



"THE TRIUMPH OF RELIGION"

19-20 SEPTEMBER 2007

Conference organised by
Heyendaal Institute
(Radboud University Nijmegen) &
The Circle For Lacanian Ideology Critique
(Jan van Eyck Academie Maastricht)

At a press conference in Rome, in 1974, when asked for his opinion of the relationship between psychoanalysis and religion, Lacan promptly replied: "In the end, it is either the one, or the other." His reply to the following question – "Which, then, will win the battle?" – was less prompt. He finally ventured that "Religion will never wane." Religion, he added, will "triumph." After a moment of doubt, he felt compelled to say the opposite about psychoanalysis: psychoanalysis will certainly not triumph, at best it will survive for a while.

Is this passage symptomatic of the numerous references to religious and theological issues in Lacan's oeuvre? On the one hand, Lacan severely criticises religion and defends the greatness of modern atheism; on the other hand, his references to theological issues and schemes are so crucial a part of his theory that one is inclined to consider it an 'a-theology,' and, as such, still an instance of theology.

What is Lacan's view of religion? And what do his reflections on religion tell us about his theory and contemporary critical theory in general? Taking these two questions as guide, the conference explores how Lacanian theory deals with the current revival (or persistence) of religion and with religious fundamentalism. Lacan's difficulty in replying to the current 'triumph of religion' might shed light on the incapacity of current critical thought in general to deal with that question.

Admission
1 day: 15 Euro / 10 Euro (students)
2 days: 25 Euro / 15 Euro (students)
Please register with
madeleine.bisscheroux@janvaneyck.nl

Conference venue:
Radboud University
Huize Heyendaal
Geert Grootplein 9
Nijmegen
The Netherlands

Wednesday 19 September

9³⁰-10⁰⁰

Registration & Coffee

10⁰⁰-10³⁰

**Introduction:
Lacan's Atheism**

DOMINIEK HOENS
Jan van Eyck Academie
Maastricht, NL

MARC DE KESEL
Radboud University
Nijmegen, NL

10³⁰-11⁴⁵

**"Oh my God":
Monotheistic Criticism and
the Anthropological Basis
of Religion**

KENNETH REINHARD
University of
California LA, US

11⁴⁵-13⁰⁰

**There is Something of One (God):
Lacan and Political Theology**

ADRIAN JOHNSTON
University of New Mexico,
Albuquerque, US

14⁰⁰-15¹⁵

**Conflicted Matter:
Jacques Lacan and the Challenge of
Secularizing Materialism**

MAHDI TOURAGE
Colgate University NY, US

15¹⁵-16³⁰

**The Efficacy of Lacan's Theory of
Signification as a New Approach to
the Hermeneutics of Sufi Texts**

SAMO TOMSIC
Institute for Philosophy
Ljubljana, SL

16⁴⁵-18⁰⁰

**Lacan's Antireligious Act:
The Lessons of Dissolution and
the Invention of the Real**

18⁰⁰

Drinks

Thursday 20 September

LARA SELS AND NADIA SELS
University of Ghent, BE

10³⁰-11⁴⁵

**Lacan and Gregory of Nyssa:
A Communal Myth?**

CHARLES SHEPHERDSON
Tsinghua University, CN

11⁴⁵-13⁰⁰

**On the Sacrifice of Isaac:
Fear and Anxiety from
Kant to Lacan**

TIERS BAKKER
University of Amsterdam, NL

14-15¹⁵

**The Unconscious God in the
Work of Lacan**

ZACHERY ROSENAU
Independent Researcher,
Philadelphia, US

15¹⁵-16³⁰

**Lacan and Barth: Theology to the
Letter with Continual Reference to
American Comedians**

MARCUS POUND
Durham University, UK

16⁴⁵-18⁰⁰

**The Assumption of Desire, Lacan,
Kierkegaard and the Eucharist**

18⁰⁰
Drinks