

Lacan Circle of Melbourne

STUDY DAYS 2010

SATURDAY 20 FEBRUARY

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

The Wolf Man : Semblants, Symptoms and Sinthomes

9.30am – 5.00pm

Lacan's later work moves from the general to the particular, from the linguistic account of symptoms to the specifics of a sinthome, from the generalized construction around the Name-of-the-Father to the specific manner in which each finds a solution in his or her sinthome. The true originality of Lacan's contribution originated in the recognition that the Other does not exist and that there is only a semblance of the Other in its stead. This discovery changed everything: whereas the Name-of-the-Father was originally designed to guarantee the Other's existence, and whereas its foreclosure in psychosis would produce serious disturbances at the level of the Other, Lacan was henceforth led to the recognition that the Name-of-the-Father is a lure. He then arrives at the thesis that there is no Other only its semblance, leading, as Miller has put it, to the conclusion that one can only make do without the Name-of-the-Father on condition that one makes use of it as semblant.

The study of semblants and sinthomes will be complemented by a close reading of Freud's most 'modern' case, the Wolf Man, whose symptoms, with their non-classical and in some ways unclassifiable presentation, provides an opportunity to put some of Lacan's later theory to the test.

There is a variety of resources we can draw on for discussing these issues at our study days this year. Current research in the World Association of Psychoanalysis, in preparation for its Seventh Congress in Paris, 26-30 April, has produced a number of publications, just as some useful publications have recently appeared. Some of these are listed below, following the program.

Program

9.30 – 11.00 *The Wolf Man*

A detailed study of Freud's classic text on the Wolf Man, *From the history of an infantile neurosis*, *Standard edition* volume 17. Discussion will be led by Justin Clemens.

11.30 – 1.00pm *Semblants and sinthomes* – Russell Grigg

Introduction to the development of Lacan's later work.

2.00 – 3.00 *Child as symptom* – Clodagh Norwood

A commentary on Lacan's "A Note on the child".

3.30 – 4.30 *Sinthome as the fourth knot* – Sarah Curtis

A discussion of Lacan's introduction of the 'fourth knot' in the seminar *Le sinthome*.

Reading: P. Dravers (2005).

4.30-5.00 *General discussion*

Bibliography

Dravers, P. (2005). 'Joyce & the sinthome: Aiming at the fourth term of the knot'.

Psychoanalytic notebooks of the LSNLS 13. *Lacan with Joyce*.

<http://www.londonsociety-nls.org.uk/pdfs/Joyce&sinthome.pdf>

Grigg, R. (2007). 'Semblant, phallus and object in Lacan's teaching'. *Umbra* no. 1, pp

131-138. An earlier version, 'The concept of semblant in Lacan's teaching', is

available at <http://www.lacan.com/griggblog.html>

Lacan, J. (1969). 'Note on the child', *Analysis* 2 (1990); *Psychoanalytic notebooks of the LSNLS* 20 (2010).

Psychoanalytical Notebooks of the London Society of the NLS vol. 20 (2010), *Objet a and the semblant*, and vol 19 (2009), *Ordinary psychosis*.

Voruz, V. and B. Wolf (2007). *The Later Lacan*. Albany: SUNY Press.

Websites

Website of the World Association for the Seventh Congress

http://www.congresoamp.com/en/template.php?file=bibliographie_raisonnee/textos/bo_nveau_exil.html

Semblants and sinthomes: an English-language library

<http://semblantsandsinthome.wordpress.com/>

Papers of the Action Committee of the School One

http://www.congresoamp.com/en/textos/papers/papers_01_en.pdf

Registration \$60, LCM members \$40, FT students \$30

Contact Russell Grigg rgrigg4@optusnet.com.au if you have any queries.