

NIDA Lacan Study and Reading Group: Monthly Seminar Series: July 2017

Lacan on Religion and its Triumph

Date: Wednesday, 26 July 2017

Time: 6-8pm

Location: Tutorial Room-3; NIDA-215 Anzac Parade

Lacan's understanding and interpretation of the genesis of religion, in general, is deeply rooted in Freudian outline of religion and its foundation in the history of paternity in his two key texts, *Totem and Taboo* and "Moses and Monotheism." Freud as Lacan states was a "declared partisan of a resolutely antireligious *Aufklärung* [Enlightenment]. His approach to religion was driven by his radical atheism and scientism of the height of the industrial revolution in the West. In such a context, Freud believed that psychoanalysis, as a new science, would ultimately conquest the illusion of religion. By contrast, Lacan's outlook on religion was inspired by a post-technological and post-ideological era, in which religion's triumph looked for him predictable. His attitude towards religion was far less shaped by an ideological denunciation.

Lacan systematically read Christian and medieval Scholastic theological texts. The inspiration of Augustine and Thomas Aquinas has been self-evident in his theories. He treasured mystical literature to the extent that, in his *Seminar XX: Encore*, he asked his readers to read his magnum opus, *Écrits*, as part of an ecstatic mystic literature. In 1974, in a lecture in Rome, he declared 'invincibility' and 'triumph' of religion. He draws on mystical literary discourse as evidence for his theory of feminine *jouissance*—the '*jouissance* of God'.

In the first part, the monthly-seminar series in July would explore Freudian ideas about religion and its Lacanian interpretation. In the Second part, we will have a reading of Lacan's *The Triumph of Religion*, pp. 55-77.

Dr Ehsan Azari Stanizai

Readings:

Freud: *Totem and Taboo*; "Moses and Monotheism"

Lacan: *The Triumph of Religion*

Augustine: *Confessions*