

## 1<sup>st</sup> Conversation of TyA in Geneva TyA (Drug Addiction and Alcoholism)

The first conversation of TyA in Geneva took place Saturday, April 12 with the support of Asreep-Nls. The presence of around 60 people filled the meeting room of the Addiction Services of the HUG. (University Hospital of Geneva).

By way of an introduction, Nelson Feldman underlined the importance of the birth of TyA in Switzerland, the country where original experiments, such as the prescription of heroine or rooms for consumption, have become a reality.

Lacanian concepts can provide an important perspective on the clinical practice of addictions and also on the way of reading the medical and social responses to phenomena touching addiction. The signifier addiction is being studied in our school and refers to an increasingly vast domain. It is important to note that the concept of *jouissance* is central to this clinical practice.

Fabian Naparstek, member of the EOL and fonder of TyA in Buenos Aires, invited for this event, gave a conference with the title “the present swarm of drugs and the *metastasis of jouissance*”. He talked about the history of the consumption of substances and clarified the different means of treatment of addiction to substances. Starting from a text of Eric Laurent, he specified the four modes of treatment:

Using the object (substance), by means of substitution of opiates (for example, methadone),

Using knowledge, with the concept of the therapeutic community leaning on the figure of the former addict,

By the master signifier and the identification with a targeted ideal, such as with Alcoholics Anonymous,

And, the subjective treatment proposed by psychoanalysis, leaving room for the singular, recognizing the subjective function of the drug in a clinical practice structured on a case-by-case basis.

Two clinical presentations by Aikaterina Nteli and Thomas Rathelot, psychiatrists working at the HUG, allowed for the construction of a case-by-case clinical practice, stimulating a rich conversation with the participants.

These case presentations permitted the clarification of certain crucial points in the clinical practice with addicts, in particular the subjective function of the use of substances, singular in each case. Other significant points: the importance of constructing the underlying clinical structure; and the work based on speech proposed to the subject, based on a desire for knowledge.

These presentations show the importance of the presence in institutions of colleagues trained in the Lacanian psychoanalytic orientation. Moreover, the seriousness of the cases treated in institutions underlines the prevalence of psychosis in the clinic of addictions.

Eric Taillandier presented the TyA of Rennes and their cycle of Conversations, which summons a large network of those working with addiction, allowing for the assembly of up to 200 participants, according to the theme being discussed. The work is inspired by that of Uforca (clinical sections). Each meeting has a theme - “the family”, “emergency”, “wandering” - calling up a practice anchored in reality.

Jean-Marc Josson introduced the TyA of Brussels, talking about the fourteen Conversations, which have taken place in Brussels, using a work method founded on learning by case presentations. He noted the series of cases of psychosis treated in the case histories, illustrating the severity of the situations treated in institutions.

He presented Enaden, an institution oriented by Lacanian psychoanalysis, created in 1982 in Brussels, to treat subjects who have an addiction problem.

Moreover, during their stay in Geneva, Fabian Naparstek, Eric Taillandier and Jean-Marc Josson were able to visit the structure for the prescription of heroin as well as a room for the consumption of drugs.

The working climate and prolific exchanges were stimulating for all. The method of the Conversation has shown its value in Geneva.

Report by Nelson Feldman