



Programme Axis for 2024-2025

Love, Sex, Family, Today

J-A Miller stresses that psychoanalysis is changing today and with it the perception of the urgency of the necessity of getting up to dateⁱ.

Love, Sex, Family are three master signifiers that speak to contemporary society and its rapid changes. Each signifier evokes both pleasure and pain - modes of (dis)contents which present in the psychoanalytic clinic. Lacanian analysis does not prop up traditional ways of being, it takes the real and the speech addressed to another into account and discerns how each subject inhabits their mode of jouissance by questioning the nature of love, modes of sexual satisfaction and styles of family in an era of the Other without Other yielding to the One all alone.

Sexuality makes a hole in the real and the sexual encounter contingent as it may be is always established symptomaticallyⁱⁱ. Psychoanalysis has shown us that it is impossible to define what is a man and what is a woman, there is no natural programme - no universal to find the answer. The human species is open to variation, (...) and inventing modes of relating to sexⁱⁱⁱ. Today the binary of the sexual bond no longer holds, satisfaction is frequently reached in a direct way mainly when the phallic key is not operational. Anatomy is no longer destiny, the unconscious is denied, there is no questioning, it is a case of *I am what I say*^{iv} the subject more spoken than speaking.

Lacan called the lack of a sexual programme for life *the sexual non rapport*, that cannot be said, it is the inexistence of a universal that could be written^v; a hole in knowledge included in the real^{vi}. Love is what makes up for this sexual non rapport.

Family is the foundation of the symbolic order for both Freud and Lacan, Freuds Oedipal family and Lacan's family of the Name of the Father. This traditional symbolic family is fading fast, disrupted greatly by science and globalisation. Knowledge is no longer in the voice of the father but is found in various gadgets. Lacan recognised this and his later teaching is no longer what it was at the start but relates to the One of jouissance.

Family is fundamentally tied by a secret about jouissance and united by an unsaid desire, it is one of the figures of the impossible - the real. Family, described by Miller as *a unique knotting of language, desire, demand, taboos, collusion, dramas, and private codes (...) it composes the founding texture of speech and jouissance that gives the subject its fabric*^{vii}.

So, what of love? There are many ways to love, imaginary, symbolic and real. Sexual desire in itself cannot generate love. For Lacan *love is to give what one does not have to someone who does not want it*, whereas Freudian love is one that receives and is in the dimension of having. For Freud love is narcissistic, to love the one who is like me, one's ideal image reflected. Within human sexuality there is a failure to create one.

In Lacan's teaching there is another love that is not associated with imaginary merger, but love that concerns the Other. In Seminar V111 Lacan speaks of courtly love, where lack is at the heart of the problem of love. The beloved holds the truth of my being containing the precious thing that I lack, thus linking love with unconscious knowledge. Lacan placed this love within the analytic discourse under transference. Transference operates on a singular pathway without reciprocity where the analysand bases transference on the formulation "*the subject supposed to know*" and ending with the analysand reconciling himself with his singularity of his own constructions rather than electing a readymade solution.^{viii} Courtly love is a sophisticated way of making up for the absence of the sexual relationship.

Love is paradoxical and in the analytic clinic we meet with "painful loves" the *jouissance* so often difficult for the subject to describe - what has been lost in love. Love is not ever an "all" it is a "not all" accompanied by loss and lack, to give what one does not have. There is an opacity at the heart of love which has no coordinates and is organised by modes of *jouissance*, one mode inscribed in the symbolic with the signifier of the phallus, or another mode beyond the phallus which is beyond or before the signifier and sense^{ix}.

In today's society with the rise of the object to the social zenith which determines *jouissance* we more than ever need to give a place to love because love introduces the lack that this discourse rejects. Can it be said that love can be in the register of the real? if so, Fajnwaks quotes Brousse saying that this love would be a love "without piety"^x.

The three themes of the forthcoming NLS^{xi}, PIPOL 12^{xii} and WAP^{xiii} Congress will be at the centre of ICLO-NLS Programme of work for the year with various events and spaces where research and learning take place. Join us in our work.

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ⁱ Miller, J-A., *The Unconscious and the Speaking Body*. On the Unconscious in the 21st Century, Scilicet: A New Lacanian School Publication 2016

ⁱⁱ Miller, J-A., *The Signature of the Symptom* The Lacanian Review issue 11 P.41-45

ⁱⁱⁱ Miller, J-A., *op. cit*

^{iv} Lacan, J. *Encore* Seminar XX On Feminine Sexuality, The Limit of Love and Knowledge 1972-1973 p.111 Norton Publications 1998

^v Miller, J-A., *op. cit*.

^{vi} Miller, J-A., *A Real for the 21st Century* Presentation of the 9th WAP Congress P25.Scilicet 2014 A New Lacanian School Publication

^{vii} Miller, J-A., *New Knottings of Kith and Kin*, The Lacanian Review issue 04 p.72

^{viii} Voruz, V., *Love and the Ego Delights of the Ego* The Lacanian Review issue 05 p.159

^{ix} Bassols, M, *Ramon Llull's Amancia: A Mysticism or a Science of Love*. The Lacanian Review issue 01 P158

^x Fajnwaks, F, *Love after Love: A Real Love?* Love Event, Psychoanalytical Notebooks issue 40

^{xi} "Painful Loves", XX111rd <https://www.amp-nls.org/nls-messenger/painful-loves-presentation-of-the-2025-nls-congress-theme-by-patricia-bosquin-caroz/> To be held in Paris on 17/18May 2025

^{xii} "Family and its Discontents" PIPOL 12 <https://www.europsychoanalysis.eu/pipol/?lang=en> To be held in Brussels on the 12/13 July2025

^{xiii} "There is no Sexual Relation" XVth Congress of the World Association of psychoanalysis. To be held in Paris 2026