Semester Two

August 9, September 6, October 18, November 8

Time

1pm – 2.30pm

Venue

Treacy Conference Centre, Parkville

Contact

Carmelo Scuderi

Convenor

T 0438 281 789

carmelo.scuderi@psychoanalysis.org.au

STUDY GROUP ON PSYCHOANALYSIS WITH CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

The study group on Psychoanalysis with Children and Adolescents studies questions relating to the clinical and conceptual field of psychoanalysis with children and adolescents.

All interested members and students of the ACP are invited to participate. Please contact the Convenor before the first meeting to express your interest.

Date

Semester One
Begins April 29 (8 meetings)

Tuesdays Time

8pm – 9.30pm

Contact

Helena Sandahl
Convenor
T (03) 9380 4458
helena.sandahl@psychoanalysis.org.au

TUESDAY SEMINAR

Love and the ethics of psychoanalysis

We have been working on desire, love and jouissance, and it is now pertinent to address the ethical dimension of love in psychoanalysis.

All interested colleagues are welcome. If you have not participated in the Tuesday Seminar before, please contact the Convenor, Leonardo Rodríguez.

Date

Semester Two
Begins August 26 (10 meetings)

Tuesdays Time

8pm – 9.30pm

Contact

Leonardo Rodríguez
Convenor
T 0447 631 947
leonardosrodriguez@bigpond.com

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date

October 4

Venue

Treacy Conference Centre, Parkville

PLANNING MEETING 2026

Date

October 18

Venue

Treacy Conference Centre, Parkville

TRAINING AS A PSYCHOANALYST WITH THE ACP

Training in psychoanalysis comprises: personal analysis, supervision of clinical cases, and a rigorous course of study in the theory and clinical practice of psychoanalysis.

Members of the ACP engaged in clinical practice and studies may apply for candidature to the psychoanalytic training program by becoming an Analyst Candidate (AC) with the ACP.

If you are interested in training with the ACP, or for more information regarding training with the ACP please contact the Convenor of the Training Committee.

The candidates meetings are online.

Date

Dates for candidates meetings
March 18, June 24, September 18,
November 27

Time

8pm – 9.30pm

Contact

Carmelo Scuderi
Convenor, Training Committee
T 0438 281 789
carmelo.scuderi@psychoanalysis.org.au

CLINIC OF THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR PSYCHOANALYSIS

The aim of the Clinic is to facilitate affordable psychoanalytic treatment for adults and children.

The treatment will be conducted by analysts and analyst candidates of the ACP. Please call 0408 225 993 to make an appointment.

Contact

Julie Stephens
Administrative Co-ordinator
clinicpsychoanalysiscontact@gmail.com

PUBLICATIONS

Analysis is the journal of the Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis. *Analysis* has been publishing articles that make a significant contribution to psychoanalysis both locally and internationally since 1989. Authors who would like to discuss submission of their work and for submission guidelines to *Analysis* please contact the editor for further details.

Editions can be purchased from our website: www.psychoanalysis.org.au

Contact

Lenore Stephens
Editor
T 0401 327 911
EditorAnalysisACP@gmail.com

WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK

For further information about the ACP and its activities visit our website www.psychoanalysis.org.au or subscribe to our Facebook page.

Contact

Glenn Rutter
Secretary
glennrutter@bigpond.com

International Forums of the School of Psychoanalysis of the Lacanian Field

FORUM OF MELBOURNE

The Forum of Melbourne is a member of the International Forums of the School of Psychoanalysis of the Lacanian Field (IF-SPFLF). Cartel work will be organised by the ACP and the Forum of Melbourne. This work will include the work of the Seminar on Formation.

CARTELS

What is the cartel?

Within the school of Psychoanalysis, Jaques Lacan proposed the cartel as a small working group of four to five and 'Plus One' who was chosen to support the group effort. The cartel objective is to encourage each member to actively participate in the praxis of psychoanalysis, namely the possibility of each member's unique experience would contribute to a genuine 'work transference'.

The International cartels of the School

Cartels are defined as intercontinental and bilingual. Its aim is to promote new and multiple links for work on psychoanalysis in intension, as the base level of the School. This network, will find a space where the cartel work can find new resonance, through a newsletter, conferences, inter-cartel activities, and other forms to be invented.

www.champlacanian.net

SEMINAR ON THE FORMATION OF THE ANALYST

This Seminar focuses on questions pertaining to the formation of the analyst and analytic discourse. It operates via the development of cartels and/or individual contributions, which are orientated around the theme of the formation of the analyst. This year the seminar will be conducted in conjunction with the Forum of Melbourne.

IV EUROPEAN CONVENTION OF THE IF-SPFLF VENICE, ITALY

The theme of the European convention will be the symptom in psychoanalysis. The sub-themes will be:

- The transformations of the symptom in analysis
- The analytic symptom in children
- The analyst as the partner of the symptom

There will be simultaneous translation into English. To register please visit the link below.

www.forumlacan.it/iv-convegno-europeo-if-epfcl/en/iscriviti

XIII INTERNATIONAL ENCOUNTER (RENDEZVOUS) OF THE (IF-SPFLF)

The International Rendezvous will be in Sao Paulo, Brasil. The theme will be the Ethics of psychoanalysis and the others.

Please check the website for registration details.

www.champlacanian.net

Date

Semester One

February 15, March 15, April 12, May 17, June 14

Semester Two

August 2, August 23, September 20, October 25, November 22

Time

1pm – 2.30pm

Venue

Treacy Conference Centre, Parkville

Contact

Nicol Thomas

IF-SPFLF delegate

forumofmelbourne@gmail.com

Julie-Anne Smith

IF-SPFLF delegate

forumofmelbourne@gmail.com

Contact

Danny Bryant

Convenor

T 0403 746 161

dannybryant@y7mail.com

Date

July 12 – 14

Date

July 23 – 26, 2026

www.psychanalysis.org.au

For further information email contact@psychanalysis.org.au

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