



The Ambassadors, Hans Holbein the Younger 1533

The Seminar for Contemporary Studies
of Freud and Lacan opens a 2-year
course in 2025 - 2026
'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 (RANZCP)
761 Darling Street, Rozelle NSW 2039 or remotely by Zoom

australian
centre for
psychoanalysis

Argument

*... in avoiding the **I think**, I avoid the discussion that results from the fact that this **I think**, for us, certainly cannot be detached from the fact that he can formulate it only by **saying** it to us, implicitly – a fact that he forgets...*

*In a precisely similar way, Freud, when he doubts – for they are his dreams, and it is he who, at the outset, doubts – is assured that a thought is there, which is unconscious, which means that it reveals itself as absent. As soon as he comes to deal with others, it is to this place that he summons the **I think** through which the subject will reveal himself. In short, he is sure that this thought is there alone with all his **I am**, if I may put it like this, provided, and this is the leap, someone thinks in his place.*

Lacan, Seminar XI, lesson of 29 January 1964

Colette Soler comments on the above dissymmetry between Freud and Descartes regarding certainty. The discovery of psychoanalysis shows that this certainty is not found in the subject of thought. It is the Other or the psychoanalyst that is responsible for underpinning the presence of the unconscious. For Lacan the subject of the unconscious manifests itself or thinks before it attains certainty. In some sense we here have a Freudian subversion of Descartes' subject – the subject of thought, self-consciousness and mastery. The subject of the unconscious thought presents himself rather as a slave submitted to the effects of language. It is a subject subverted by the world of signifiers.

Lacan's trajectory leads beyond this. This is why Seminar XI can be viewed as one of a (final) breaking points, not only from the Société Française de Psychanalyse, but also from Freud himself. However, this was not to make Lacan's pathway as anti-Freudian but rather as moving beyond Freud, and in a way with Freud himself. Jacques-Alain Miller suggested to call the Freudian unconscious the transferential one. It presupposes a link between S_1 and S_2 . Lacan comes to discover the instance where this transferential connection is no longer operative. In the Preface to English-Language Edition of Seminar XI he writes the following: *'When the space of a lapsus no longer carries any meaning (or interpretation), only then is one sure that one is in the unconscious'*. In this space of a lapsus one is sure – one as self all alone, that knows. This does not happen in the register of intersubjectivity nor that of inter-significance, between S_1 and S_2 . There is no 'friendship' there to support this (transferential unconscious). It is there where Lacan finally states: *'The unconscious is not what one thinks it is, I say: the unconscious is real, if you take my word for it'*.

This year we will try undertaking a fascinating line of research, beginning from Freud, 'the incontestable theoretician of the unconscious', proceeding with Lacan, through a close reading of one of his central and perhaps most important seminars, and relying on illuminating contributions by Jacques-Alain Miller and Colette Soler, eventually to get as close as possible to grasping the 'notion' of the unconscious as real.

Semester I (9 meetings)

'The Unconscious and Repetition'

28 February	The Seminar on the Names-of-the-Father: Lecture 'The symbolic, the Imaginary, and the Real'	Rostik Bershadsky
14 March	The Seminar on the Names-of-the-Father: Lecture 'Introduction to the Names-of-the-Father' Part I	Carmelo Scuderi
28 March	Seminar XI: Preface to English-Language Edition	Rostik Bershadsky
11 April	The Seminar on the Names-of-the-Father: Lecture 'Introduction to the Names-of-the-Father' part II	Helena Sandahl
9 May	Seminar XI: chapter I 'Excommunication'	Ofelia Brozky
23 May	Seminar XI: chapter II 'The Freudian Unconscious and Ours'	Ofelia Brozky
6 June	Freud – 'The Unconscious' (1915) Part I	Leonardo Rodríguez
20 June	Freud – 'The Unconscious' (1915) Part II	Leonardo Rodríguez
4 July	Freud – 'Repression' (1915)	Rostik Bershadsky

Semester II (9 meetings)

'Of the Gaze as Object *Petit a*'

1 August	Seminar XI: chapter III 'Of the Subject of Certainty'	Peter Ellingsen
15 August	Seminar XI: chapter IV 'Of the Network of Signifiers'	Ofelia Brozky
29 August	Seminar XI: chapter V 'Tuché and Automaton'	Danny Bryant
12 September	Seminar XI: chapter VI 'The Split between the Eye and the Gaze'	Rostik Bershadsky
26 September	Seminar XI: chapter VII 'Anamorphosis'	Danny Bryant
10 October	Seminar XI: chapter VIII 'The Line and Light'	Ofelia Brozky
24 October	Seminar XI: chapter IX 'What is a Picture?'	Peter Ellingsen
7 November	The Real Unconscious (part I) with Jacques-Alain Miller	Rostik Bershadsky
21 November	The Real Unconscious (part II) with Colette Soler 'Lacan, The Unconscious Reinvented'	Ofelia Brozky
29 November	Sydney Symposium II	
5 December	Conclusion & Planning Meeting for 2026	

Bibliography for 2025

Lacan, J. (2013 [1953; 1963]) *On the Names-of-the-Father* (trans. B. Fink). Cambridge: Polity.

Lacan, J. (1998 [1964]) *The Seminar of Jacques Lacan Book XI: The Four Fundamental Concepts of Psychoanalysis* (A. Sheridan). New York & London: W. W. Norton & Company.

Freud, S. (2001 [1915]) The Unconscious. *In The standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud*, Volume 14. London: Vintage.

Freud, S. (2001 [1915]) Repression. *In The standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud*, Volume 14. London: Vintage.

Miller, J.-A. (2006) The Real Unconscious (trans. R. Grigg). From the Course 'The Lacanian Orientation – The very final Lacan. Department of Psychoanalysis, University of Paris VIII.

Soler, C. (2014) *Lacan - The Unconscious Reinvented*. London: Routledge.

The seminar will be held on Fridays on a fortnightly basis starting from 28th February 2025; between 6pm - 8pm

The seminar is open to ACP members, mental health practitioners and students and a broader audience interested in psychoanalysis.

General fees

One semester \$900; whole year \$1700

Fees for the ACP members

One semester \$750; whole year \$1400

Fees for students

One semester \$500; whole year \$900

Enrolment requires an interview with the seminar's convenors

For enquiries and enrolment please contact

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For remote attendance Zoom link will be sent to the enrolled participants.

The teachers of The Seminar for Contemporary Studies of Freud and Lacan

Dr Rostik Bershadsky

Psychoanalyst, forensic clinician. Teacher and a member of the ACP. Member of the Forum of Melbourne of IF-SPFLF.

Danny Bryant

M.Psych, Clinical Psychologist in private practice. Member of the ACP. Member of the Forum of Melbourne.

Dr Ofelia Brozky

Lacanian psychoanalyst in private practice and an overseas trained psychiatrist. Member and a teacher of the ACP and a member of the Forum of Melbourne of IF-SPFLF.

Dr Peter Ellingsen

Practising analyst for 20 years, ACP teacher and former coordinator of the Introductory Course in Psychoanalysis, Walkley award-winning writer and author of two books on mental health and psychoanalysis.

Dr Leonardo S. Rodríguez

Psychoanalyst, a founding member and a teacher of the ACP and of the International School of Psychoanalysis of the Forums of the Lacanian Field. Analyst Member of the School. Previously was a Senior Lecturer at Monash University and at Victoria University and has published 'Psychoanalysis with Children'.

Dr Helena Sandahl

Psychoanalyst, a member of ACP, of the Forum of Melbourne, and of the International of Forums of the Lacanian Field and its School of Psychoanalysis. Current convenor of the ACP's four-year program of clinical and theoretical studies, in which she also teaches.

Dr Carmelo Scuderi

Registered psychoanalyst (ACP) in private practice, clinical and forensic psychologist, member of the school, IF-SPFLF.