



LACUNAE

**APPI International Journal for
Lacanian Psychoanalysis**

Issue 15, November 2017



Table of Contents

Editorial.....4
Eve Watson

**Roman Jakobson at Lacan’s Seminar on 1st February
1967.....9**
Jacques Lacan (trans. Dan Collins)

**Only He Whose Desire is Fading Asks “What Should I
Do?”29**
Serge Cottet

**A Life of Writing and Being Written: The Wolf Man’s
Literary *Sinthome* and his Psychoanalytic
Amanuensis.....57**
Michael Holohan

Knowing, Hoping, Doing.....77
Philippe De Georges

**Ego Portrait: Self Photography as Symptom in
Contemporary Technoculture.....95**
Chris Vanderwees

The Man With the Inner Gaze.....111
Philippe Lacadée

**The Slip of Sex: Some Remarks on the So-Called “Gender
Identity Disorder”119**
Gustavo Dessal

**Psychoanalytic Interpretation – Through a Lacanian
Lens.....135**
Alan Rowan

Book Review: Psychiatric Diagnosis Revisited: From DSM To Clinical Case Formulation, by Stijn Vanheule

.....170

Claire Hawkes

Book Review: The Anti-Oedipus Complex: Lacan, Critical Theory and Post-Modernism, by Rob

Weatherill.....180

Carol Owens

Lacunae Contributors to Issue 15.....188

Guidelines for Contributors.....192

EDITORIAL

Eve Watson

Welcome to Issue 15 of *Lacunae*. The collection of essays in this bumper-sized issue is varied and, as often happens, congruent. Throughout and interspersed in the nine articles are indelible traces of Kant's categorical imperatives; Aristotle's measurements; the legacy of Descartes; Jakobson's linguistics; interpretation; Freud's cases of the Wolf Man, the Rat Man, the hysterics; symptoms, including various functions of the *sinthome*; post-modernism; as well as diagnosis in the contemporary world.

For the first time, Roman Jakobson's talk on February 1, 1967 is translated into English and is available to anglophone readers of Lacan. The translation is by Dan Collins. This talk, given during Lacan's fourteenth seminar, *The Logic of Phantasy*, is a fascinating and lively exchange between Lacan, Jakobson, Jenny Aubry, Luce Irigaray, Jean Oury and others. It is an important addition to the reading of this seminar in which Lacan describes phantasy, like the unconscious, as structured like a language and essential to the economy of desire of the speaking subject.

Serge Cottet mesmerises in his article, *Only He Whose Desire is Fading Asks 'What Should I Do?'* in which he draws on his vast knowledge of both Kant and Lacan. Filled with exemplars and clinical relevancies, this article weaves a course through the tangled web of themes that are morality, pleasure and *jouissance* with the help of Barthes, Racine, Sade, Sartre, and he asks the reader to think anew about "fresh brains."

Michael Holohan is a first-time contributor to *Lacunae* and he boldly addresses the case of the Wolf Man in his article, *A Life of Writing and Being Written: The Wolf Man's Literary Sinthome and his Psychoanalytic Amanuensis*. He re-evaluates the case history and life story of the Wolf Man, utilising Lacan's notion of the *sinthome* and other sources, to reassess the Wolf Man and his particular relationship to writing as a function necessary to maintaining a sense of self. Michael's analysis brings to the fore again the question of the Wolf Man's structure.

In *Knowing, Doing, Hoping*, Philippe De Georges also draws upon the work of Kant, so important to Lacan, to critically assess the question of knowing and its links to determinism, freedom and reason in the post-Enlightenment era. He deploys the example of the "The Parable of the Gallows" to distinguish Kant's universalising maxims from the singularity of analytic knowledge. This article is an excellent companion to Cottet's and is a must-read for those interested in the importance of morality and ethics (especially Kantian) throughout Lacan's work, from the post-War years right through to the seventies.

The "selfie" is Chris Vanderwees' focus in his captivating article, *Ego Portrait: Self Photography as Symptom in Contemporary Technoculture*. Chris, who is also a new contributor to the journal, examines the selfie as more than a superficial narcissistic tool spawned by contemporary devices. He argues that the "selfie" warrants serious consideration through its links to photography, and as a symptom of post-modernity in which the contemporary subject renews a sense of "self" via the ego-portraiture of the "selfie" and its potential function as a *sinthome*.

In *The Man With the Inner Gaze*, Philippe Lacadée provides an exemplary case of psychosis for the reader to consider. This thought-provoking case describes the private speech of Lacadée's analysand whose relationship to the Other is structured by the sense of being thought into being by the gaze of the Other. The reader is called upon to think about the role of the analyst in such a case and how the analyst functions as a reference-point for the analysand in his challenging relationship to his world and the people in it.

Gustavo Dessal, in his timely and important article, *The Slip of Sex: Some Remarks on the So-Called "Gender Identity Disorder,"* examines an important and provocative issue of our time. He assesses how clinical teams in hospital settings address this area in different ways, and outlines classifications or groupings of those supposedly disordered in their gender. He indicates the relevance of the Freudian field of "bisexuality," as well as Lacan's notion of the *sinthome*, in assessing contemporary transgenderism, as well as the role of the unconscious in any psychoanalytic approach to a consideration of issues of sex and gender. Where, he asks, is "sex" in contemporary gender theory and in transgenderism?

In his article, *Psychoanalytic Interpretation: Through a Lacanian Lens*, Alan Rowan draws on his considerable clinical and teaching experience to evaluate this crucially important aspect of psychoanalytic practice. With insightful clinical examples and discursive flourish, this account asks to the reader to carefully distinguish between Lacanian psychoanalytic interpretation and other forms of psychoanalytic and psychotherapeutic interpretation.

In this issue we have two book reviews. Claire Hawkes reviews Stijn Vanheule's recently published book, *Psychiatric*

Diagnosis Revisited: From DSM to Clinical Case Formulation (Palgrave MacMillan, 2017). In her review, Claire extolls the importance of this book for the contemporary psychoanalytic practitioner through its analysis of the role of psychiatric diagnosis as deterministic, objectifying and limiting in considering the psyche of the contemporary subject. Stijn's research into the history, context and universalising approach of the DSM is superb, and is set against the value of the singular case study as a mode of precisely formulating the constitutive structuring factors relevant to a speaking subject.

Rob Weatherill's, *The Anti-Oedipus Complex: Lacan, Critical Theory and Post-Modernism* (Routledge, 2017) is reviewed by Carol Owens. Rob is one of Ireland's most prolific psychoanalytic writers and in this book he brings together an analysis of culture in terms of its collapse, and anti-Oedipal forces, which he links to deconstructionism, anti-logocentrism and extremist politics, with the work of psychoanalytic writers such as Lacan, Kernberg, Bion and Verhaeghe, and the critical theory of writers such as Baudrillard and Zizek. In her thoughtful review, Carol reflects on the importance that Rob places on the work of Levinas in rejuvenating the failed space of the anti-Oedipal project, and on the necessity of psychoanalysis in the contemporary world to counter these forces.

Finally, I would like to gratefully acknowledge this issue's contributors, its reviewers, our proofreader, and also some of the more unknown contributors who make a journal issue such as this possible. There are four translated articles in this issue and each article has a translator and reviewer who are dedicated members of the journal's translation panel. The translation work of Florencia

Lacunae, Issue 15, November 2017

Shanahan, Olga Cox Cameron, Joanne Conway, Pauline O'Callaghan, Raphael Montague and Kieran O'Meara has been heroic and inspirational, and is greatly appreciated.

See you in the Summer of 2018 for our next issue.