

**LSP \$CHOLaR FORMATION**  
**Founding Text**

April 25, 2022

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

Partly a borrowing from Latin, partly a borrowing from French, the Oxford English Dictionary offers the following: Latin *scholaris*; French *escoler, escolier*. Originally from the Latin *scholaris*, of or relating to a school (4th cent).; Latin *schola* in the reading of a papyrus, *scholārius* (perhaps) connected with the schola in which a collegium met (attested in an inscription). The word scholar includes this ancient etymology; we go beyond it, finding a new way to mark this signifier for a School of Psychoanalysis.

\$cholar. The split subject, \$, and the subject as a semblance for Lacan's object *a*, represent two different moments of lack. From the split subject of the unconscious to the *objet petit a* as a remainder at the end of analysis, this traversal is foundational to the Scholar of the School. The Lacanian School of Psychoanalysis offers a Scholar Formation through a personal analysis, and beyond analysis, the creation of a project as a gift to the School-- guided by the object *a*, an invisible, impossible, unnamable montage of jouissance that inscribes a lack at the center of being, and functions then as the object-cause of desire.

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 this Lacanian Scholar 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 Lacanian Scholar in formation learns about the stakes of the clinic of psychoanalysis for any scholarly or artistic elaboration stemming from a savoir of the unconscious.

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.

This Scholar formation will involve work on a sustained project in conversation with the school's membership, a community of analysts, analysts in formation, scholars and scholars in formation. 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.

Following an encounter with the unconscious in personal analysis for at least two years, a Scholar in training may present a Palimpsest. Taking this step, scholars who wish to further their 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. Prospective Scholars of the School refer to and study three texts: the two founding texts of the School as well as the Founding Text 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 their Palimpsest presentation to the School the newly Candidate Scholar starts a new project created from the experience of analysis and the effects of the palimpsest. This 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 Project Cartel with others, including 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 Candidate Scholar has brought a personal analysis to its logical end and is ready to speak about a singular project, they may request to do a Traversée 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 Lacanian scholarship involves the perpetual writing of the unconscious outside of and beyond the clinic. There is always a next project insisting; its unfolding is 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 Text - Formation for the Scholar of the School

Annie Rogers and Marcelo Estrada, *April 25, 2022*