

Lacan Circle of Melbourne

STUDY DAYS 2009

The labyrinth of obsessional neurosis

Saturday 4 April 9.30am – 1.00pm

The Australian Institute of International Affairs, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne 3002 (both parking-friendly and public transport-accessible).

This month we continue our study of Freud's classic case of the Rat Man with Lacan's subsequent contribution to the study of obsessional neurosis. Dates for the year are listed below. Put them in your diary.

The Rat Man

We begin the day, 9.30 – 11.00, with a close reading of Freud's classic text on the Rat Man, *Notes upon a case of obsessional neurosis*, *Standard edition* volume 10. We focus on the section 1, part (D) "Initiation into the nature of the treatment" and part (E) "Some obsessional ideas and their explanation".

The Name-of-the-Father

The Rat Man's relationship with his father is both prominent and problematic; this question of the father is central to obsessional neurosis, as Freud realized. Lacan gives a central place to what he calls the Name-of-the-Father both in obsessional neurosis as elsewhere. We will therefore make this issue of the Name-of-the-Father the focus of our work at the Study Days in April, May and June. To prepare for this discussion, we recommend the three articles by Eric Laurent, listed below.

Alongside these monthly Study Days the Lacan Circle also offers a fortnightly seminar on Wednesdays on *Fundamental texts in psychoanalysis*, which this year is on Lacan's *Seminar V, Formations of the unconscious*. The theme of the labyrinth of obsessional neurosis is complemented by this seminar; particularly relevant is the discussion of Lacan's extensive analysis of the Oedipus complex.

In the second half of the year the Study days will combine a continued discussion of Freud's Rat man case with Lacan's analysis of obsessional neurosis from the last section of *Seminar V*.

Reading

Sigmund Freud, 'Notes upon a Case of Obsessional Neurosis', Section 1, part (D) "Initiation into the nature of the treatment" and part (E) "Some obsessional ideas and their explanation". In *Standard Edition* vol. 10

Eric Laurent, "How to recompose the Name-of-the-Father?" *International Lacanian Review*. Translated by Rivka Warshawsky from: "Comment recomposer les Noms-du-Père?" *Élucidation* n° 8/9, Paris, Verdier, 2004.

Eric Laurent, “The Name-of-the-Father: Psychoanalysis and democracy”, *Lacanian Compass* (2006), vol 1, no. 7. Translated by Maria Cristina Aguirre.

Eric Laurent, “Symptom, discourse: In/out”. Translated by Russell Grigg.

Laurent’s three papers are available here on the Lacan Circle of Melbourne website, <http://lacancircle.net>

Registration for the Study Day is \$30 (\$20 full-time students).

Please contact Russell Grigg rgri8998@bigpond.com.au if you have any queries.