

Lacan and his «system of thought»: a historical presentation

Fabrizio Palombi (University of Calabria)

The work of psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan (1901-1981) proceeds by recycling the theoretical components of his research in a process he describes as *poubelliciation* (publication-garbage collection), continuously adding to the pile under the influence of the disparate philosophical, cultural and scientific innovations that he progressively assimilates. The term “system” here is to be understood differently than the Hegelian organic totality or the positivistic methodological unity. The Lacanian system is akin to the juxtaposition of elements exemplified by what Salvador Dali called «the surrealist object that functions symbolically». This talk will propose an analysis of the articulation among different elements of the Lacanian system in a historical perspective.

Fabrizio Palombi is Full professor at the University of Calabria in Italy, as well as at the Institute for Clinical Social Links (ICLeS, Naples) and at The Freudian Institute (IF, Rome). He is the author of four books: *The Unstable Bond. The Actuality of the Psychoanalysis-Science Debate* (*Il legame instabile. Attualità del dibattito psicoanalisi-scienza*, FrancoAngeli 2002); *The Star and the Whole. Gian-Carlo Rota on Mathematics and Phenomenology* (Boringhieri 2003 and Taylor & Francis 2011); *Praise of Abstraction. Gaston Bachelard and the Philosophy of Mathematics* (*Elogio dell'astrazione. Gaston Bachelard e la filosofia della matematica*, Mimesis 2017), and *Jacques Lacan* (Carocci 2019). He studied at the Universities of Milan and Turin and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His research unfolds at the intersection of epistemology, phenomenology and deconstruction, with particular emphasis on the influence of mathematics and psychoanalysis on contemporary philosophy. In his books and essays, he first addressed the problem of “the subject of science” through the history of the debate on the epistemological status of psychoanalysis in English-speaking countries; he then turned to studying “the science of the subject” from a psychoanalytic and phenomenological angle, by addressing the genesis of scientific knowledge in Bachelard, Derrida, Foucault, and Lacan. Palombi is the founding editor of *The Unconscious. Italian Journal of Philosophy and Psychoanalysis* and of the book series “Le Dehors. Psychoanalysis and French Contemporary Thought” (Mimesis). He is the Academic Director of the Programs in Philosophy and History, Philosophical Sciences and Historical Sciences at the University of Calabria, and a member of the Executive Council of Italian Society of Theoretical Philosophy (SIFiT), of the International Research Area on Foundations of the Sciences (IRAFS, Lateran University) and of the Husserl Circle.