

Dora – Hysteria – Gender

Conference in German/English, February 12th, 2016, Sigmund Freud Museum

Friday, 12 February 2016, 2:00 - 9:00 pm
Sigmund Freud Museum, Berggasse 19, 1090 Wien
Admission free, please register: veranstaltung@freud-museum.at

Programme

Lectures (Language as indicated)

Welcome: Monika Pessler, Director, Sigmund Freud Museum

Moderation: **Herman Westerink**, Radboud University Nijmegen

2:00 pm: Daniela Finzi (DE): Narrative Strategien und hermeneutisches Begehren. Rekonstruktionen einer Krankengeschichte aus literaturwissenschaftlicher Perspektive

3:00: Rachel Blass (EN): The analytic denial of Freud's struggle with the understanding of Dora: Simplifying the Oedipus complex and the process of its adoption

4:00: Beatriz Santos (EN): Is Dora a woman? Thinking identity and identifications through the feminist critique of a case of hysteria

5:00: Panel Discussion Hysteria and Perversion (EN), **Jeanne Wolff-Bernstein**, **Philippe van Haute** und **Esther Hutfless**; Moderation: **Jens de Vleminck**

7:00 Key Lecture (DE) **Ilka Quindeau**: Von Dora zu Conchita - neuere Konzepte zu Geschlecht und Sexualität in der Psychoanalyse

Dora – Hysteria – Gender

Freud's 1905 *Fragment of an Analysis of a Case of Hysteria* is not only the first of the five major case studies he wrote, the so-called Dora case is also the only major case study dealing with a female patient. This first major case study is one of the most commented of Freud's texts – a study that not only met clinical interest. For, in the 1970 and 1980s we can witness the start of a "Dora renaissance" that produced many new readings of the text from literary, philosophical and especially also feminist perspective. In these readings often special attention was paid to ideological aspects of the case study in particular and psychoanalysis in general, notably also regarding the power relations operating in language and sexuality. Indeed, we find such relations inherent to the field of psychoanalysis, sexuality, pathology and feminism in a condensed way in the Dora text. A thorough analysis of the text thus requires an interdisciplinary approach.

Such approach is central in the symposium "Dora – Hysteria – Gender". The aim of the symposium is not only to situate the text originally named "Dream in Hysteria" in relation to *The Interpretation of Dreams* and the *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality* while focusing on Freud's understanding of sexuality, bisexuality, hysteria, perversion and transference from a historical and systematic perspective. The aim is also to elaborate the text's potential and to develop new readings in view of the contemporary scientific fields of gender and queer studies. Part of this undertaking is the critical analysis of Freud's theory of femininity.

A Conference by the Sigmund Freud Museum in cooperation with the Freud Research Group

Daniela Finzi

Narrative Strategien und hermeneutisches Begehren. Rekonstruktionen einer Krankengeschichte aus literaturwissenschaftlicher Perspektive

(Lecture in German)

Ausgehend von einer kurzen Beleuchtung der Psychoanalyse als „Verdachtshermeneutik“ sowie des auf Selektieren und Kondensieren beruhenden Mediums der Fallgeschichte versucht der Beitrag zweierlei: Zum einen wird den narrativen Strategien und fiktionalen Ausschweifungen der Dora-Studie, zum anderen ihrem patriarchalen Gestus samt seiner Aneignungs- und Kolonisierungsverfahren nachgegangen. Im Sinne einer „kontrapunktischen Lektüre“ wird Freuds Fragment auf Mehrstimmigkeit und Widersprüche gelesen, um mögliche Orte ausfindig zu machen, von denen aus Dora gesprochen haben könnte.

Daniela Finzi ist Kultur- und Literaturwissenschaftlerin mit den Forschungsschwerpunkten Psychoanalyse, Kulturtheorie und Gender Studies. Sie arbeitet seit 2009 als wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin im Sigmund Freud Museum und externe Lehrende an der Universität Wien. Zu ihren Publikationen zählen u.a. die Monographie *Unterwegs zum Anderen? Literarische Er-Fahrungen der kriegerischen Auflösung Jugoslawiens aus deutschsprachiger Perspektive* (Francke 2013); der Sammelband *Die Lust an der Kultur/Theorie. Transdisziplinäre Interventionen* (gemeinsam mit Anna Babka und Clemens Ruthner; Turia + Kant 2012) und zuletzt die Aufsätze „Übertragung“ (in: Schmidt, Matthias (Hg.): *(Rück)Sendungen. Zu Jacques Derridas Envois/Sendungen*. Turia + Kant 2015) und „Verunsicherungswissenschaft Psychoanalyse“ (in: Lind, Gerald/Pany, Doris (Hgg.): *Ambivalenzraum Universität*. Neofelis 2016).

Rachel Blass

The analytic denial of Freud's struggle with the understanding of Dora: Simplifying the Oedipus complex and the process of its adoption

(Lecture in English)

Much of the literature on the Dora-case critiques Freud's oedipal interpretations. In this paper I will present my claim that the criticisms are misguided not because Freud's oedipal interpretations were correct, but rather because he did not make such interpretations. Moreover, at the time of the Dora-case Freud had not yet elaborated an oedipal framework that would have allowed for such interpretations. I go on to argue that the analytic assumption that Freud held his oedipal model already at the time of "Dora" conceals some of the difficulties involved in the adoption of the of the Oedipus complex. These difficulties relate to determining the origins of the complex and of guilt and the basic meaning and nature of sexuality and its perverse expressions. They also pertain to the dangers experienced in committing to a new analytic theory. I conclude that it is by acknowledging Freud's struggle with his ideas that we can come to better appreciation of the significance.

Rachel Blass is a member and training analyst at the Israel Psychoanalytic Society and a member of the British Psychoanalytical Society. She is a Professor of Psychoanalysis at the University of London, and a board member and editor of the "Controversies" section of the *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*. She has published over 70 articles which deal mainly with the conceptual, epistemological, and ethical foundations of psychoanalysis and their relevance to contemporary thinking and practice. In recent years her focus has been on Kleinian psychoanalysis and its evolution from Freud's work. She has lectured and offered workshops in many countries and her writings have been translated into over a dozen languages.

Beatriz Santos

Is Dora a woman? Thinking identity and identifications through the feminist critique of a case of hysteria

(Lecture in English)

Thirty years after the publication of *In Dora's Case* and following the development of the field of gender studies, we intend to revisit the feminist criticism addressed to Freud's analysis of Dora. Does the production of new discourses regarding sexual identities, with the political perspective they bring to discussions about sexuality, transform the clinical experience of psychoanalysts working today? And in what ways do they change our relationship to canonical texts such as *Fragments of an analysis of a case of hysteria*? From Cixous's interrogation of "what woman is not Dora?" to Butler's description of the performativity of gender, there have been many different ways to question what it means to be a hysterical woman in the eyes of psychoanalysis. This paper aims to contribute to this discussion.

Beatriz Santos holds a Ph.D. in Research in Psychoanalysis from the Université Paris Diderot. Her research interests include the relationship between psychoanalysis and gender studies, contemporary configurations of sexuality and the effect of norms on clinical experiences. She has written on the notion of body on the works of Freud and Butler, on the theory of identifications and on homosexuality as a question for psychoanalysis. She practices psychoanalysis in Paris.

Panel Discussion Hysteria and Perversion

(Panel discussion in English)

Jeanne Wolff-Bernstein

J'appelle un chat un chat

Unlike Freud's self-avowed statement that he names things, particularly, sexual matters, by their name, the case of Dora, is a case of many intrigues, double crossings, conflicted heterosexual and homosexual desires and lost voices. A closer reading of the case with a special attention to Freud's later-added footnotes reveals a fascinating entanglement between Freud's transference oversights and Dora's secret loves.

Jeanne Wolff Bernstein is the past president, and supervising and personal analyst at PINC. She is on the faculty at PINC and at The Sigmund Freud Privatuniversität, Vienna, and NYU Post-Doctoral Program for Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy. She was the 2008 Fulbright Freud Visiting Scholar in Psychoanalysis at the Freud Museum, Vienna, Austria and is the chair of the Scientific Advisory Board at the Freud Museum, Vienna. She is a member of the Wiener Arbeitskreis für Psychoanalyse. She has published many articles on the interfaces between psychoanalysis, the visual arts and film. Her most recent publications include the chapter on Jacques Lacan to the *Textbook of Psychoanalysis*, edited by Glen Gabbard, Bonnie E. Litowitz & Paul Williams, American Psychiatric Publishing 2012, the article "Tattoos/Hysteria" in *Body Image and Identity in Contemporary Societies* (Routledge 2015) and "Between the Artist's Studio and the Psychoanalytic Office: A Comparison of Lucian Freud's and Sigmund Freud's Interior Space", in *Private Utopia, Cultural Setting of the Interior in the 19th and 20th century* (De Gruyter 2015). Forthcoming is "Living between two languages, a bi-focal perspective", in *Locating Ourselves: Immigration in the Analytic Encounter* (Routledge 2016).

Philippe van Haute

Oedipus in the Dora-case and in Freud's early work

There is a strong tradition that maintains that psychoanalysis starts at the very moment that Freud replaces his theory of seduction by a theory of (oedipal) phantasy. In this perspective many psychoanalysts (with only few exceptions) and historians of psychoanalysis interpret the Dora-case along oedipal lines. This tradition and the interpretation of the Dora-case that goes along with it, is highly problematic. But if the Oedipuscomplex is only introduced much later in Freud's work as is often said, what does this imply?

Philippe Van Haute is professor of philosophical anthropology at Radboud University (The Netherlands) and extra-ordinary professor at the University of Pretoria (South Africa). He is a practicing psychoanalyst and he was president of the Belgian School for Psychoanalysis from 2006 to 2009. He recently published (with Tomas Geyskens) *Towards a non-oedipal psychoanalysis? Clinical anthropology in Freud and Lacan* (Louvain University Press, 2012) and he re-edited with Herman Westerink and Christian Huber the 1905 edition of Freud's *Drei Abhandlungen zur Sexualtheorie* (Vienna University Press, 2015).

Esther Hutfless

The Case of Dora – A Queer Perspective

Many feminist and queer theorists picked up Freud's famous case study on Dora to illustrate the patriarchal and heteronormative bias within psychoanalysis. It is the aim of my short statement to show that queer and feminist re-readings of Dora and psychoanalytic key-concepts such as perversion and hysteria may not necessarily lead to a refusal but enable a productive and queer revision of these psychoanalytic concepts.

Esther Hutfless is lecturer at the Department of Philosophy at the University of Vienna and psychoanalyst within the "Wiener Arbeitskreis für Psychoanalyse" in Vienna. Her main research areas include: Phenomenology, Deconstruction, Feminist Philosophy, Psychoanalysis and Queer Theory.

She co-edited – together with Elisabeth Schäfer and Gertrude Postl – a volume on Hélène Cixous' *Laugh of Medusa*, which includes the first German translation of this famous essay and several articles on important subjects, such as écriture féminine, psychoanalysis, philosophical approaches on the notion of laughter, deconstruction and feminist philosophy (Passagen 2013).

Currently she is working on the subject "Queering Psychoanalysis"; she is preparing the first German anthology concerning Queer Theory and Psychoanalysis.

Ilka Quindeau

Von Dora zu Conchita - neuere Konzepte zu Geschlecht und Sexualität in der Psychoanalyse

(Lecture in German)

Im Mittelpunkt des Vortrags steht das Verhältnis von Sexualität und Geschlecht: Die im Alltagsverständnis so geläufige Zuordnung von männlicher und weiblicher Sexualität ist aus psychoanalytischer Sicht keineswegs selbstverständlich. Freud entwarf in seiner Sexualtheorie eine `polymorph-perverse´ Sexualität, eine Vervielfältigung von Lust- und Befriedigungsformen, welche die infantile Sexualität kennzeichnen und den Grundzug der Sexualität auch im Erwachsenenalter bildet. Demgegenüber sind die Versuche, eine genuin männliche und eine genuin weibliche Sexualität zu postulieren, weitgehend mit einem verengten, konventionellen Sexualitätsbegriff verbunden. Für die Aufrechterhaltung eines weiten Begriffs von Sexualität jenseits der Reproduktionsfunktionen im Sinne einer Psychosexualität, in der Phantasien und unbewusste Erinnerungen ebenso bedeutsam für die sexuelle Erregung sind wie physiologische Funktionen, bietet sich statt der Dichotomie `männlich – weiblich´ der Rekurs auf das Konzept der Bisexualität an. Als zentrale Entwicklungsaufgabe für beide Geschlechter wird die Integration von äußerer und innerer Genitalität betrachtet. Ich verbinde damit das Ziel, ein theoretisches Modell geschlechtsübergreifender menschlicher Sexualität zu entwickeln, das die Polarität von Männlichkeit und Weiblichkeit überwindet und die Geschlechterspannung nicht zwischen Männern und Frauen, sondern in jeder einzelnen Person ansiedelt.

Ilka Quindeau, Diplom-Psychologin und -Soziologin, arbeitet als Psychoanalytikerin und Lehranalytikerin (DPV/IPV) in eigener Praxis und als Professorin für Klinische Psychologie an der Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences. Ihre Arbeitsschwerpunkte sind Geschlechter-, Biographie- und Traumaforschung. Vielfältige Lehr- und Vortragstätigkeit an psychotherapeutischen Instituten und Universitäten in Deutschland, Österreich, Schweiz, Israel und USA; Gastdozentur zuletzt im Spring Term 2015 an der Columbia University, New York. Zu ihren jüngsten Veröffentlichungen zählen Sexualität (Psychosozial-Verlag 2014); Männlichkeiten – Wie weibliche und männliche Psychoanalytiker Jungen und Männer behandeln (gemeinsam mit Frank Dammasch, Klett-Cotta 2014) sowie Verführung und Begehren – die psychoanalytische Sexualtheorie nach Freud (Klett-Cotta 2008).