

Scholar Formation

We offer a space of formation as a Scholar of the School to those who elect to become a vital member of a Lacanian School of Psychoanalysis.

A formation invites a desire to hear, bear and speak the unconscious, and, going further, to extract a savoir of the unconscious from analytic experience and make use of it with a new project. Practicing scholars and artists who are interested in psychoanalysis as experience will be able to explore their work in relation to personal analysis and in relation to their chosen fields/ practices. This is not a Scholarly training in the traditional sense, with the aim of conferring a degree. The purpose of formation in the Lacanian School veers away from advanced training for academics who wish to become “masters” of psychoanalytic knowledge, or, for that matter, foundational training in psychoanalysis as a body of knowledge. What is unique to formation is the necessity for a personal analysis and a work in extension stemming from that analysis. During analysis as well as through seminars, the Scholar learns about the stakes of the clinic of psychoanalysis for any scholarly or artistic elaboration stemming from a savoir of the unconscious.

A Scholar may choose to learn from taking seminars and go no further. However, if the Scholar chooses a formation, this formation will involve work on a sustained project in conversation with a community of analysts and candidates. Undertaking such a project requires a full personal analysis as the only way to confront the ego with the unconscious Other in speech and enter the beyond of language: desire, the unsayable, ethics. During formation, 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.

Following an encounter with the unconscious in personal analysis for at least two years, the Scholar may present a Palimpsest. Taking this step scholars who wish to begin a formation speak their desire to become a *Scholar of the School* to the assembled members of the School, usually at the annual Days of Assembly. 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. Scholars refer to and study the founding texts of the School as well as the text of the founding of the Scholar Formation- as source substrates for a creative invention that carries and drops, speaks and forgets, forges and loses something of their desire to become a Scholar of the School.

Following the palimpsest presentation to the School the Designated Scholar starts a new project created from the experience of analysis and the effects of the palimpsest. This 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.

When the Designated Scholar has brought a personal analysis to its logical end and is ready to speak about a singular project, he or she may request to do a Passage presentation and become a Scholar of the School.

The position of the Scholar in a Lacanian School is crucial for renewing and furthering the field of psychoanalysis in the social link of the School and beyond. Why should this be the case? We propose that it is vital to have practicing Scholars in a community with clinical Analysts because this offers *everyone* in the School a space of questioning and the freedom to invent. The discourse of the ego will push toward mastery of theory and coherence, upheld by prior training and its practices. But the ego breaks down in the presence of the fundamental rule: to speak everything, anything, a radical invitation of psychoanalysis. The unconscious, when it finally can speak, tends toward a poetic diction with gaps and knotted puzzles, putting impossible logics into play, rather than speaking insights, meanings or illustrations of progress that run along the lines of ideals. Scholars raise uncomfortable questions; works of art represent the unsayable and the invisible in forms that carry effects, in the curvature of the unconscious.

The Scholar of Psychoanalysis does not develop a clinical practice. The work of scholarship involves the perpetual writing of the unconscious outside of and beyond the clinic. There is always a next project insisting; its unfolding a creative act equivalent to the risk of speaking freely. The Scholar goes beyond any academic discipline or career trajectory to occupy a unique position, forging new questions and paths for the Freudian/Lacanian field through singular experiences of the unconscious and the ethics of a position that has (largely) emptied the ego of control and knows how to sustain a space for desire and lack.

Founding Formation for the Scholar of the School

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LSP Scholar Formation: Steps

1. Application, Interviews, Fees. At least one full year of Lacanian psychoanalysis prior to entry.
2. Personal analysis with a Lacanian analyst ending with a changed symptom and a new ethical position, whose logical end is determined by the analysand.
3. Attend classes and document these experiences for four years (Seminars, Cartels, Events, etc.)
4. Declare the desire to become a Designated School through a Palimpsest presentation.
5. As a Designated Scholar undertake a new project that evolves over the course of four years, grounded in personal analysis and participation in a cartel with others in formation that lasts at least one to two years. The Designated Scholar is also encouraged to consult with an analyst of the school while formulating this project and to meet regularly, as other candidates do for clinical supervision and control cases.
7. Case Supervision is not required. However, the School encourages all candidates to learn about the clinic of Lacanian psychoanalysis since that practice informs the field centrally.
8. A Designated Scholar may desire to shift to a clinical or research track to practice in the clinic, which requires Control Analysis (as required by those tracks). Such requests are presented to one's advisor and are subject to further interviews by analysts of the School before a decision can be made by the Meeting of Analysts.
9. Engagement in two interviews concerning the position of the Scholar in a School of Psychoanalysis. These interviews concern how the Scholar inhabits the proposed new work as an ethical position. The first of the interviews speaks to desire as a product of psychoanalysis and the conception of a project that speaks back to that desire. The second 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.
10. A Designated Scholar begins a demande to make the Passe through a conversation with one's advisor presenting documentation of studies, work in cartel, and completion of the two interviews exploring the position of the analyst. The Scholar then brings an oral demande to the Meeting of Analysts, and waits for one month to hear back from the Analysts while re-considering one's one ethical position. The decision to proceed to the Passe or not, in the end, is made by the Scholar.
9. Passe. The presentation inaugurates a new nomination: Scholar of the School.