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Towards the XIXth, May 2021, New Lacanian School's congress on Bodily Effects of Language.

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Biopolitics and presence of the bodies

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Lacan reminds us that the Imperative is “what is most original in speech”^[1] and that it belongs to the very structure of the discourse of the master. In these times of pandemic and triumphant biopolitics, the imperatives of a master subjected to the evaluations of sanitary committees give our lives their rhythm.

The lockout and the social barriers constrain the bodies: everywhere the virtual mode has become imperative: teleworking, leisure on the web, videoconferences.

This new use of speech in defiance of flesh and blood encounters produces effects of mortification and jouissance on the body such as: isolation, anxiety, overcoming by the imaginary, weariness.

With the soaring of analytical or supervision sessions by phone or Skype, the lesser of two evils as we call it and most likely preferable to no sessions at all, our very practice lets itself be worn down by this unreal uncorporeal mode. Laurent identifies the discourse to an epidemic[2] and we know that such drift which is already the norm in other longitudes has become viral itself.

Some patients say how happy they are to get out of home to move to their session. We know that only the presence of the bodies between four walls meant to “encircle a hole”[pour entourer un vide (void)][3] enables speech “regarded as a drive”[4] to unfurl, silence to resound and make the absence of sexual rapport writable. A session of bodies in presence, a new agalma ?

Translated by Catherine Massol

References

- [1] Lacan J. : « Conférence à Genève sur le symptôme ». La cause du désir N° 95, p. 7-22. : See [Geneva lecture on the symptom: 4th October 1975: Jacques Lacan](#) or [here http://www.lacanianworks.net/?p=331](http://www.lacanianworks.net/?p=331) : Note – Circulated From: NLS-Messenger Subject: [nls-messenger] 3794.fr/ NLS BLOG – FRAGMENTS Date: 28 April 2021 at 19:59:00 BST, Towards New Lacanian School Congress (<https://www.nlscongress2021.com/congress>), 22 & 23 May 2021, Topic: Bodily Effects of Language : “It is always with the help of words that man thinks. And it is in the encounter between these words and his body that something takes shape.” — Lacan, J. “Geneva Lecture on the Symptom” (1975), trans. Russell Grigg, Analysis, 1, (1989), p.13.
- [2] Laurent E. : « Les biopolitiques de la pandémie et le corps, matière de l’angoisse », Lacan Quotidien N° 892. See <https://lacanquotidien.fr/blog/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/LQ-892.pdf>
- [3] Lacan J. : « Je parle aux murs », Paris, Seuil, 2011, p 87. : Translated as [Seminar XIX : The Psychoanalyst’s Knowledge – Seven Talks at St Anne’s Hospital : 1971-1972: begins on 4th November 1971: Jacques Lacan](#) or [here http://www.lacanianworks.net/?p=336](http://www.lacanianworks.net/?p=336) : Seminar XIXa : 6th January 1972 : pIII 7 of Cormac Gallagher’s translation ; Published at www.LacanianIreland.com : And that walls, faith...it is all the same very striking that since what I was speaking about earlier, namely, Christianity, leans perhaps through it a little bit too much toward Hegelianism it is designed to circumscribe a void.
- [4] Miller J.-A. : L’orientation lacanienne, « Le tout dernier Lacan », 13 décembre 2006, inédit. : See <http://jonathanleroy.be/2020/12/orientation-lacanianne-jacques-alain-miller/>