

The Association for Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy in Ireland
and
Affiliated Psychoanalytic Workgroups

are pleased to announce a study weekend on

Lacan's Seminar 22: *R. S. I.*

to be held in Dublin, on 23 – 24 June, 2012.

APPI and APW are glad to collaborate to foster a discussion of this important chapter in Lacan's later work through a weekend of study, discussion, and presentations.

In Seminar 22, Lacan engaged in a sustained reconsideration of his three registers, the real, the symbolic, and the imaginary—this time with the help of the Borromean knot. He seems to want to argue that the human psyche is a knotting of the three registers, but then he asks a question that would never have occurred to his auditors: *If they are so different, how do we justify knotting them? And if they are knotted, how different could they be?*

Lacan finds two answers to this problem. One is the flattening out of the Borromean knot. He had announced this operation in his talk "*La Troisième*," delivered just before the seminar began. Flattening allows Lacan to treat the three-dimensional knot as if it were a two-dimensional Venn diagram such that he can differentiate the "intersections" of the three registers. The other answer is to introduce a fourth ring to the knot—that of the symptom, which, within a year, was to become the *sinthome*.

The seminar seems to head in two different directions. On the one hand, Lacan's speculations on the knotting of the symbolic, the imaginary, and the real lead him, at the end of the seminar, to consider two types of naming, an imaginary naming that links the real and the symbolic and a symbolic naming that links the real and the imaginary. This seems to be purely linguistic speculation. On the other hand, Seminar 22 also includes the famous session of 21 January 1975, which introduces the idea that woman is a symptom. This seems to be purely clinical speculation. Lacan would probably not draw such a distinction, and the seminar invites us, over the course of our study weekend, to consider the connections between theory and practice, language and *jouissance*, the seminar and the clinic. We invite you to join us in our discussions.

For further information and updates, please log on to our websites:
www.apwonline.org and www.appi.ie.