



## SATISFACTION AT LAST NEUROPSYCHOANALYSIS OF SEX, DRIVE AND ENJOYMENT

*NPSA 20<sup>th</sup> International Congress: Brussels, 18-20 July 2019*

What is the standing of Freudian theory in the light of modern neuroscience when it comes to drives, pleasure, enjoyment and sex? To date, Neuropsychanalysis might be seen as a rather desexualized body of theories, studies and methods: sexual topics pop up here and there, but not in any systematic way that recognizes sexuality as a constitutive foundation of the human condition. This congress aims to rectify this impression by directing our attention to questions like:

- *What is **sex**? What is **libido**? What is an **erogenous zone**?*
- *Do we have to reconsider the Freudian notion of **infantile sexuality**?*
- *What about **affect, emotion and drive** in the sexual act and in sexuality?*
- *Are we **enslaved** to love? What is the role played by reward in love, addiction or sex?*
- *What can we say about the role of the **object** in the sexual act and in sexuality: partial, transitional, sublime, exquisite – including lost objects?*
- *Are there specific (neuroscientific, conceptual, clinical) reasons to distinguish **feminine enjoyment**?*

The congress will take inspiration from Freud's notion of the "experience of satisfaction" as well as from various post-Freudian notions, such as the prominent place given by Lacan to enjoyment (*Jouissance*) in relation to human subjectivity. Thus, we might ask:

- *Is Freud's interpretation of the **experience of satisfaction** still tenable, more than a century later? Do we need to revisit the relation between needs, libido, drive and desire in light of current neuroscientific findings?*
- *What about the relation between **Freud's repetition compulsion** and **Lacan's Jouissance** in the light of modern neurosciences?*
- *How do we conceive of **death drive** in this discussion?*
- *What (neuroscientific) grounds are there for the introduction of **multiple forms of enjoyment**, as Lacan's work suggests: phallic enjoyment, "autre jouissance", surplus enjoyment ("plus-déjouir")?*
- *What about the idea of a sexual relationship, of which Lacan states that there is no such thing ("**Il n'y a pas de rapport sexuel**")?*

The congress will take place at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) / Solbosch Campus.

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