

In house Symposium

Situating Pierre Fédida

16th June 2022, 6 pm - 9 pm

Pierre Fédida Biography

Pierre Fédida (1934-2002), was a psychoanalyst and philosopher, member of the Association psychanalytique de France and the International Psychoanalytic Association, a Professor of the University of Paris and founder of the Laboratory of Fundamental Psychopathology, the Centre de l'étude du vivant and the Institute for Contemporary Thought. He was a prominent figure in the generation of psychoanalytic thinkers of the long 1960s which also included André Green, Jean Laplanche, Didier Anzieu and Julia Kristeva. Fédida's work has been widely referenced and has had a long-lasting influence in psychoanalytic theory, philosophy and aesthetics. His thinking and writing are noted for their rigorous attention to the technical aspects of psychoanalytic theory and practice, including to the texts of Freud, and for an anti-dogmatic and trans-disciplinary approach which enabled him to range widely in his points of reference, including between French and British psychoanalytic thought.

Informed by his early training in phenomenology with Ludwig Binswanger and Roland Kuhn, his thought and clinical practice were characterised by a sustained attention to the somatic, corporeal experience of psychic suffering, and to the liminal elements which punctuate speech, to the play of the gestural and to the respiratory in the session itself. The key concepts which emerge from his work around absence, including the phenomenon of strangeness, the 'objeu' (a melding of object and play (*jeu*) which owes as much to Winnicott as to the French poet Francis Ponge), the 'depressive capacity' and the 'dehuman', offer extremely rich terrain for the further exploration of the theory and practice of psychoanalysis.

Despite important recognition of his work by such figures as Gilles Deleuze and Georges Didi-Huberman, and despite his crucial role in the establishment of psychoanalysis as a University discipline and in the training of analysts, Fédida's work has not benefited from extensive translation into English. *Situating Pierre Fédida* is a decisive step in bringing Fédida's work to greater awareness in the U.K. context, and we are fortunate to have a number of speakers closely familiar with Fédida and his work to speak to his legacy and importance.

Fédida's works in French

Le Concept et la violence (10/18, 1977)
Corps du vide, espace de séance (Editions Delarge, 1977)
L'Absence (Gallimard, 1978)
Crise et contre-transfert (PUF, 1992)
Le Site de l'étranger (PUF, 1995)
Par où commence le corps humain (PUF, 2000)
Les bienfaits de la dépression (Odile Jacob, 2001)
Human/déshumain (PUF, 2007)
P. Fédida, Œuvres complètes, 8 vols. (MJW Fédition, 2018-2022)

Translations of Pierre Fédida's works in English

'Constructing Place: The Supervision of a Psychoanalytic Treatment', translated by Anne-Marie Smith, in *The Bulletin of the European Psychoanalytical Federation* (Autumn 2002), pp. 17-28
['The Movement of the Informe', translated by M. Stone-Richards and Ming Tiampo, *Qui Parle* 10: 1 \(Fall/ Winter, 1996\)](#)
['The Relic and the Work of Mourning' in *Journal of Visual Culture*, 2:1, 2003, pp. 62-68.](#)
'The Body of Emptiness', translated by Anne-Marie Smith di Basio, in *Pages/Paysages, Embodied, Figures in a Landscape* (Birkhäuser, automne 2002) pp. 78-83.

On Pierre Fédida: a selection

Monique David-Ménard et al, *Autour de Pierre Fédida* (PUF, 2007)
Gilles Deleuze, 'The Complaint and the Body', *Two Regimes of Madness* (Semiotexte, 2006)
Georges Didi-Huberman, *Gestes d'air et de pierre: corps, parole, espace, souffle* (Editions de Minuit, 2005)
Anne-Marie Smith, 'In Memoriam: Pierre Fédida or The Insistence on the Dream', *Paragraph*, 27: 3 (November 2004), pp. 113-120.
Michael Stone-Richards & Ming Tiampo, 'To Introduce Pierre Fédida', *Qui Parle* 10: 1 (Fall/ Winter 1996)