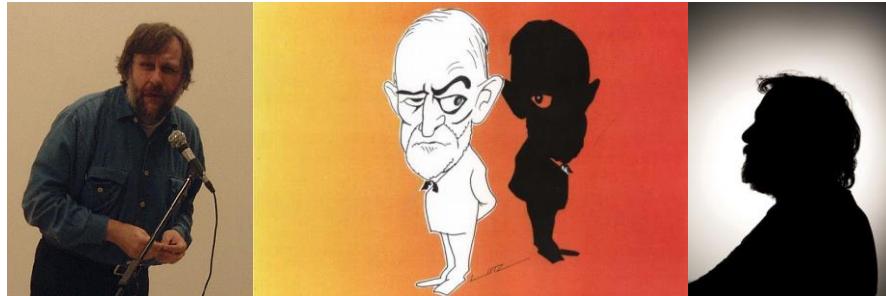


WHY THE FREUDIAN LEGACY IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

A SERIES OF OPEN SEMINARS



Today, psychoanalysis does no longer enjoy the reputation it once had: psychology has dropped psychoanalysis, Freud is supposed to be all too sexually obsessed and the Lacanians get lost in the surrealistic knots of their own theory. And yet, today, many political and social theories keep on referring to Freudian thought as to their most important inspiration and claim that, erroneously, our time thinks to be able to leave that theory behind. Critical theories as the ones of Cornelius Castoriadis, Alain Badiou and Slavoj Žižek – to mention only those three – owe a lot to it, and, what is more, defend the Freudian legacy as an important element in any future critical theory, including any transformative reflection on conflict or public ethics in general.

The *Research Centre in Public Ethics and Governance* and the *Conflict Research Center* have joined one another to organize a series of open seminars discussing the importance of maintaining the reference to Freudian thinking within the domains of human sciences, conflict theories, theories on public ethics, and critical thinking in general. Freudian and post-Freudian psychoanalytic theory establishes a discussion with the entire philosophical

and scientific tradition. A genuine understanding of conflict, democracy and transformative political action implies that this field, which explores a specific and unavoidable dimension of the human soul, has to be taken into consideration. Exploring this perspective is the object of the seminar series discussing ‘why the Freudian legacy is worth fighting for’.

The series will start by introducing thematic discussions on some aspects of psychoanalytic relevant for conflict studies, moral dimensions of transformation, and critical thought. A lecture by Slavoj Žižek, whose work on critical social theory is organized around Freudian references, is planned for the end of the coming year.

The first *Open Seminar* will discuss the psychoanalytic perspective on ‘domination’ – domination, both in the field of the political and in the therapeutical situation. The seminar will be held on Wednesday, March 5th, 4-6 pm, Saint Paul University, Building Laframboise, room L 123. The entrance is free, but it would be appreciated to announce yourself by email to htessier@ustpaul.ca or mdekesel@ustpaul.ca.

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Open Seminar of Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 4-6pm

DOMINATION

PSYCHOANALYTIC PERSPECTIVES

PROGRAM

Chair: Sophie Cloutier

4.00 :	Coffee / Welcome
4.10 – 4.55	Prof. dr. Hélène Tessier (USP, Conflict Studies), <i>Seduction and domination: a psychoanalytic contribution to a rationalist understanding of conformism</i>
4.55 – 5.40	Prof. dr. Marc De Kesel (USP, School of Public Ethics), <i>Therapy as a gift: a Freudian perspective on the impossible task of the therapist</i>
5.40 – 6.00	Plenary Discussion