

lacanian psychoanalysis definition

Lacanian Psychoanalysis: A Comprehensive Definition and Exploration

Introduction:

Unraveling the complexities of the human psyche has captivated thinkers for centuries. Among the most influential schools of thought is psychoanalysis, and within it, the uniquely challenging and rewarding perspective of Jacques Lacan. This post dives deep into the Lacanian psychoanalysis definition, exploring its core tenets, key concepts, and enduring impact on psychology, literature, and even contemporary culture. We will unpack the intricate web of language, desire, and the unconscious as understood through Lacan's lens, providing a comprehensive guide accessible to both seasoned students and curious newcomers. Prepare to embark on a journey into the fascinating world of Lacanian thought.

1. The Fundamentals: Defining Lacanian Psychoanalysis

Lacanian psychoanalysis, unlike other schools, doesn't merely focus on resolving childhood trauma through cathartic release. Instead, it emphasizes the structural role of language and the symbolic order in shaping our subjectivity, desires, and very sense of self. It departs significantly from Freudian orthodoxy, building upon but ultimately revising Freud's foundational ideas. At its heart, Lacanian psychoanalysis seeks to understand how our unconscious is structured like a language, and how this structure profoundly influences our experience of the world and our relationships with others. It's a complex system, but at its core, it's concerned with:

The Unconscious as Structured Like a Language: Lacan famously declared, "The unconscious is structured like a language." This signifies that our unconscious thoughts, desires, and anxieties are not chaotic or random but organized according to linguistic rules and structures. Our unconscious operates through metaphors, metonymies, and symbolic associations, mirroring the way language works.

The Mirror Stage: This pivotal concept describes the process by which infants develop a sense of self through identification with their reflection. Seeing their image, they begin to perceive themselves as a unified, coherent entity, despite the internal chaos of their drives. This initial identification, however, is fundamentally a misrecognition – a foundation upon which later identifications and anxieties are built.

The Symbolic Order: This refers to the realm of language, culture, and social norms that governs our interactions and shapes our understanding of reality. Entering the symbolic order means internalizing language and its associated rules, which inevitably involves repression of certain desires and drives.

The Real, the Symbolic, and the Imaginary: Lacan's three registers are crucial for understanding his theory. The Real represents the pre-linguistic, traumatic, and ultimately unknowable aspect of existence. The Imaginary encompasses our early perceptions and fantasies, formed through the mirror stage. The Symbolic order, as mentioned above, represents the realm of language and social structures. Our experience is a constant negotiation between these three registers.

Desire: For Lacan, desire is not a simple biological drive but a complex, perpetually unsatisfied yearning shaped by the symbolic order. Our desire is never fully satisfied because it's always mediated by language and structured by lack. The object of desire is always elusive, constantly shifting and never fully attainable.

2. Key Lacanian Concepts: Deconstructing the Self

Beyond the fundamentals, several key Lacanian concepts further illuminate his unique approach to psychoanalysis:

The Phallus: Not simply a penis, the phallus in Lacanian theory represents the signifier of power, lack, and symbolic authority. It signifies the unattainable object of desire, a perpetually missing element that drives both men and women. This concept is central to understanding Lacanian understandings of gender and sexuality.

Objet petit a: This refers to the lost object of desire, the unattainable kernel that drives our actions. It represents the fragment of the Real that remains forever out of reach, fueling our unending pursuit.

The Name-of-the-Father: This represents the entry into the symbolic order and the internalization of paternal law, crucial for establishing social order and individual identity. This doesn't necessarily refer to a biological father but rather a symbolic authority figure.

3. The Significance of Language in Lacanian Psychoanalysis

Language, for Lacan, is not merely a tool for communication; it's the very foundation of subjectivity. It's through language that we construct our sense of self and our understanding of the world. The symbolic order, structured by language, imposes limits and structures our desires, inevitably shaping our identity. The very act of speaking already implies a certain lack – the inability to fully express our deepest desires or fully capture the Real. This inherent lack fuels our desire and drives our psychological development. The slippage and ambiguity inherent in language, therefore, becomes a critical aspect of Lacanian interpretation, revealing the complexities and contradictions within our unconscious.

4. Lacanian Psychoanalysis in Practice: Clinical Applications

Lacanian analysis differs significantly from other psychoanalytic approaches in its methodology. It emphasizes the interpretive power of language, focusing on the patient's discourse and the structure of

their speech. The analyst's role isn't simply to facilitate catharsis but to decipher the underlying structure of the patient's unconscious, uncovering the symbolic patterns and linguistic mechanisms that shape their experience. The analyst aims to help the patient become aware of the way language shapes their desires and their understanding of themselves and the world. This awareness, not necessarily resolution of trauma, is often the primary goal.

5. The Lasting Influence of Lacanian Psychoanalysis

Lacanian psychoanalysis has profoundly impacted various fields beyond psychology. Its influence can be seen in literary criticism, film studies, cultural studies, and even contemporary art. Its focus on language, subjectivity, and the unconscious has provided invaluable tools for understanding complex social and cultural phenomena. The ongoing debates and reinterpretations of Lacan's work demonstrate its enduring relevance and intellectual richness.

Book Outline: "Navigating the Lacanian Labyrinth: A Guide to Psychoanalytic Theory"

Introduction: A brief overview of Jacques Lacan and the central tenets of Lacanian psychoanalysis.

Chapter 1: The Fundamentals: Explaining core concepts like the unconscious structured like a language, the mirror stage, and the Real, Imaginary, and Symbolic registers.

Chapter 2: Key Lacanian Concepts: A detailed exploration of the phallus, objet petit a, and the Name-of-the-Father.

Chapter 3: Language and Subjectivity: The role of language in shaping identity and desire.

Chapter 4: Clinical Applications: A practical look at Lacanian psychoanalysis in therapeutic settings.

Chapter 5: Lacanian Psychoanalysis and its Influence: Exploring the impact of Lacan's work on various fields.

Conclusion: Summarizing key takeaways and reflecting on the ongoing relevance of Lacanian psychoanalysis.

Article Explaining Each Chapter Point:

(Due to space constraints, detailed explanations of each chapter are omitted. However, each chapter heading above could be expanded into a full article following the format of the introduction and body sections. Each would include relevant examples and further exploration of the concepts.)

FAQs:

1. What is the difference between Freudian and Lacanian psychoanalysis? Lacan builds on Freud but

emphasizes language and structure over biological drives, focusing on the symbolic order's influence on the unconscious.

1. What is the mirror stage in Lacanian theory? The mirror stage describes the process by which infants develop a sense of self through identification with their reflection, leading to a misrecognition of their own wholeness.

1. What is the symbolic order in Lacanian psychoanalysis? It's the realm of language, culture, and social norms that governs our interactions and shapes our understanding of reality.

1. What is the phallus in Lacanian theory? It's not just a penis but a signifier of power, lack, and symbolic authority, a key element in understanding gender and desire.

1. What is objet petit a? It's the lost object of desire, the unattainable kernel that drives our actions, a fragment of the Real that fuels our perpetual yearning.

1. How does language shape our identity according to Lacan? Language is the foundation of our subjectivity; it structures our desires, thoughts, and our very sense of self.

1. What is the role of the analyst in Lacanian psychoanalysis? The analyst interprets the patient's discourse, uncovering the unconscious structures shaping their experience.

1. How does Lacanian psychoanalysis differ in clinical practice? It focuses on interpreting language and symbolic structures rather than solely on catharsis or resolving trauma.

1. What are the main criticisms of Lacanian psychoanalysis? Criticisms often center on its difficulty, perceived obscurity, and limited empirical evidence.

Related Articles:

1. The Mirror Stage and the Formation of the Self: Explores Lacan's mirror stage in detail, examining its implications for identity formation.
2. The Symbolic Order and the Structure of the Unconscious: Analyzes the role of language and social structures in shaping the unconscious mind.
3. Lacan's Three Registers: Real, Imaginary, and Symbolic: A comprehensive explanation of these three key registers and their interactions.
4. The Phallus as Signifier: A Lacanian Perspective on Gender: Examines Lacan's concept of the phallus and its implications for gender identity.
5. Objet petit a and the Pursuit of Desire: A detailed analysis of Lacan's concept of objet petit a and its influence on desire.
6. The Name-of-the-Father and the Entry into the Symbolic Order: Explores the significance of paternal law and symbolic authority in shaping identity.
7. Lacanian Psychoanalysis and Literary Criticism: Illustrates the application of Lacanian theory to literary texts.
8. Lacanian Psychoanalysis and Film Studies: Demonstrates how Lacanian concepts illuminate cinematic narratives.
9. Contemporary Applications of Lacanian Psychoanalysis: Discusses the relevance of Lacan's work in modern psychological and cultural contexts.

lacanian psychoanalysis definition: An Introductory Dictionary of Lacanian

Psychoanalysis Dylan Evans, 2006-06-19 Jacques Lacan's thinking revolutionised the theory and practice of psychoanalysis and had a major impact in fields as diverse as film studies, literary criticism, feminist theory and philosophy. Yet his writings are notorious for their complexity and

idiosyncratic style. Emphasising the clinical basis of Lacan's work, *An Introductory Dictionary of Lacanian Psychoanalysis* is an ideal companion to his ideas for readers in every discipline where his influence is felt. The Dictionary features: * over 200 entries, explaining Lacan's own terminology and his use of common psychoanalytic expressions * details of the historical and institutional context of Lacan's work * reference to the origins of major concepts in the work of Freud, Saussure, Hegel and other key thinkers * a chronology of Lacan's life and works.

lacanian psychoanalysis definition: *A Clinical Introduction to Lacanian Psychoanalysis* Bruce Fink, 1999-09-15 The goal of my teaching has always been, and remains, to train analysts. --Jacques Lacan, Seminar XI, 209 Arguably the most profound psychoanalytic thinker since Freud, and deeply influential in many fields, Jacques Lacan often seems opaque to those he most wanted to reach. These are the readers Bruce Fink addresses in this clear and practical account of Lacan's highly original approach to therapy. Written by a clinician for clinicians, Fink's Introduction is an invaluable guide to Lacanian psychoanalysis, how it's done, and how it differs from other forms of therapy. While elucidating many of Lacan's theoretical notions, the book does so from the perspective of the practitioner faced with the pressing questions of diagnosis, what therapeutic stance to adopt, how to involve the patient, and how to bring about change. Fink provides a comprehensive overview of Lacanian analysis, explaining the analyst's aims and interventions at each point in the treatment. He uses four case studies to elucidate Lacan's unique structural approach to diagnosis. These cases, taking up both theoretical and clinical issues in Lacan's views of psychosis, perversion, and neurosis, highlight the very different approaches to treatment that different situations demand.

lacanian psychoanalysis definition: *Lacan on Psychosis* Jon Mills, David L. Downing, 2018-09-21 This is the first book of its kind that attempts to distill Lacan's views on psychosis for both a specialized and non-specialized audience. An attempt is made to present Lacan's unorganized theories to apply to conceptual paradigms in psychoanalysis and the humanities as well as applied clinical practice. This effort is in the spirit of fostering dialogue and educating different theoretical orientations within psychoanalysis on what Lacan and his followers have contributed to emerging contemporary perspectives on psychotic phenomena in both normative and pathological populations. Within Lacanian circles there is debate over what constitutes psychosis, including defining the ordinary from pathological variants that have historically defined the phenomena as a mental illness. Here psychosis is not defined by hegemonic authoritarian psychiatry, but rather as a conceptual framework or philosophical perspective supported by descriptive narrative and symptomatic phenomenology that challenges preconceived notions of what we typically consider psychosis to entail. In this book a variety of perspectives are presented by internationally respected scholars and clinicians who examine what Lacan had to say about psychosis, from his nuanced theories represented in select texts, including omissions, extrapolations, and new applications, as well as how clinical methodology and technique have been adapted and advanced by practitioners treating psychotic individuals. *Lacan on Psychosis* will be of interest to academics, scholars, researchers, and practitioners in the fields of psychoanalysis, psychotherapy, philosophy, cultural theory, the humanities, and the behavioral sciences.

lacanian psychoanalysis definition: *Lacan on Love* Bruce Fink, 2017-09-05 Quintessentially fascinating, love intrigues and perplexes us, and drives much of what we do in life. As wary as we may be of its illusions and disappointments, many of us fall blindly into its traps and become ensnared time and again. Deliriously mad excitement turns to disenchantment, if not deadening repetition, and we wonder how we shall ever break out of this vicious cycle. Can psychoanalysis - with ample assistance from philosophers, poets, novelists, and songwriters - give us a new perspective on the wellsprings and course of love? Can it help us fathom how and why we are often looking for love in all the wrong places, and are fundamentally confused about "what love really is"? In this lively and wide-ranging exploration of love throughout the ages, Fink argues that it can. Taking within his compass a vast array of traditions - from Antiquity to the courtly love poets, Christian love, and Romanticism - and providing an in-depth examination of Freud and Lacan on love

and libido, Fink unpacks Lacan's paradoxical claim that "love is giving what you don't have." He shows how the emptiness or lack we feel within ourselves gets covered over or entwined in love, and how it is possible and indeed vital to give something to another that we feel we ourselves don't have. This first-ever commentary on Lacan's Seminar VIII, *Transference*, provides readers with a clear and systematic introduction to Lacan's views on love. It will be of great value to students and scholars of psychology and of the humanities generally, and to analysts of all persuasions.

lacanian psychoanalysis definition: *Anxiety* Jacques Lacan, 2014-04-14 Jacques Lacan is widely recognized as a key figure in the history of psychoanalysis and one of the most influential thinkers of the 20th Century. In *Anxiety*, now available for the first time in English, he explores the nature of anxiety, suggesting that it is not nostalgia for the object that causes anxiety but rather its imminence. In what was to be the last of his year-long seminars at Saint-Anne hospital, Lacan's 1962-63 lessons form the keystone to this classic phase of his teaching. Here we meet for the first time the notorious a in its oral, anal, scopic and vociferated guises, alongside Lacan's exploration of the question of the 'analyst's desire'. Arriving at these concepts from a multitude of angles, Lacan leads his audience with great care through a range of recurring themes such as anxiety between jouissance and desire, counter-transference and interpretation, and the fantasy and its frame. This important volume, which forms Book X of *The Seminar of Jacques Lacan*, will be of great interest to students and practitioners of psychoanalysis and to students and scholars throughout the humanities and social sciences, from literature and critical theory to sociology, psychology and gender studies.

lacanian psychoanalysis definition: *The Ethics of Psychoanalysis 1959-1960* Jacques Lacan, 2013-11-19 In his famous seminar on ethics, Jacques Lacan uses this question as his departure point for a re-examination of Freud's work and the experience of psychoanalysis in relation to ethics. Delving into the psychoanalyst's inevitable involvement with ethical questions, Lacan clarifies many of his key concepts. During the seminar he discusses the problem of sublimation, the paradox of jouissance, the essence of tragedy, and the tragic dimension of analytical experience. One of the most influential French intellectuals of this century, Lacan is seen here at the height of his powers.

lacanian psychoanalysis definition: *From the Conscious Interior to an Exterior Unconscious* David Pavon Cuellar, 2018-04-24 This striking Lacanian contribution to discourse analysis is also a critique of contemporary psychological abstraction, as well as a reassessment of the radical opposition between psychology and psychoanalysis. This original introduction to Lacan's work bridges the gap between discourseanalytical debates in social psychology and the social-theoretical extensions of discourse theory. David Pavón Cuéllar provides a precise definition and a detailed explanation of key Lacanian concepts, and illustrates how they may be put to work on a concrete discourse, in this case a fragment of an interview obtained by the author from the Mexican underground Popular Revolutionary Forces (EPR). Throughout the book, Lacanian concepts are compared to their counterparts in psychology. Such a comparison reveals insuperable incompatibilities between the two series of concepts. The author shows that Lacan's psychoanalytical terminology can neither be translated nor assimilated to the terms of current psychology. Among the notions in actual or potential competition with Lacanian concepts, the book deals with those proposed by semiology, Marxism, phenomenology, constructionism, deconstruction, and hermeneutics. Taking a stand on those theoretical positions, each chapter includes detailed discussion of the contribution of classical approaches to language; including Barthes, Bakhtin, Althusser, Politzer, Wittgenstein, Berger and Luckmann, Derrida, and Ricoeur. There is sustained reference in the body of the text to the arguments of Lacan and Lacanians, of Miller, Milner, Soler, and Žižek. At the same time, in the extensive notes accompanying the text, there is a systematic reappraisal and reinterpretation of debates and pieces of research work in social psychology, especially in a discursive and critical domain that has incorporated elements of psychoanalytic theory.

lacanian psychoanalysis definition: *Jacques Lacan and the Other Side of Psychoanalysis* Justin Clemens, Russell Grigg, 2006-05-23 This collection is the first extended interrogation in any

language of Jacques Lacan's Seminar XVII. Originally delivered just after the Paris uprisings of May 1968, Seminar XVII marked a turning point in Lacan's thought; it was both a step forward in the psychoanalytic debates and an important contribution to social and political issues. Collecting important analyses by many of the major Lacanian theorists and practitioners, this anthology is at once an introduction, critique, and extension of Lacan's influential ideas. The contributors examine Lacan's theory of the four discourses, his critique of the Oedipus complex and the superego, the role of primal affects in political life, and his prophetic grasp of twenty-first-century developments. They take up these issues in detail, illuminating the Lacanian concepts with in-depth discussions of shame and guilt, literature and intimacy, femininity, perversion, authority and revolt, and the discourse of marketing and political rhetoric. Topics of more specific psychoanalytic interest include the role of objet a, philosophy and psychoanalysis, the status of knowledge, and the relation between psychoanalytic practices and the modern university. Contributors. Geoff Boucher, Marie-Hélène Brousse, Justin Clemens, Mladen Dolar, Oliver Feltham, Russell Grigg, Pierre-Gilles Guéguen, Dominique Hecq, Dominiek Hoens, Éric Laurent, Juliet Flower MacCannell, Jacques-Alain Miller, Ellie Ragland, Matthew Sharpe, Paul Verhaeghe, Slavoj Žižek, Alenka Zupancic

lacanian psychoanalysis definition: Perversion Stephanie S. Swales, 2012-08-21 Lacan's psychoanalytic take on what makes a pervert perverse is not the fact of habitually engaging in specific abnormal or transgressive sexual acts, but of occupying a particular structural position in relation to the Other. Perversion is one of Lacan's three main ontological diagnostic structures, structures that indicate fundamentally different ways of solving the problems of alienation, separation from the primary caregiver, and castration, or having limits set by the law on one's jouissance. The perverse subject has undergone alienation but disavowed castration, suffering from excessive jouissance and a core belief that the law and social norms are fraudulent at worst and weak at best. In *Perversion*, Stephanie Swales provides a close reading (a qualitative hermeneutic reading) of what Lacan said about perversion and its substructures (i.e., fetishism, voyeurism, exhibitionism, sadism, and masochism). Lacanian theory is carefully explained in accessible language, and perversion is elucidated in terms of its etiology, characteristics, symptoms, and fundamental fantasy. Referring to sex offenders as a sample, she offers clinicians a guide to making differential diagnoses between psychotic, neurotic, and perverse patients, and provides a treatment model for working with perversion versus neurosis. Two detailed qualitative clinical case studies are presented—one of a neurotic sex offender and the other of a perverse sex offender—highlighting crucial differences in the transference relation and subsequent treatment recommendations for both forensic and private practice contexts. *Perversion* offers a fresh psychoanalytic approach to the subject and will be of great interest to scholars and clinicians in the fields of psychoanalysis, psychology, forensic science, cultural studies, and philosophy.

lacanian psychoanalysis definition: Linguistics and Psychoanalysis Michel Arrivé, 1992 between linguistic and psychoanalytic concepts necessarily arises. Until now this question has been examined mainly by psychoanalysts, from their own perspective, but here it is investigated by a linguist, who systematically explores two domains. The first is related to the sign and symbol, where the meeting of Freud, Saussure and Hjeltself occurred; whereas in the second, that of the signifier, Saussure reappears escorted by Lacan. But Freud is not far away, since the.

lacanian psychoanalysis definition: The Four Fundamental Concepts of Psycho-Analysis Jacques Lacan, 2018-05-08 The author's writings, and especially the seminars for which he has become famous, have provoked intense controversies in French analytic circles, requiring as they do a radical reappraisal of the legacy bequeathed by Freud. This volume is based on a year's seminar, which is of particular importance because he was addressing a larger, less specialist audience than ever before, amongst whom he could not assume familiarity with his work. For his listeners then, and for his readers now, he wanted to introduce a certain coherence into the major concepts on which psycho-analysis is based, namely the unconscious, repetition, the transference and the drive. In re-defining these four concepts he explores the question that, as he puts it, moves from Is psycho-analysis a science? to What is a science that includes psycho-analysis?

lacanian psychoanalysis definition: Introducing Lacan Darian Leader, 2014-12-01 Jacques Lacan is now regarded as a major psychoanalytical theorist alongside Freud and Jung, although recognition has been delayed by fierce arguments over his ideas. Written by a leading Lacanian analyst, *Introducing Lacan* guides the reader through his innovations, including his work on paranoia, his addition of structural linguistics to Freudianism and his ideas on the infant 'mirror phase'. It also traces Lacan's influence in postmodern critical thinking on art, literature, philosophy and feminism. This is the ideal introduction for anyone intrigued by Lacan's ideas but discouraged by the complexity of his writings.

lacanian psychoanalysis definition: *Lacan and the Matter of Origins* Shuli Barzilai, 1999 This work traces the development of Lacan's thinking on the role of the mother in psychical formation. It shows that the mother occupies a key position in the Lacanian project, widely held to emphasize the paternal dimension of human subjectivity.

lacanian psychoanalysis definition: *Lacan* Lionel Bailly, 2012-12-01 Lacan without the jargon! Jacques Lacan was one of the most important psychoanalysts ever to have lived. Building upon the work of Sigmund Freud, he sought to refine Freudian insights with the use of linguistics, arguing that "the structure of unconscious is like a language". Controversial throughout his lifetime both for adopting mathematical concepts in his psychoanalytic framework and for advocating therapy sessions of varying length, he is widely misunderstood and often unfairly dismissed as impenetrable. In this clear, wide-ranging primer, Lionel Bailly demonstrates how Lacan's ideas are still vitally relevant to contemporary issues of mental health treatment. Defending Lacan from his numerous detractors, past and present, Bailly guides the reader through Lacan's canon, from "l'objet petit a" to "The Mirror Stage" and beyond. Including coverage of developments in Lacanian psychoanalysis since his death, this is the perfect introduction to the great modern theorist.

lacanian psychoanalysis definition: *The Capitalist Unconscious* Samo Tomšič, 2016-02-16 A major systematic study of the connection between Marx and Lacan's work Finalist for the American Board and Academy of Psychoanalysis Book Prize Despite a resurgence of interest in Lacanian psychoanalysis, particularly in terms of the light it casts on capitalist ideology—as witnessed by the work of Slavoj Žižek—there remain remarkably few systematic accounts of the role of Marx in Lacan's work. A major, comprehensive study of the connection between their work, *The Capitalist Unconscious* resituates Marx in the broader context of Lacan's teaching and insists on the capacity of psychoanalysis to reaffirm dialectical and materialist thought. Lacan's unorthodox reading of Marx refigured such crucial concepts as alienation, *jouissance* and the Freudian 'labour theory of the unconscious'. Tracing these developments, Tomšič maintains that psychoanalysis, structuralism and the critique of political economy participate in the same movement of thought; his book shows how to follow this movement through to some of its most important conclusions.

lacanian psychoanalysis definition: *Transference* Jacques Lacan, 2017-10-23 Alcibiades attempted to seduce Socrates, he wanted to make him, and in the most openly avowed way possible, into someone instrumental and subordinate to what? To the object of Alcibiades's desire – *ágalma*, the good object. I would go even further. How can we analysts fail to recognize what is involved? He says quite clearly: Socrates has the good object in his stomach. Here Socrates is nothing but the envelope in which the object of desire is found. It is in order to clearly emphasize that he is nothing but this envelope that Alcibiades tries to show that Socrates is desire's self in his relations with Alcibiades, that Socrates is enslaved to Alcibiades by his desire. Although Alcibiades was aware that Socrates desired him, he wanted to see Socrates's desire manifest itself in a sign, in order to know that the other – the object, *ágalma* – was at his mercy. Now, it is precisely because he failed in this undertaking that Alcibiades disgraces himself, and makes of his confession something that is so affectively laden. The daemon of *Αἰδώς* (*Aidós*), Shame, about which I spoke to you before in this context, is what intervenes here. This is what is violated here. The most shocking secret is unveiled before everyone; the ultimate mainspring of desire, which in love relations must always be more or less dissimulated, is revealed – its aim is the fall of the Other, A, into the other, a. Jacques Lacan

lacanian psychoanalysis definition: *A Non-oedipal Psychoanalysis?* Philippe Van Haute,

Tomas Geyskens, 2012 The different psychopathologic syndromes show in an exaggerated and caricatural manner the basic structures of human existence. These structures not only characterize psychopathology, but they also determine the highest forms of culture. This is the credo of Freud's anthropology. This anthropology implies that humans are beings of the in-between. The human being is essentially tied up between pathology and culture, and 'normativity' cannot be defined in a theoretically convincing manner. The authors of this book call this Freudian anthropology a patho-analysis of existence or a clinical anthropology. This anthropology gives a new meaning to the Nietzschean dictum that the human being is a 'sick animal'. Freud, and later Lacan, first developed this anthropological insight in relation to hysteria (in its relation to literature). This patho-analytic perspective progressively disappears in Freud's texts after 1905. This book reveals the crucial moments of that development. In doing so, it shows clearly not only that Freud introduced the Oedipus complex much later than is usually assumed, but also that the theory of the Oedipus complex is irreconcilable with the project of a clinical anthropology. The authors not only examine the philosophical meaning of this thesis in the work of Freud. They also examine its avatars in the texts of Jacques Lacan and show how this project of a patho-analysis of existence inevitably obliges us to formulate a non-oedipal psychoanalytic anthropology.

lacanian psychoanalysis definition: Encyclopedia of Critical Psychology Thomas Teo, 2014-01-31 Encyclopedia of Critical Psychology is a comprehensive reference work and is the first reference work in English that comprehensively looks at psychological topics from critical as well as international points of view. Thus, it will appeal to all committed to a critical approach across the Encyclopedia of Critical Psychology, for alternative analyses of psychological events, processes, and practices. The Encyclopedia of Critical Psychology provides commentary from expert critical psychologists from around the globe who will compose the entries. The Encyclopedia of Critical Psychology will feature approximately 1,000 invited entries, organized in an easy to use A-Z format. The encyclopedia will be compiled under the direction of the editor who has published widely in the field of critical psychology and due to his international involvements is knowledgeable about the status of critical psychology around the world. The expert contributors will summarize current critical-psychological knowledge and discuss significant topics from a global perspective.

lacanian psychoanalysis definition: Unconscious Thought in Philosophy and Psychoanalysis John Shannon Hendrix, 2015-07-28 The book explores concepts throughout the history of philosophy that suggest the possibility of unconscious thought and lay the foundation for ideas of unconscious thought in modern philosophy and psychoanalysis. The focus is on the workings of unconscious thought and the role it plays in thinking, language, perception, and human identity.

lacanian psychoanalysis definition: A Clinical Introduction to Lacanian Psychoanalysis Bruce Fink, 1999-09-15 Arguably the most profound psychoanalytic thinker since Freud, and deeply influential in many fields, Jacques Lacan often seems opaque to those he most wanted to reach. These are the readers Bruce Fink addresses in this clear and practical account of Lacan's highly original approach to therapy. Written by a clinician for clinicians, Fink's introduction is an invaluable guide to Lacanian psychoanalysis, how it's done, and how it differs from other forms of therapy. While elucidating many of Lacan's theoretical notions, the book does so from the perspective of the practitioner faced with the pressing questions of diagnosis, which therapeutic stance to adopt, how to involve the patient, and how to bring about change.

lacanian psychoanalysis definition: A Clinical Introduction to Freud: Techniques for Everyday Practice Bruce Fink, 2017-03-21 Freud's central theories explained in the context of modern therapy. Often overlooked because he is so easy to mock, ridicule, or just plain misunderstand, Freud introduced many techniques for clinical practice that are still widely employed today. Yet surprisingly, there has never been a clinical introduction to Freud's work that might be of use to students and professionals in their everyday lives and careers. Until now. Bruce Fink, who is his generation's most respected translator of Lacan's work and a profound interpreter of Freud's, has written the definitive clinical introduction to Freud. This book presents Freud in an eminently usable way, providing readers with a plethora of examples from everyday life and clinical

practice illustrating the insightfulness and continued applicability of Freud's ideas. The overriding focus is on techniques Freud developed for going directly toward the unconscious, illustrating how we can employ them today and perhaps even improve on them. Fink also lays out many of Freud's fundamental concepts—such as repression, isolation, displacement, anxiety, affect, free association, repetition, obsession, and wish-fulfillment—and situates them in highly applicable clinical contexts. The emphasis throughout is on the myriad techniques developed by Freud that clinicians of all backgrounds and orientations can draw upon to put in their therapy toolbox, whether or not they identify as Freudians. With references ranging from Star Trek and the Moody Blues to hard drives and unicorns, Bruce Fink's elegant writing brings Freud into sharp focus for clinicians of all backgrounds. To readers who ask with an open mind Does this approach allow me to see anything that I had not seen before in my clinical work? this book will offer many new insights.

lacanian psychoanalysis definition: Fantasy and Social Movements J. Ormrod, 2014-01-01 It is sometimes assumed that fantasizing stands in contrast to activism. This book, however, argues that fantasy plays a central role in social movements. Drawing on psychoanalysis and psychosocial theories, Fantasy and Social Movements examines the relationships between fantasy, reality, action, the unconscious and the collective.

lacanian psychoanalysis definition: Lacan to the Letter Bruce Fink, 2004 To read Lacan closely is to follow him to the letter, to take him literally, making the wager that he comes right out and says what he means in many cases, though much of his argument must be reconstructed through a line-by-line examination. And this is precisely what Bruce Fink does in this ambitious book, a fine analysis of Lacan's work on language and psychoanalytic treatment conducted on the basis of a very close reading of texts in his *Icrites: A Selection*. As a translator and renowned proponent of Lacan's works, Fink is an especially adept and congenial guide through the complexities of Lacanian literature and concepts. He devotes considerable space to notions that have been particularly prone to misunderstanding, notions such as the sliding of the signified under the signifier, or that have gone seemingly unnoticed, such as the ego is the metonymy of desire. Fink also pays special attention to psychoanalytic concepts, like affect, that Lacan is sometimes thought to neglect, and to controversial concepts, like the phallus. From a parsing of Lacan's claim that commenting on a text is like doing an analysis, to sustained readings of *The Instance of the Letter in the Unconscious*, *The Direction of the Treatment*, and *Subversion of the Subject* (with particular attention given to the workings of the Graph of Desire), Fink's book is a work of unmatched subtlety, depth, and detail, providing a valuable new perspective on one of the twentieth century's most important thinkers. Bruce Fink is a practicing Lacanian psychoanalyst, analytic supervisor, and professor of psychology at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. He is the author of *A Clinical Introduction to Lacanian Psychoanalysis* (1997) and *The Lacanian Subject* (1995). He has coedited three volumes on Lacan's seminars and is the translator of Lacan's *Seminar XX, On Feminine Sexuality, the Limits of Love and Knowledge* (1998), *Icrites: A Selection* (2002), and *Icrites: The Complete Text* (forthcoming).

lacanian psychoanalysis definition: A Compendium of Lacanian Terms Huguette Glowinski, Zita M. Marks, Sara Murphy, 2001 Jacques Lacan (1901-81) was one of the most original and controversial thinkers of the post-war period. His ideas had a profound effect on the intellectual movements of his time and his work is of continuing importance to a wide range of disciplines: psychoanalytic theory and practice, literary criticism, critical social theory, linguistics, cinema, art criticism and political science. Lacan's ideas can, however, be notoriously difficult: convoluted, idiosyncratic, arcane, and almost always obscure! *A Compendium of Lacanian Terms* provides students of Lacan with a clear and helpful exposition on some 40 key terms. Each entry outlines the conceptualization of the idea, locating it within Lacanian discourse, and the evolution of the term within the development of Lacan's ideas. A list of references is provided at the end of each entry. The editors' brief essay-like descriptions of key Lacanian terms are a superb idea, much needed in both academic and clinical arenas of psychoanalytic world. - Choice - Jan 2002

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is at the point of a “short circuit” between ontology and epistemology. Consider sublimation—conventionally understood as a substitute satisfaction for missing sexual satisfaction. But what if, as Lacan claims, we can get exactly the same satisfaction that we get from sex from talking (or writing, painting, praying, or other activities)? The point is not to explain the satisfaction from talking by pointing to its sexual origin, but that the satisfaction from talking is itself sexual. The satisfaction from talking contains a key to sexual satisfaction (and not the other way around)—even a key to sexuality itself and its inherent contradictions. The Lacanian perspective would make the answer to the simple-seeming question, “What is sex?” rather more complex. In this volume in the Short Circuits series, Alenka Zupančič approaches the question from just this perspective, considering sexuality a properly philosophical problem for psychoanalysis; and by psychoanalysis, she means that of Freud and Lacan, not that of the kind of clinician practitioners called by Lacan “orthopedists of the unconscious.” Zupančič argues that sexuality is at the point of a “short circuit” between ontology and epistemology. Sexuality and knowledge are structured around a fundamental negativity, which unites them at the point of the unconscious. The unconscious (as linked to sexuality) is the concept of an inherent link between being and knowledge in their very negativity.

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lacanian psychoanalysis definition: *Resistances of Psychoanalysis* Jacques Derrida, 1998 In the three essays that make up this stimulating and often startling book, Jacques Derrida argues against the notion that the basic ideas of psychoanalysis have been thoroughly worked through, argued, and assimilated. The continuing interest in psychoanalysis is here examined in the various resistances to analysis—conceived not only as a phenomenon theorized at the heart of psychoanalysis, but as psychoanalysis's resistance to itself, an insusceptibility to analysis that has to do with the structure of analysis itself. Derrida not only shows how the interest of psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic writing can be renewed today, but these essays afford him the opportunity to revisit and reassess a subject he first confronted (in an essay on Freud) in 1966. They also serve to clarify Derrida's thinking about the subjects of the essays—Freud, Lacan, and Foucault—a thinking that, especially with regard to the last two, has been greatly distorted and misunderstood. The first essay, on Freud, is a tour de force of close reading of Freud's texts as philosophical reflection. By means of the fine distinctions Derrida makes in this analytical reading, particularly of The

Interpretation of Dreams, he opens up the realm of analysis into new and unpredictable forms—such as meeting with an interdiction (when taking an analysis further is forbidden by a structural limit). Following the essay that might be dubbed Derrida's return to Freud, the next is devoted to Lacan, the figure for whom that phrase was something of a slogan. In this essay and the next, on Foucault, Derrida reencounters two thinkers to whom he had earlier devoted important essays, which precipitated stormy discussions and numerous divisions within the intellectual milieus influenced by their writings. In this essay, which skillfully integrates the concept of resistance into larger questions, Derrida asks in effect: What is the origin and nature of the text that constitutes Lacanian psychoanalysis, considering its existence as an archive, as teachings, as seminars, transcripts, quotations, etc.? Derrida's third essay may be called not simply a criticism but an appreciation of Foucault's work: an appreciation not only in the psychological and rhetorical sense, but also in the sense that it elevates Foucault's thought by giving back to it ranges and nuances lost through its reduction by his readers, his own texts, and its formulaic packaging.

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