



AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR PSYCHOANALYSIS

PROGRAM OF CLINICAL AND THEORETICAL STUDIES

YEAR 2 - SEMESTER 1 (4 WEEKS)

THE THEORY OF TRANSFERENCE

Freud referred to psychoanalysis as a cure by love. In saying this he was referring to the transference; it is the mainspring and motor of psychoanalytic work, but it can also be a major obstacle and responsible for its becoming interminable. Freud discovered evidence of repetition compulsion in the phenomena of the negative therapeutic reaction, and regarded the transference as serving both Eros and the death drive.

Post-Freudians orientations made the transference neurosis central to their conceptualisation of psychoanalytic praxis. Interpretation was completely focussed on the “here and now in the room”, and the concept of “counter-transference” as a form of knowledge entered psychoanalytic technique. Lacan critiques these “deviations” as he argues that love and the ideals it gives rise to are not enough to produce an end of analysis marked by the singularity of desire and “absolute difference” – the only stance which will enable the analysand to assume responsibility for his/her unconscious knowledge.

For Lacan transference is one of the four fundamental concepts of psychoanalysis. Both Freud and Lacan were alert to the tendency—the consequence of transference love—to reduce the transference an identification with the analyst as an ideal. The ethics upon which psychoanalytic practice is grounded runs in the opposite direction. The management of the transference is at the heart of the work of the analyst. It will inform the analyst’s interpretations and thus the status of the psychoanalytic act.

Lacan defines the transference as the love of the analysand addressed to the analyst, the one supposed to know the truth of the subject’s unconscious. However, it is precisely from this position of ideal that the analyst must fall if an analysis is to reach its end, so that the subject be confronted with the *semblant* which supports his/her desire. Transference can only produce this effect if it is oriented by lack and does not find its answer in the analyst as ego ideal. *Seminar VIII* is dedicated to a year to the study of transference by Lacan. He uses the discourse on love presented by Plato’s *Symposium* to uncover the true dimensions of transference love. Lacan argues it is the desire of the analyst that constitutes the motor of psychoanalysis.

GENERAL READING GUIDE

SIGMUND FREUD

- (1905e [1901]) Fragment of an Analysis of a Case of Hysteria. SE 7: 3.
- (1909d) Notes Upon a Case of Obsessional Neurosis. SE 10: 153.
- (1912b) The Dynamics of Transference. SE 12: 97.
- (1915a [1914]) Observations on Transference-Love (Further Recommendations on the Technique of Psycho-Analysis, III). SE 12: 149.
- (1916-1917 [1915-1917]) Transference, Lecture XXVII, *Introductory Lectures on Psycho-Analysis*, Part III. SE 16: 431.
- (1918b) From the History of an Infantile Neurosis. SE 17: 3.
- (1920a) The Psychogenesis of a Case of Homosexuality in a Woman. SE 18: 147.
- (1937c) *Analysis Terminable and Interminable*. SE 23: 211.
- (1940a [1938]) *An Outline of Psycho-Analysis*. Chapter VI, The Technique of Psychoanalysis. SE 23: 172.

JACQUES LACAN

- (2006) Presentation on Transference, In *Écrits. The First Complete Edition in English*. Trans. B. Fink. London and New York, W.W. Norton & Co., 176-185.
- (2006) The Direction of the Treatment and the Principles of Its Power, In *Écrits. The First Complete Edition in English*. Trans. B. Fink. London and New York, W.W. Norton & Co., 489-537.
- (1988 [1953-1954]) *The Seminar of Jacques Lacan, Book I, Freud's Papers on Technique*. Trans. J. Forrester. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- (1988 [1954-1955]) *The Seminar of Jacques Lacan, Book II, The Ego in Freud's Theory and in the Technique of Psychoanalysis*. Trans. J. Forrester and J. S. Tomaselli. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- 2015 [1960-61]) *The Seminar of Jacques Lacan, Book VIII, Transference*. Trans. B. Fink, Polity Press, Cambridge.
- (2014 [1962-63]) *The Seminar of Jacques Lacan, Book X, Anxiety*. Trans. A. R. Price, Polity Press, Cambridge.
- (1991c [1964]) The Transference and the Drive; The Field of the Other and Back to the Transference; To Conclude. In *The Four Fundamental Concepts of Psychoanalysis*. Trans. A. Sheridan. London and New York, W. W. Norton & Co.
- (1967-68) *The Seminar of Jacques Lacan, Book XV, The Psychoanalytic Act*. Unpublished transcript (available at www.lacaninireland.com).
- (1972---1973) *The Seminar of Jacques Lacan, Book XX, On Feminine Sexuality, The Limits of Love and Knowledge, Encore*. Trans. B. Fink. New York; London, W. W. Norton & Co.
- (1976---1977) *The Seminar of Jacques Lacan, Book XXIV, L'insu que sait de l'une-bévue s'aile à mourre*. Unpublished transcript (last four sessions available at www.lacaninireland.com)
- (1995) Proposition of 9 October 1967 on the Psychoanalyst of the School. Trans. R. Grigg. *analysis* 6.

FURTHER READING

- Bruno, P. (1991) The surprise of the transference. *Analysis* 3, 54-58.
- Grigg, R. (1989) The function of language in the transference, *Analysis* 1, 66-80.
- Feldstein R., Fink, B., Jaanus, M. Eds. (1995) *Reading Seminar XI*, Part III: Transference and the Drives; Part VI: Discovery and Psychoanalytic Practice. New York, State University of New York Press.
- Fink, B. (2007) *The Fundamentals of Psychoanalytic Technique: A Lacanian Approach for Practitioners*. Chapter 7, pp. 126-187. W.W.Norton & Co. Press, New York.
- Fink, B. (2016) *Lacan on Love: An Exploration of Lacan's Seminar VII, Transference*. Polity Press, Malden U.S.A.
- Izcovich, L. (2017) *The Marks of a Psychoanalysis*. Trans. Faye, E. Schwartz S. London, Karnac-CFAR .
- Palomera, V. (1994) Modalities of the Transference, *Analysis* 5, 17---25.
- Rodríguez, L. & Rodríguez, S. (1989) On the Transference. *Analysis* 1, 165-185.
- Soler, C. (1996) Transference. In *Reading Seminars I and II, Lacan's Return to Freud*. Eds. R. Feldstein, B. Fink, M. Jaanus. New York, State University of New York Press.
- Soler, C. (2001) The relation to being—the analyst's place of action. *Analysis* 10, 137-159.
- Soler, C. (2002) Symptoms of Transference. *Analysis* 11, 60-73.
- Soler, C. (2014) *The Unconscious Re-Invented*. Trans. Faye, E. & Schwartz, S. Londo, Karnac-CFAR.
- Soler, C. (2016) *Lacanian Affects: The function of affect in Lacan's work*. London, Routledge
- Wieneke, D. (1989) Transference as resistance. *Analysis* 1, 186-207.