

The Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis XXVII Symposium
and the Forum of Melbourne Colloquium

Love, desire, jouissance and the ethics of psychoanalysis



Saturday 5 September 2026

9:00am - 4:00pm Australia/Melbourne

University College

40 College Crescent, Parkville

9.00am **Arrive**

9.10am **Welcome and Opening remarks**
Carmelo Scuderi
President, Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis
Analyst Member of the School
International Forums - School of Psychoanalysis of the Forums
in the Lacanian Field (IF-SPFLF)

9.20am **Opening remarks**
Julie-Anne Smith
Delegate of the Forum of Melbourne
Member of the School
International Forums - School of Psychoanalysis of the Forums
in the Lacanian Field (IF-SPFLF)

9.30am **Dr Leonardo Rodriguez**
Love, desire and jouissance in psychoanalysis with children

‘The child is in psychoanalysis a subject in her or his own right and in the full sense of the word’. Rosine and Robert Lefort’s definition of the position of the analyst who works with children is especially relevant today, more than forty years later, as changes in cultural conditions have re-defined the positions of the child and the family in the world where we live. The consequences for love, desire and jouissance in the development of the transference relation and the direction of the treatment will be discussed in the light of clinical experience.

Leonardo s. Rodriguez, PhD, is a psychoanalyst, a founding member of the Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis, of the Forum of Melbourne and of the School of Psychoanalysis of the Forums of the Lacanian Field. He is the Coordinator of the Institute for Training and of the Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis. He published Psychoanalysis with Children:History, Theory and Practice (London and New York, Free Association Books, 1999) and numerous book chapters and journal articles in several languages.

10.00am **Danny Bryant**
Pathologies of the law in times of a tension deficit

A major tenet of psychoanalytic theory has been the function of the father as a law which facilitates a separation from the mother’s jouissance. This has undergone a number of revisions over the years from Freud’s theory of the Oedipus Complex to Lacan’s theories of the Name-of-the Father and the Sinthome. To what extent could the current "pandemic" of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) be understood as an expression of a failure of the father function? What alternative explanations could account for this phenomenon? This paper will briefly consider these questions in light of recent clinical experience.

Danny Bryant is a registered psychoanalyst working in private practice based in Melbourne, Australia. He is a member of the Forum of Melbourne and of the Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis.

10.30am **Coffee Break**

11.00am **Barbara Hübl**

The ethics of the desire in a school of psychoanalysis

The ethics of psychoanalysis, an ethics of desire, is essential in the psychoanalytic clinic, where the social bond is given an anchoring point by Lacan's matheme of the discourse of the analyst. If ethics are relative to a discourse, how to orient the desire of an analyst in a psychoanalytic school?

Barbara Hübl, is a practising analyst, Member of the Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis, the Forum of Melbourne and Member of the School of Psychoanalysis of the Forums of the Lacanian Field (IF-SPFLF).

11.30pm **Simon Westcott**

In his *Letters to a Young Poet*, the late-Romantic Austrian poet Rainer Maria Rilke considers the question of subjectivity as it relates to both artistic endeavour and how men and women come to love. 'I hold this to be the highest task of a bond between two people', he writes; 'that each should stand guard over the solitude of the other'.

I am interested in how Rilke's conception of solitude in relationship approaches, and differs from, Lacan's formulations of the divided subject and the absence of sexual rapport. Is it possible to intuit in Rilke's thinking what we might think of, psychoanalytically, as an 'ethical' position? Does Rilke's view of love replicate the analyst's desire for the 'absolute difference' of their patient? And what, if anything, might Rilke's adjacency to the Freudian milieu in his own relationship with Lou Andreas-Salome, have brought to these questions in the first place?

Simon Westcott is a Practising Analyst working with patients in Castlemaine, Melbourne and Hong Kong. He was born in the UK, and studied Literature at Oxford, Indiana, and Sussex Universities. He is currently the plus one for a cartel on Sexuality, and is interested in ethical and practical questions of psychoanalysis in extension.

12.00pm **Lunch Break**

1:00pm **Psychoanalysis and Psychiatry**

In this section, three psychoanalysts will present cases and three psychiatrists will discuss them.

Brief introduction

Silvia Rodríguez

1:10pm

Case Presentation by Paco Romeu Soler

Paco is a practising psychoanalyst and an Accredited Mental Health Social Worker (AMHSW). Prior to working full-time in private practice, he worked for over a decade across diverse fields of practice, including inpatient and outpatient adult mental health at The Royal Melbourne Hospital, substance dependence services, Orygen Youth Mental Health, sexual assault services, and the Royal Children's Hospital.

Discussant: Dr Sam Lieblich

Sam Lieblich is a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst based in Melbourne. He has particular experience in de-prescribing psychotropics, and in working with: patients with eating disorders, Indigenous patients in remote communities, prisoners and the homeless.

1:50pm

Case Presentation by Nicol Thomas

Dr Nicol Thomas is a psychoanalyst in private practice in naarm/Melbourne, Australia. She also supervises analysts and conducts workshops in Aotearoa. Nicol Thomas is a Registered Practicing Analyst, Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis; an Analyst Member of the School, International of Forums – School of Psychoanalysis of the Forums of the Lacanian Field; Member, and a member of The Centre for Lacanian Analysis Aotearoa.

Discussant: Dr Denis O'Loughlin

Dr Denis O'Loughlin is a retired psychiatrist and psychoanalytic psychotherapist. After qualifying as a psychiatrist in 1995, he completed training with the Victorian Association of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapists (1999-2005) and, from 2018 to 2021, completed the four-year training programme of the Australian Centre of Psychoanalysis. He worked as a psychoanalytic psychotherapist in private practice and taught and supervised psychotherapy cases for psychiatry trainees at Peninsula Health and St Vincent's Hospital.

2:30pm

Case Presentation by Silvia Rodríguez

Silvia is a psychoanalyst in private practice, Founder Member of the Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis and the Forum of Melbourne. Analyst Member of the School of Psychoanalysis in the Lacanian Field.

Discussant: Dr Eamon Cooke

Dr Eamonn Cooke is a Psychiatrist with a particular interest in Psychoanalysis, drawing on the Lacanian tradition. After medical school and several years working in hospitals, he undertook training in general psychiatry, child psychiatry, and psychotherapy in the 1980s, followed by further training in psychoanalysis at the Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis. In addition to his private practice, he sits on the Victorian Mental Health Tribunal.

3:30pm

General Discussion

4:00pm

End