

## **LSP \$CHOLaR FORMATION**

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## **LSP \$CHOLaR FORMATION GUIDELINES**

### **I - APPLICATION**

Applications and admissions are made on an ongoing basis.

#### **1- Criteria for Application**

- . At least one full year of personal Lacanian psychoanalysis
- . Demonstrate an interest in Freudian and Lacanian psychoanalysis

#### **2- Application Package**

- . A LETTER OF INTENT detailing the applicant's interest and goals in the study of Freudian and Lacanian psychoanalysis and the Scholar formation
- . A current CURRICULUM VITAE

The application package should be sent by email to [sflacan@gmail.com](mailto:sflacan@gmail.com). Any questions regarding the formation should be directed to the School's email ([sflacan@gmail.com](mailto:sflacan@gmail.com)) and the applicant will be contacted by a member of the School (Application Coordinator) to discuss the formations offered and the applicant's specific situation.

Applications are reviewed on an ongoing basis by the Analysts of the School during the monthly Meeting of the Analysts.

#### **3- Two Application Interviews**

After receipt of the application package, the applicant will be put in contact with 2 Analysts of the School to schedule 2 interviews, one with each Analyst. The fee is \$50 per interview, payable to the individual analyst at time of interview, or as directed by the analyst interviewer.

#### **4- Review & Decision by Analysts of the School**

Prior to admission or rejection, all applications are subject to a case-by-case assessment at the Meeting of the Analysts, based on the application package and reports by the interviewers.

Once applications have been reviewed, the school's Application Coordinator will notify the applicant of acceptance or rejection via phone or email.

An applicant who is admitted to the School becomes a **Precandidate Scholar** of the School. A Precandidate Scholar is accepted to study Freud and Lacan by the School. It is the school who designates the scholar to begin their formation.

As soon as they are admitted, all Precandidate Scholars need to choose an **Advisor** (see Advisorship guidelines) who needs to be to be a Scholar of the School or an Analyst of the School.

## **II – THEORETICAL TRAINING – 4 years**

As part of the prerequisites to their formation, scholars in formation are expected to undergo no less than 4 years of theoretical training, at any time. The theoretical training may consist of a combination of lectures, seminars, case conferences or cartels related to theory and clinical studies in Freudian and Lacanian psychoanalysis, unless exception has been granted by the Analysts of the School.

Scholars in formation are expected to discuss their theoretical training with their Advisor at least once a year. They are responsible for documenting their theoretical training for no less than 4 years. Scholars in formation may choose from a variety of theoretical studies, as listed below:

### **1- School Seminars**

The seminars serve as the foundation of the transmission of the theoretical material. The seminars are non-evaluative, but require attendance and active participation.

### **2- School Clinical Case Conference/Clinical Seminar**

The clinical case conference applies Lacanian concepts and techniques to case material provided by Precandidates and Candidates of the School. Guidelines for the direction of treatment and the interpretation of unconscious material will be provided. Visiting psychoanalysts may participate in the case conference sessions. Due to patient's confidentiality, Scholars in formation may attend clinical conferences with consent from their organizers.

### **3- Cartels**

The cartel is a group of three to five students who meet on a regular basis to work on a single topic or question of psychoanalytic interest. The group is periodically joined by an additional person or plus one (*plus un*) who serves to disperse the group effects and leadership structure. Cartels may be formed at any point in the academic year and usually disband after one year of work.

### **4- Independent or Personal Studies**

Scholars in formation may engage in personal studies independently and may write and present original papers to the members of the School or may choose to publish their work.

### **5- Freudian/ Lacanian Study Groups**

Scholars in formation can form study groups around certain Lacanian or Freudian theoretical or clinical topics, papers, articles or books in order to widen their own field of interest.

### **6- Teaching / Facilitating**

Scholars in formation are strongly encouraged to teach certain Lacanian concepts within or outside of the School, for instance an *Introduction to Lacan* course, or to facilitate seminars on the topics of their choice, subject to approval by the Program Committee if within the School.

### **7- Special Events & Guest Speakers**

Scholars in formation are encouraged to attend special events organized by the School, usually around the theme developed in that year. These are opportunities for all to broaden their exposure to Lacanian practice and theory, as well to confront their own perspective outside of the School.

### **8- External Seminars or Conferences**

Scholars in formation are encouraged to attend or participate in Lacanian conferences or presentations offered by other Lacanian psychoanalytical organizations in the US or abroad.

The theoretical training can take place at anytime during the Scholar's formation. It needs to be completed before the *demande* for the Traversée is formulated though.

## **III – PERSONAL ANALYSIS**

Central to the Scholar formation is Personal analysis with a Lacanian analyst ending with a changed symptom and a new ethical position, whose logical end is determined by the analysand.

The school requires a Scholar in formation to undergo and complete a personal analysis with an Analyst of the School, or a Lacanian analyst approved by the School via the Meeting of Analysts.

Scholars in formation are expected to have begun their personal analysis concurrent for at least a year prior to engaging in their formation at LSP. Because confidentiality is essential to a personal analysis, Scholars in formation will only be asked to self-document the completion of their personal analysis with the start date, end date and name of analyst. Neither the scholar in formation nor their analyst will be asked to provide any further information.

Scholars in formation whose prior analysis meets the criteria elaborated above may request that their prior analysis satisfy the School's requirement. This type of waiver will be granted only after careful evaluation by the Analysts of the School. Those who have already done personal analytical work with a non-Lacanian analyst will be required to undergo a Lacanian analysis with an Analyst of the School or a Lacanian analyst approved by the School via the Analysts of the School. A personal analyst should have no other relationship with the Scholar in formation. For instance, a personal analyst cannot also be an advisor, a teacher, or a supervisor in other areas of the Scholars in formation's training. It is acceptable however for an analyst who interviewed the Scholar in formation at the time of their application to the school to become their personal analyst.

It should be noted that even once their formation is completed, no one is beyond returning to a personal analysis.

## IV – PALIMPSEST

Anyone admitted into the Scholar formation is free to choose to engage further in their formation or not. There is no obligation to present a Palimpsest.

### 1- Request for Palimpsest

As they choose to present their Palimpsest to the members of the School, a Precandidate Scholar self-nominates in a progression of their formation toward becoming a Scholar of the School. To become a Candidate Scholar, a Precandidate Scholar needs to declare their desire to become Scholar of the School via a palimpsest presented to the members of the school, usually at the Days of Assembly.

In order to request for their Palimpsest, a Precandidate Scholar needs to have undergone at least two years of personal Lacanian analysis. The Precandidate Scholar will express their intent to present their palimpsest to the Meeting of the Analysts via their Advisor. The decision of the Analysts of the School will be based in part on recommendation from their Advisor. The decision will be communicated to the Precandidate Scholar by their Advisor.

The *demande* for a Palimpsest stems from the study of the School's two founding texts, the founding text of the Scholar Formation, and one's own unconscious text in analysis.

### 2- Palimpsest Presentation

Palimpsest, from the Greek palimpsestos, "scraped again," is defined as a written document, usually on vellum or parchment that has been rewritten several times, often with remnants of erased writing still visible. The palimpsest exercise is a modification of a practice used by the Dutch School of Psychoanalysis.

At the Lacanian School of Psychoanalysis, the palimpsest is a written statement submitted by those who wish to become a Candidate Scholar. This statement is textual, yet not limited to writing alone since it can provide an opportunity for creative expression, and based on the prospective Candidate Scholar's personal response to three tests, the two school founding texts and the founding text of the Scholar Formation. The prospective Candidate Scholar is to read the founding texts and to articulate his or her desire to become a Scholar of the School as well as their stance concerning psychoanalysis. During this process the prospective Candidate Scholar is invited to engage in creative thought, and is free to alter or recreate the original texts in any conceivable way. Precandidate Scholars usually present their palimpsest to the membership during the School's Days of Assembly with a period of time for responses and questions from the membership.

After the Palimpsest presentation a Precandidate Scholar becomes a **Candidate Scholar**.

## V – SCHOLAR PROJECT – 4 years

Following their Palimpsest presentation to the School a Candidate Scholar undertakes a new project created from the experience of analysis and the effects of the palimpsest, the Scholar Project.

The Scholar Project of a Candidate Scholar evolves over the course of a minimum of four years grounded in:

- . Personal analysis,
- . Participation in a Project Cartel for at least two years, and whose members change annually,
- . Participation in at least one clinical seminar offered by the school and,
- . Dialogue with a Lacanian analyst, monthly for at least two years.

During a Scholar formation, **personal analysis** becomes the ground for a new project informed by a savoir of the unconscious. Scholarship without analysis is simply a structure of knowledge in any given field. As such, it falls into two dangers with respect to psychoanalysis: building a form of knowledge that is in essence paranoid, and taking up a position of mastery with respect to that knowledge. An artistic practice without a personal analysis may have effects beyond language, but cannot speak to residues of the unconscious, an unsayable aspect of being, and its crucial place in the clinic, the School, and the social link.

Candidate Scholars will form two one-year-long **Project Cartels** to explore their questions and possible paths toward a project. They may choose to form such cartels with any other members of the School or with other scholars outside the School. Each Project Cartel consists of 3-5 members each, and changes members every year.

The Project Cartels are formed with the common purpose of formulating projects grounded in the experience of psychoanalysis. Each cartel will select its own “plus-un”- the position of someone who serves as an empty witness to the work undertaken by the others. Just as Lacan presents the *objet petit a* as a product or remainder of analytic work, participation in a Project Cartel produces a product of the cartel itself: a well-saying of its work, obstacles, enigmas, impossibilities and surprising effects.

The work of each cartel should take place over one year. Each Project Cartel produces a report elaborated by its members. The Project Cartel report consists in saying something about how the cartel went, any obstacles or impossibilities faced and, new traces, new ideas that emerged.

The second year-long Project Cartel continues to explore the form of a project, or to begin its elaboration. At the end of the second Project Cartel, again the members report on its products.

After two year in Project Cartels, the Candidate Scholar is responsible for the presentation or publication of a combination of both Project Cartel experiences. They may use the reports elaborated by each Project Cartels.

The production of a Project Cartel report does not prevent any participant from documenting their own experience in the Project Cartel.

While formulating and working on their Scholar Project, Candidate Scholars are expected to learn about the clinic of Lacanian psychoanalysis since that practice informs the field centrally. In addition to their personal analysis, a **clinical seminar** (see Theoretical Training section above) and a Dialogue with a Lacanian analyst open new avenues for a Scholar in formation to learn about the stakes of the clinic of psychoanalysis for any scholarly or artistic elaboration stemming from a savoir of the unconscious.

A monthly **Dialogue** with a Lacanian analyst provides an opportunity to engage in the clinic from the analyst's perspective during the elaboration of the Scholar Project. In their Dialogue, the Candidate Scholar and the analyst may discuss the way the analyst practices, their use of Lacanian theory, clinical cases, the Candidate Scholar's project, etc. The strictest confidentiality is expected from both the analyst and the Candidate Scholar during their Dialogue, especially with regards to any clinical material discussed.

It is up to a Candidate Scholar to initiate contact with a Lacanian analyst at the inception of their Scholar Project. They are responsible for selecting the analyst and securing their agreement. They will choose the analyst from the pool of Analysts of the School or, a Lacanian analyst from elsewhere **ONLY AFTER** such analyst is validated by the Analysts of the School—in which case the Advisor will communicate with the Analysts of the School. The Candidate Scholar is responsible for paying the analyst separately from any tuition or school related payment. The analyst in Dialogue cannot be the same person as a Candidate Scholar's personal analyst or advisor. A Candidate Scholar is free to change the analyst they dialogue with at any time.

The Scholar Project will offer something singular that evolves as a crucial part of formation, continues for four years, and culminates in a presentation to the School as a sort of impossible gift. Just as Lacan presents the *objet petit a* as a product or remainder of analytic work, participation in a cartel with other Scholars working on projects produces a product of the cartel itself: a well-saying of its work, obstacles, enigmas, impossibilities and surprising effects. Sustained work on a singular project carves a space for an ethics with respect to whatever is produced materially and whatever can and can't be said about that. In this way the project itself becomes a signifier of lack, as well as a gift to the School community.

The Scholar Project presentation can become the Traversée presentation itself. If not, the Scholar Project should nonetheless be part of the Traversée presentation.

## VI – EXPLORATION OF THE POSITION OF SCHOLAR – 2 interviews

These Exploration of the Position of Scholar in a School of Psychoanalysis interviews concern how the Candidate Scholar inhabits the Scholar Project as an ethical position. These two interviews highlight desire and the ethics of lack in psychoanalysis.

### Exploration of the Position of the Scholar - EPS Interview #1

At least one year after their Palimpsest, and at a stage where the Candidate Scholar feels they have been able to design the contour of their Scholar Project, the first of two Exploration of the Position of the Scholar interviews will be set up with an Analyst or Scholar of the school (neither advisor, nor personal analyst).

This first interview speaks to desire as a product of psychoanalysis and the conception of a project that speaks back to that desire.

### Exploration of the Position of the Scholar - EPS Interview #2

A second Exploration of the Position of the Scholar interview will be set up by the Candidate Scholar after:

- . no less than two years of work in a Project Cartel and,
- . their personal analysis has ended.

This interview speaks to the ethics of lack with respect to the end of analysis, and its extension through a singular project, which includes working in a cartel.

## VII – TRAVERSÉE

There is no obligation for a Candidate Scholar to present a Traversée.

### 1- Documentation Required Before a *Demande* for Traversée

A Candidate Scholar begins a *demande* to make the Traversée through a conversation with one's advisor presenting:

- . 4 years of documented theoretical training
- . 4 year Scholar Project completed, including work in Project Cartel
- . 4 years of paid tuition or payments as agreed upon
- . 2 Exploring of the Position of the Scholar (EPS) interviews completed
- . Personal analysis completed

The Candidate Scholar is responsible for collating documentation, and their Advisor reviews it to report to the meeting of analysts that all documentation is there. Note: the compilation of documentation does not guarantee moving forward with a Candidate Scholar's Traversée presentation request.

### 2- Process and *Demande*

A Candidate Scholar wishing to present their Traversée shall first discuss their *demande* with their Advisor, who will assist them with the process, the timing and in compiling their dossier of required documentation. To become a Scholar of the School, a Candidate Scholar needs to make a formal request before the Analysts of the School to present their Traversée.



### **Demande before the Meeting of Analysts and Candidate Scholar's Decision**

With both EPS interviews and all other requirements completed, the Candidate Scholar will make a request to speak to the Meeting of Analysts about presenting their Traversée, and schedule such a meeting. The meeting is for both the Candidate Scholar to speak their desire and the analysts to listen to the Candidate Scholar, and will consist of a short oral statement of the *demande*, followed by a conversation open to questions.

Following this meeting, the analysts and the Candidate Scholar will take a period of 4 weeks to consider the effects of speaking. During this time of consideration, either the analysts or the Candidate Scholar may consider how the ethics of psychoanalysis are upheld, and communicate any hesitancy or hindrance about doing the Traversée. Following the 4-week period of waiting, the Candidate Scholar shall decide to offer a Traversée or to delay, based on the ethics of psychoanalysis. If the Candidate Scholar chooses to delay, they may return to the Meeting of Analysts at another time.

### **3- Traversée Presentation**

The Traversée inaugurates a new nomination: **Scholar of the School**. The Traversée is a presentation in front of the members of the school, followed by responses and questions, usually during the Days of Assembly.

In order to complete their formation and to become a Scholar of the School, all Candidate Scholars must present a substantial paper written to address the members of the school. The Traversée testifies to the capacity of the Candidate Scholar to articulate their own experience of psychoanalysis, and thereby to contribute to psychoanalytic knowledge and transmission. The product of the Scholar Project will become the Traversée presentation, at least in part. The Candidate Scholar is nonetheless expected to decide upon the content of their presentation freely.

In Seminar 23, Lacan says writing is Joyce's symptom, or *sinthome*. By breaking language and putting it back together in a new way, Joyce creates a bind for the three registers and nominates himself in the place where his father failed. In some way, a scholar must do this in the course of their personal analysis. We tear at the language that makes us up until we can learn to play with it. We each articulate our own capture in language and so traverse castration. The traversal of castration paradoxically leads to a kind of liberation in that we find a place of choice. We have to work to sustain ourselves in this place, and the work must include writing because it is through writing that we sustain play, the creeping forward of things we don't know we know. With writing, we are still working with language as Other, the thing that structures the social link. We have to sustain our being in the real and in lack, but we also have to exist. In Lacanian terms, that means we have to maintain a place for ourselves--and a place for the real--in the social link.

## **VIII – FROM SCHOLAR TO ANALYST**

Should a Scholar in formation desire to become an Analyst of the School, they will need to shift to the Analyst Formation. They shall present their request to their Advisor who will in turn discuss it with the analysts of the school. If such request is accepted, the Scholar in formation will be interviewed by two analysts of the school who will report to

the Meeting of Analysts for their decision. If the Scholar in formation's request is granted, they will join the Analyst Formation as a Precandidate, therefore following the Analyst Formation guideline, unless exception has been granted by the Meeting of Analysts.

#### **IV – TUITION**

LSP requires 4 years of tuition payment, usually concomitant with the Theoretical Training. Tuition covers attendance and access to any and all seminars, workshops, cartels, case conferences, and events offered by the School during the year. The Board of Directors determines a yearly tuition. Currently, the tuition is \$2,000 per year with a 4-year commitment. The tuition is payable in full at the start of the school year, or payable per quarter (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer). After 4 years of paid tuition or tuition payments completed as agreed upon, Scholars in formation will pay for each seminar or event they choose to attend, as published in the yearly program. Scholars in formation are required to document their payment agreement and the payments completed as part of their request to present their Traversée.

Should a Scholar in formation experience any financial difficulty regarding payment of their tuition, they should discuss the matter with their Advisor who can help with proposing financial solutions and/or put them in touch with the School's Treasurer. Any financial exception discussed and agreed upon has to be put in writing. The final approval goes through the Board of Directors, which oversees the finances of the School.

#### **X – NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Since the unconscious and the ethics are at the center of the transmission of psychoanalysis, any potential conflicting relationship within the School needs to be avoided.

Scholars in formation choose their dialogue analyst(s), personal analyst(s), or advisor(s) freely from among the pool of Analysts of the School. However, in no event can an Analyst of the School fulfill more than one function. For instance, the advisor or the personal analyst cannot be the dialogue analyst. Analysts who conduct interviews for the Exploration of the Position of Scholar should not be otherwise connected to a Candidate Scholar. In addition, in cases where Scholars in formation need to work with teachers, supervisors or mentors outside of their formation at LSP, such persons cannot fulfill any of the roles of an Analyst of the School. The analysts that have fulfilled the function of interviewers during application interviews are exempt from this rule, since in this case there is no dual relationship and therefore no conflict of interest.

**FLOW DIAGRAM  
LACANIAN SCHOLAR FORMATION**

<b>DEMAND</b>	<b>PROCESS</b>	<b>DECISION @ Meeting of Analysts</b>	
<b>Application</b>	Letter of Intent CV 1 year at least personal analysis with Lacanian analyst 2 interviews	Review of documents submitted Report & recommendation from interviewers	<b>Precandidate Scholar</b>
<b>Palimpsest</b>	<i>Demande</i> in conversation with Advisor 2 year at least personal analysis with Lacanian analyst	Advisor recommendation	Palimpsest Presentation <b>Candidate Scholar</b>
<b>Traversée</b>	Discussion with Advisor 2 EPS interviews (Exploration of the Position of the Scholar) 4-year Scholar Project completed 4-year Theoretical training completed & documented Personal analysis ended Tuition paid in full	Candidate Scholar oral <i>demande</i> to the Meeting of Analysts, followed by 4 weeks waiting for a response from either the Candidate Scholar or Analysts of the Schools, Leading to a decision by the Candidate Scholar to go forward or to delay	Traversée Presentation <b>Scholar of the School</b>

Lacanian School of Psychoanalysis, January 2023