

40TH
ANNIVERSARY



2026



FORTY YEARS
OF THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE
FOR PSYCHOANALYSIS

40TH
ANNIVERSARY

A group of psychoanalysts and students of psychoanalysis who had been working together in psychoanalytic research and study, for some years, founded the Melbourne Centre for Psychoanalytic Research in 1986.

The founding members were Jan Aitken, Louise Buckle, Russell Grigg, Cliff Judge, Robert King, Carmela Levy-Stokes, Susan Long, Brenda Marshall, Fran Minson, Robyn Riley, Leonardo Rodríguez, Silvia Rodríguez and Diane Wieneke.

The Melbourne Centre for Psychoanalytic Research expanded the activities of the study and research group through regular clinical and theoretical seminars, cartels, an annual conference and special international seminars with invited guests from other countries. Exchanges with individual colleagues and psychoanalytic institutions from interstate and overseas multiplied over the first years after foundation.

Three years after its creation, we decided to take the initiative and assume responsibility for the training of psychoanalysts. A four-year course on psychoanalytic theory and practice was instituted and at the same time, our journal *Analysis* was also created.

Our international collaborative work with colleagues and institutions from other countries affiliated with the World Association of Psychoanalysis led us to join the WAP in 1992 and we changed our name to the 'Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis in the Freudian Field'. Regular international seminars were established with leading psychoanalysts from many parts of the world.

Together with other associations and individual psychoanalysts in other countries, in 1998 we separated from the WAP. Divergencies concerning the training of psychoanalysts and the democratic organisation of psychoanalytic schools led to deletion of the 'in the Freudian Field' and our Centre became the 'Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis'. Some colleagues preferred to stay with the WAP, but the majority of our members decided to adopt an independent position. A good proportion of our members created the Melbourne Forum of the Lacanian Field in 1999, affiliated with the International of the Forums of the Lacanian Field, which created its own School two years later. A few of us were active in that process that took place internationally and then became founding members of the new School (School of Psychoanalysis of the Forums of the Lacanian Field – SPFLF).

In many ways the effects of our working together have exceeded our expectations. But the struggle is not over, as Freud said at the start of his exile in London. It is the desire for the work still to be done and its attractions that now keeps us together – and it keeps us very well.

Leonardo Rodríguez

The Ethics of Psychoanalysis in the Contemporary World: Love Desire and Jouissance in 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 for 2026 continues to 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 study and research the subject's 'duty'. How does the subject respond to 'duty' when 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.

When

February 14

Time

10.30am – 12.30pm

Where

Venue to be confirmed

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.

When

Semester One

February 28 – June 27

Semester Two

August 1 – November 21

Saturdays Time

8.45am – 12.30pm

Where

Venue to be confirmed

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.

When

Semester One

February 28 – June 27

Semester Two

August 1 – November 21

Saturdays Time

10.30am – 12.30pm

Where

Venue to be confirmed

Contact

Deborah McIntyre

Convenor

acpintrocourse@gmail.com

STUDENT STUDY DAY

Students of the ACP are invited to present their work.

When

Saturday December 5

Time

9.30am – 1pm

Where

Venue to be confirmed

Contact

Helena Sandahl

Convenor

T (03) 9380 4458

helena.sandahl@psychoanalysis.org.au

INTERNATIONAL LACAN SEMINARS

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis in 2026 a series of international seminars, with some of the important psychoanalysts to have visited and taught in Melbourne, will be conducted, in person and on-line. International seminars will be conducted by Bernard Nominee, Colette Soler, Darian Leader and Dimitra Kolonia, a recently nominated Analyst of the School (IF-SPFLF). Dates and venues to be confirmed. Please check the website and Facebook page.

International Lacan Seminar with Bernard Nominee

Lacan and the voice object: the voice object and the structure of language

This seminar will examine the Freudian references that led Lacan to isolate the voice as an object at the heart of the Other's speech, without however being able to respond to it. It will then examine the pace of this object in the structure of language from the perspective of Borromean theory. Clinical consequences will be deduced.

When

Saturday February 21

Sunday February 22

Where

Online via Zoom

Contact

Carmelo Scuderi

T 0438 281 789

carmelo.scuderi@psychoanalysis.org.au

Julie-Anne Smith

Forum of Melbourne delegate

melbournepsychoanalyticforum@gmail.com

The Borromean Clinic with Rithée Cevasco and Jorge Chapuis (Online)

These seminars will continue the work begun in previous years 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.

When

Saturday February 7

Where

Online via Zoom

Contact

Carmelo Scuderi

T 0438 281 789

carmelo.scuderi@psychoanalysis.org.au

Julie-Anne Smith

Forum of Melbourne delegate

melbournepsychoanalyticforum@gmail.com

Sex and Psychoanalysis with Darian Leader

Analysts were often depicted in popular culture as obsessed with sex, which perhaps made them reticent at times to explore sexuality in their work. What might a renewed attention to sexual practices bring to light, and what dialogue is possible with those other disciplines that study sexuality?

When

Saturday June 20

Where

Online via Zoom

Contact

Carmelo Scuderi

T 0438 281 789

carmelo.scuderi@psychoanalysis.org.au

ACP XXVII SYMPOSIUM and FORUM OF MELBOURNE COLLOQUIUM

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

When

Saturday August 29

Where

Venue to be confirmed

Contact

Carmelo Scuderi

T 0438 281 789

carmelo.scuderi@psychoanalysis.org.au

Julie-Anne Smith

Forum of Melbourne delegate

melbournepsychoanalyticforum@gmail.com

THE SEMINAR FOR CONTEMPORARY STUDIES OF FREUD AND LACAN

Theme for 2026: Transference and Drive

This year's seminar will continue its focus on Lacan's Seminar XI: the Four Fundamental Concepts of psychoanalysis, complemented by foundational texts by Freud. 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 27th February.

When

Begins February 27

Time

6pm – 8pm

Contact

Rostik Bershadsky

rostik.bershadsky@gmail.com

Ofelia Brozky

ofelia.brozky@psychoanalysis.org.au

SYDNEY LACAN SYMPOSIUM III

Organised by the Seminar for Contemporary Studies in Freud and Lacan, this year's symposium will explore the theme of transference and drive. The event will also feature an international keynote speaker.

When

Saturday November 28

Contact

Rostik Bershadsky

rostik.bershadsky@gmail.com

Ofelia Brozky

ofelia.brozky@psychoanalysis.org.au

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.

When

Semester One

March 14, April 18, May 23, June 20

Semester Two

August 8, September 12, October 24, November 14

Time

1pm – 2.30pm

Where

Venue to be confirmed

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. Please contact the Convenor before the first meeting to express your interest.

When

Semester One

Begins April 28 (8 meetings)

Tuesdays Time

8pm – 9.30pm

Contact

Helena Sandahl, Convenor

T (03) 9380 4458

helena.sandahl@psychoanalysis.org.au

TUESDAY SEMINAR

Affectivity in psychoanalysis

Having been working on desire, love and jouissance, 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.

When

Semester Two

Begins August 18 (10 meetings)

Tuesdays Time

8pm – 9.30pm

Contact

Leonardo Rodríguez

Convenor

T 0447 631 947

leonardosrodriguez@bigpond.com

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

When

October 3

Where

Venue to be confirmed

PLANNING MEETING 2027

When

October 24

Where

Venue to be confirmed

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 a practising analyst (PA) 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.

When

Dates for candidates meetings
March 17, June 23, September 17,
November 26

Time

8pm – 9.30pm

Where

Online via Zoom

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 registered analysts and practising analysts 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 and individual articles 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 and subscribe to our mailing list or our Facebook page.

Contact

Glenn Rutter
Secretary
glennrutter@bigpond.com

International of Forums: School of Psychoanalysis of the Forums of the Lacanian Field (IF-SPFLF)

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.

www.melbournepsychoanalyticforum.com.au

When

Semester One
March 21, April 11, May 16, June 13

Semester Two
August 1, August 22, September 19, October 17, November 21

Time

1pm – 2.30pm

Where

Venue to be confirmed

Contact

Julie-Anne Smith
Forum of Melbourne delegate
melbournepsychoanalyticforum@gmail.com

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 is a joint seminar of the Forum of Melbourne and the ACP.

When

Semester One
March 21, April 11, May 16, June 13

Semester Two
August 1, August 22, September 19, October 17, November 21

Time

1pm – 2.30pm

Where

Venue to be confirmed

Contact

Danny Bryant
Convenor
T 0403 746 161
dannybryant@y7mail.com

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 contributing to a genuine transference to work.

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.

International Cartel Study Day

www.champlacanien.net

Contact

Danny Bryant
Convenor
T 0403 746 161
dannybryant@y7mail.com

Julie-Anne Smith

Forum of Melbourne delegate
melbournepsychoanalyticforum@gmail.com

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.champlacanien.net

When

September 19, 2026

When

July 23 – 26, 2026

www.psychanalysis.org.au

For further information email contact@psychoanalysis.org.au

ACP P.O. Box 509 Carlton South Victoria 3053

