

Lacan Circle of Melbourne

CLINICAL SEMINARS 2009

SATURDAY 15 AUGUST

**The Australian Institute of International Affairs, 124 Jolimont Road, East
Melbourne 3002 – parking friendly and public-transport accessible**

WORKING WITH DESIRE AND DEMAND IN CLINICAL TREATMENT OF NEUROSES

2.00PM – 5.00PM

Program

In the first half of 1958 Lacan examined the relationship between demand, desire and the drive in relation to his celebrated Graph of Desire. The nine seminars he held during this time, published in his *Seminar 5, Formations of the unconscious*, are a valuable contribution to the clinical treatment of neurosis and of obsessional neurosis in particular.

We will devote our four meetings this semester to a study of themes from these sessions from 30 April 1958 to 2 July 1958. Because the labyrinth of obsessional neurosis is our theme for this year, we will focus specifically on Lacan's discussion of obsessional neurosis at the two sessions of 14 May 1958 and 21 May 1958. However, because Lacan almost always approaches obsessional neurosis by contrasting it with hysteria, we will discuss what he has to say in his analysis of the hysteric's dream of smoked caviar, reported by Freud in *The Interpretation of Dreams*.

Saturday 15 August

Desire and demand in dreams in analysis

The beautiful butcher's wife's dream, or the smoked salmon dream, displays the structure of unconscious desire in the context of the analysis itself. We will examine the dreams of "l'eau qui dort", or "still waters", analyzed by Lacan in *Seminar 5*.

Reading

Lacan, J. *Seminar 5, Formations of the unconscious*, sessions of 30 April 1958 and 7 May 1958; chaps. 20 and 21 in the French, *Le séminaire V, Formations de l'inconscient*

Saturday 19 September

Obsessional desire I

Beyond the obsessionals' stratagems lies the complexities of their desire

Reading

Lacan, J. *Seminar 5, Formations of the unconscious*, translated by Cormac Gallagher, session of 14 May 1958; chap. 22 in *Le séminaire V, Formations de l'inconscient*, edited by JA Miller, Paris, Seuil.

Saturday 17 October

Obsessional desire II

Lacan, J. *Seminar 5, Formations of the unconscious*, session of 21 May 1958; chap. 23 in *Le séminaire V, Formations de l'inconscient*.

Saturday 21 November

The phallus in the circuit of desire

Reading

Lacan, J. *Seminar 5, Formations of the unconscious*, sessions of 11 and 18 June 1958; chaps. 25 and 26 in *Le séminaire V, Formations de l'inconscient*.

Registration is \$60 (\$40 full-time students), or \$30 (students \$20) for a half day.

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