

Situating Pierre Fédida, 16th June 2022, Freud Museum London, 18.00-21.00

PROGRAMME

18.00 Introductions from Tom Derosé, Patrick ffrench; Dany Nobus

Session 1

18.10 Mareike Wolf-Fédida

18.25 Monique David-Ménard

18.40 Steven Jaron

18.55 Response from Dany Nobus and Q & A

19.25 Break of 15 minutes

Session 2

19.40 François Villa

19.55 Anne-Marie Smith-Di Biasio

20.10 Ana Minozzo

20.25 Response from Dany Nobus and Q & A

20.55 Closing remarks from Nigel Saint

Contributors will speak in English, excepting one talk in French, with written versions in English provided at the event. Live translation where necessary from Harriet Bond.

The event is co-organised by Professor Patrick ffrench of the Department of French and the Centre for Humanities and Health, King's College London, and Dr Nigel Saint of the School of Languages, Cultures and Societies at the University of Leeds, and the Freud Museum, London, with funding from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at King's College London and the School of Languages, Cultures and Societies at the University of Leeds. We are grateful for the support of Professor Mareike Wolf-Fédida, Professor Dany Nobus (Brunel University), Harriet Bond for translation, and Tom Derosé at the Freud Museum. The event is held in conjunction with a further symposium, *Translating Pierre Fédida*, to take place at King's College London on the 17th June 10.30-17.00. Further details and registration to be confirmed for this second event.

ABSTRACTS

Mareike Wolf-Fédida will recall her visit with Pierre Fédida in 1985 to the Freud Museum, where he had been invited in the context of work on borderline patients.

Monique David-Ménard will evoke the two periods in which she worked closely with Pierre Fédida, firstly in the context of the Laboratoire de Psychologie fondamentale et Psychoanalyse (Laboratory of Fundamental Psychology and Psychoanalysis), of the University of Paris 7, then as jointly involved, with Fédida, in the *Revue Internationale de Psychopathologie* and the Centre d'étude du vivant which Fédida founded with Dominique Lecourt and Monique Chemillier-Gendreau in 1993, and which he directed until his death in 2002. These two periods relate to Fédida's positioning as a psychoanalyst and phenomenologist, in the first instance, and then, with Fédida's foundation of the Centre de l'étude du vivant, as a psychoanalyst and epistemologist.

Steven Jaron, ‘The *objeu* and the Poetics of Psychoanalytic Writing and Therapy’

This presentation develops Pierre Fédida’s reworking of Francis Ponge’s neologism, *objeu*, as a distinctly psychoanalytic concept based first on Freud’s observations on the young child’s symbolizing of absence and then D.W. Winnicott’s considerations on playing and psychotherapy. A brief clinical illustration of a therapeutic consultation with a child shows how the patient expressed, in the course of playing with an *objeu*, the painful affect of object-loss, that of losing an eye.

François Villa will consider Pierre Fédida as a master without students but whose authority and influence are immense in psychoanalysis and beyond.

Anne-Marie Smith-Di Biasio, ‘The Body of the Word, the Dream in the Transference and the Work of Sepulture’

This paper will consider the body of the word through that singular attention to the genealogy of language in the transference opened up for Fédida by Binswanger’s analytic of presence. It will consider how when flickering between amnesia and reminiscence the word of the patient speaking in the presence of an analyst is in turn signifying absence and forming its interlocutor. Fédida’s focus on speech rendering the echo of its own listening – as a body of emptiness – will be linked theoretically to Winnicott’s definition of the found/created object and to the *fort/da* as a gesture of speech bringing back the lost object and unlocking interiority in a movement reminiscent of Fédida’s thinking through Binswanger, ‘The world dreams in the body’. Fédida’s insistence on the strangeness of dream and of the transference as founding the status of language in the psychoanalytic situation will be linked to the animistic potentiality of this site for strangeness, and how the decomposition of language and image break-down meet here in the substance of voice weaving a psychical sepulture out of ancestral imaginaries.

Ana Minozzo, ‘Between us and beyond: countertransference in Pierre Fédida’

Navigating what often feel like irremediable splits in the psychoanalytic movement with ease and elegance is one of Pierre Fédida’s greatest gifts both as a clinician and as a writer. In this presentation, I will explore his views on the contentious nature and function of countertransference. It is in this particular topic that Fédida’s plural repertoire – which features waves of psychoanalytic thinking from Freud, Klein, Ferenczi and Lacan as well as phenomenology and a dialogue with Deleuze and Bataille – offers us important lessons in sensibility with matters of the unconscious, togetherness and language in and out of the clinic.

BIOGRAPHIES

Dany Nobus is Professor of Psychoanalytic Psychology at Brunel University London, Founding Scholar of the British Psychoanalytic Council, and former Chair and Fellow of the Freud Museum London. He has published numerous books and papers on the history, theory and practice of psychoanalysis, the history of psychiatry, and the history of ideas, most recently *Critique of Psychoanalytic Reason: Studies in Lacanian Theory and Practice* (2022), *Thresholds and Pathways Between Jung and Lacan: On the Blazing Sublime* (edited with Ann Casement and Phil Goss) (2021), and *The Law of Desire: On Lacan’s ‘Kant with Sade’* (2017). In 2017, he was the recipient of the Sarton Medal of the University of Ghent for his outstanding contributions to the historiography of psychoanalysis.

Mareike Wolf-Fédida is a Professor of Psychopathology at Université Paris Cité, a psychoanalyst and a member of the Academy of Science, Letters and Fine Art at Caen. She has published substantially in the field of psychopathology, especially on the interrelations of psychoanalysis and phenomenology and on bilingualism and plurilingualism. She is also the editor and publisher of Pierre Fédida's *Œuvres complètes*, with 8 of the planned 12 volumes already published (MJW Fédition, 2018-2022).

Monique David-Ménard has a double career as a professor of philosophy and director of research, and as a practising psychoanalyst. In the former capacity she is Professor Emerita at the University Paris-Diderot and former director of the Centre d'études du vivant (2005-2011), where she introduced the 'Gender and Sexuality' programme. She is currently an Associate Member of ICI-Berlin (International Center for Inquiry) and a member of the International Network of Women Philosophers at UNESCO. As a practising psychoanalyst in Paris she is currently an Associate member of the Société de Psychanalyse Freudienne, and was co-founder of the ISPP/SIPP (International Society for Philosophy and Psychoanalysis). She is the author of: *L'Hystérique entre Freud et Lacan, Corps et langage en psychanalyse* (Editions Universitaires, 1983), translated by Catherine Porter as *Hysteria from Freud to Lacan*, (Cornell University Press, 1989); *La Folie dans la raison pure. Kant lecteur de Swedenborg* (Vrin, 1990); *Les Constructions de l'universel* (PUF, 1997); *Tout le plaisir est pour moi* (Hachette-Littératures, 2000); *Deleuze et la psychanalyse. L'Altercation* (PUF, 2005); *Les Constructions de l'universel* (Edition augmentée, PUF/Quadrige, 2009); *Eloge des hasards dans la vie sexuelle* (Hermann, 2011); *Corps et langage en psychanalyse* (Campagne Première, 2014); *La Vie sociale des choses : l'animisme et les objets* (Editions Le Bord de l'eau, 2020).

Steven Jaron is a clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst working at the 15-20 National Vision Hospital and in private practice in Paris. Before studying clinical psychology at the University of Paris 7 and psychoanalysis at the Psychoanalytic Society for Research and Training (SPRF), he obtained a Phd in French and Comparative Literature from Columbia University. He is the author of *Edmond Jabès: The Hazard of Exile* (Legenda, 2003) and, most recently, *Christopher Bollas: A Contemporary Introduction* (Routledge, 2022).

François Villa is Professor of psychopathology at the University of Paris and co-founder of the Institut La Personne En Médecine (ILPEM, <http://lapersonneenmedecine.uspc.fr/>). His research focuses on internal limits of psychoanalysis and questions the impact of somatic illnesses on the psyche and the processes of individuation in the work of culture. He collaborates in 'Future Investments' projects such as the multidisciplinary LabEx *Who Am I? Determinants of Identity: from the molecule to the individual*. He is the author of about a hundred contributions in international and national journals and in collective works. He has published *La Puissance du vieillir* (PUF, 2010) and *Le caractère dans la pensée freudienne* (PUF, 2009).

Anne-Marie Smith-Di Biasio, teaches Modernist literature and Translation Studies at the Catholic University of Paris & is adjunct Associate Professor at Paris College of Art and the Centre Européen de Traduction Littéraire (Bruxelles). She completed her doctorate in comparative literature and psychoanalysis under the supervision of Malcolm Bowie at London University in 1987 and a dissertation on psychoanalytic listening supervised by Pierre Fédida at the university of Paris 7 in 1998. Her research explores the question of memory at the interface of Literature and Psychoanalysis, Writing and Translation, in the context of European Modernisms. Her latest monograph *Le Palimpseste mémoriel; entendre la mémoire au fil des Modernismes* is forthcoming with Sorbonne University Press in 2023. She is also the author of *Virginia Woolf, la hantise de l'écriture* (Indigo & Côté-femmes 2010) and of *Julia Kristeva, Speaking the Unspeakable* (Pluto Press, 1988). She has published regularly in *Paragraph*, and in France in the journals *Adolescence*, *Carnet/PSY*, *Psychiatrie française &*, *Confrontations psychiatriques*, and is a translator of poetry (La revue des Archers), literature (Correspondence Virginia Woolf, Vanessa Bell, forthcoming *Éditions de la Table Ronde*) and psychoanalysis (IJP and Journal of the EPF).

Ana Carolina Minozzo is a psychoanalyst and researcher based in London, UK. She holds a PhD in Psychosocial Studies from Birkbeck, University of London as well as undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Psychoanalytic Psychology and Psychosocial Studies from the same university. Since 2013, she teaches Cultural and Theoretical Studies at the London College of Fashion, University of the Arts London and her research crosses the fields of medical humanities, feminist praxis, continental philosophy and psychoanalysis. She practises psychoanalysis both in private practice and in the community, with a focus on the clinic of psychoses, issues around migration and gender.

Patrick ffrench is Professor of French and co-director of the Centre for Humanities and Health at King's College London. His work falls broadly into the field of 20th-century French literature and thought. He is the author of *The Time of Theory: A History of Tel Quel* (OUP, 1996), *The Cut: reading Bataille's Histoire de l'Œil* (OUP, 2000), *After Bataille: Sacrifice, Exposure, Community* (Legenda, 2007). More recently his work has revolved around engagements with the cinema or with the cinematographic imaginary in literature and critical theory; this orientation has resulted in the books *Thinking Cinema with Proust* (Legenda, 2018) and *Roland Barthes and Film: Myth, Eroticism, Poetics* (Bloomsbury, 2019). His current research is concerned with theories of *care* and transitional space, in the interfaces between psychoanalytic theory, literature and medical humanities.

Nigel Saint is Lecturer in French Studies at the University of Leeds. He completed a doctorate at UCL on Marguerite Yourcenar under the supervision of Annette Lavers (*Marguerite Yourcenar: Reading the Visual*, Legenda/MHRA, 2000). He has written on Georges Perec, Louis Marin, Georges Didi-Huberman and Pascal Convert. He co-edited *Modern French Visual Theory: A Critical Reader* (MUP, 2013) with Andy Stafford and a special issue of *Early Modern French Studies* on Louis Marin (2016) with Alain Cantillon. He is working on a study of Didi-Huberman. His essay on Fédida, 'Dream Images, Psychoanalysis and Atrocity: Pierre Fédida and Georges Didi-Huberman', will appear in *Dreams and Atrocity: The Oneiric in Representations of Trauma*, ed. E-R. Baker and D. Otosaka (Manchester University Press, 2022).