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Activités des Sociétés et Groupes de la NLS
Activities of the Societies and Groups of the NLS

REPORT

It was a warm morning, and the sky was open and bright in Dublin last Saturday September 13th.

Eric Laurent came to Ireland to launch the English translation of his book [Lost in Cognition](#), of which *Rik Loose*, Chair of ICLO-NLS, gave an overview as an introduction to the event. This book gathers a number of papers produced in the last decade as a result of Laurent's relentless engagement with Lacanian psychoanalysis and its place and function in the 'great conversation of civilisation'. From neural plasticity and the inscription of the subject, expert-assessment and the 'psychopathy of evaluation', to cognitive psychoanalysis and the impasses of the DSM-V, the book is an invitation to discover how the teachings of Freud and Lacan are alive in the everyday practice and research of the Lacanian Orientation.

The conference delivered by Laurent on "*Psychoanalysis and the Cognitive Paradigm*" bore witness to a perspective which does not recoil before the challenges of an ever changing world and its uncertainty, while at the same time responds to the lures and perils of the more or less authoritarian forms of approaching, managing and theorising what is human.

The presentation was simultaneously a historical framing of the points of rupture and continuity in the development of psychoanalytic and cognitive hypotheses, a strong critique of the so-called neuro-cognitive and neuro-psychoanalytical theories, and a creation of bridges for a debate that would include a questioning of the epistemological and clinical foundations of the multiple discourses at play.

Laurent concluded: "We are emerging from a period in which a predominant paradigm was established that only allowed for opposition on the fringes. Now the entire field is shot through with fresh contradictions between scientific hardliners, public and private healthcare bureaucracies, upholders of various clinical traditions, and those appealing for a clinic of the subject. The cards are going to be reshuffled and the divergent interests of the different players are not about to converge in an overhauled unifying paradigm anytime soon. Something new will remain 'lost in cognition'. We shall continue to assume responsibility for the ongoing commentary of this loss..."

Yves Vanderveken, current President of the NLS, *Alan Rowan* and I introduced some questions to open up a discussion, questions that were lively captured in Laurent's references to Lacan's contribution to the understanding of both human subjectivity and the social.

An attentive and interested audience of over 120 people including lecturers, students and practitioners from the fields of psychology, philosophy, psychoanalysis and education, participated and contributed with questions and remarks, to make of this a unique and greatly significant event.

Florencia F.C. Shanahan
ICLO-NLS

Eric Laurent in Dublin

Conference by **Eric Laurent** opening the ICLO-NLS programme 2014/15

Chaired by *Rik Loose, Alan Rowan and Florencia Shanahan*

"Psychanalyse and the Cognitive Paradigm"

Followed by a book signing of the English translation of "*Lost in Cognition*", published by Karnac, 2014

The President of the New Lacanian School, *Yves Vanderveken*, will be present for this event.