

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR A SCHOOL ORIENTED BY THE TEACHING OF SIGMUND FREUD AND JACQUES LACAN

Updated after the 2022 General School Assembly

I – The IF and its School

The IF, Federation of the Forum Associations of the Lacanian Field, creates its School.

II – Name

The School's name is: School of Psychoanalysis of the Forums of the Lacanian Field (SPFLF). In each place where there are local *dispositifs* of the School, be it epistemic or of the guarantee, the name of the set Forums-School, then becomes: 'School of Psychoanalysis of the Forums of the Lacanian Field (SPFLF) of X'. That is SPFLF-France, SPFLF-Spain-F8, SPFLF Spain, FOE-Galicia, SPFLF-Italy, SPFLF-Brazil, SPFLF LA-North, and SPFLF-LA-South.

III – Founding texts

The functions of the School are defined by Jacques Lacan's founding texts: the 'Founding Act of the *École Freudienne de Paris*' of 1964; the 'Proposition of 9 October on the Psychoanalyst of the School'; the 'Discourse to the *École Freudienne de Paris*' delivered in 1967 and published in 1970; the 'Note to the Italians' of 1973, the 'Preface to the English Edition of *Seminar XI*' of 1976, as well as the texts of 1980 about the dissolution.

IV – The functions of the School

The School has as its functions:

1. To sustain 'the original experience' in which a psychoanalysis consists and to enable the formation of analysts;
2. To discern the guarantee of that formation through the *dispositif* of the Pass and the accreditation of analysts 'who have given their proofs';
3. To sustain 'the ethics of psychoanalysis which is the praxis of its theory' (Jacques Lacan)

V – The status of the School

The School is not a legal association; it derives its legal status from the associations of Forums in which it is implanted. Therefore, it does not have the management structure of an association, but instances of international and local functioning, adjusted to their ends.

In each place, the bylaws of the legal associations of the Forums mention their belonging to the IF, the existence of the School of Psychoanalysis, its aims, as well as the local *dispositifs* or, in the absence of these, the *dispositifs* of the School to which the Forum is attached.

VI – The members

1. The Forum members who want to engage in the School do so by presenting a request before a reception committee, following the conditions stipulated in art. XIII of the “Guiding Principles”.
2. The Admission of members to the School are decided by the reception committee, especially, on the basis of effective participation in the activities of the School and in ‘the experience of the School’ within a cartel.

VII – Mode of admission

Members of the School are admitted by a local Reception Committee emerged from a National Association, a Forum or a set of Forums, that have at least 30 members of the School.

VIII – Titles

The School guarantees analysts who result from its formation by means of the two titles of Analyst of the School (AE) and Analyst Member of the School (AME), as defined in the ‘Proposition of 9 October 1967 on the Psychoanalyst of the School’.

IX – Guarantee

The guarantee is internationally awarded by the International College of the Guarantee.

1) Definition and functions

- a. The International College of the Guarantee is composed of 17 members, elected locally in each *dispositif*, by candidacy, for two years by all members of the School of that *dispositif* and who are current with their subscription fees (Forum, IF and School) for the current and the previous year.
- b. The Analysts of the School (AE) are appointed for a period of three years by one of the cartels of the Pass. These cartels are international and are constituted for a duration of two years within the International College of the Guarantee according to methods established by the College and inscribed to its internal regulations.
- c. The title of Analyst Member of the School (AME) is awarded, following a local proposal, by an Accreditation Committee composed of a maximum of seven and a minimum of five members, elected by the International

College of the Guarantee from within its members. The local committees may receive or solicit proposals from the members of the School in their *dispositif*.

2) Election of the International College of the Guarantee

- a. The 17 members of the College are elected locally by the members of each *Dispositif* of the School, who are current with their subscription fees (Forum, IF and School) for the current and the previous year. The distribution is proportional to the number of members of the School in each *dispositif*. No *dispositif* can have, on its own, a number of members greater than or equal to half of the College. The candidates from each list who obtain the most votes are elected. In the case of an equal number of votes being obtained by two candidates, one name will be drawn by lot.
- b. Eligible members: eligible members are the AEs, the AMEs and the *passeurs* who are members of the School and have given testimony during the last two years.
- c. The College chooses, from within its members and for the duration of the College, two secretaries responsible for registering requests for the Pass, proposals for the title of Analyst Member of the School received, and decisions taken by the Cartels of the Pass and the Accreditation Committee. It establishes its own internal rules.
- d. Terms and conditions for the payment of expenses to members of the International College of the guarantee:

“Given the importance of the financial commitment of the members of the ICG, reimbursed to all its members are all travel expenses: tickets, plane or train; accommodation costs (up to a limit of 100 € per night) and meals (up to a limit of 30 € per day) when the ICG meets outside of any international meetings and/or National Journée.

When the IGC meets on the fringe of any of the School Meetings, reimbursement to all its members is for accommodation and meal expenses caused by the additional day(s) on site”.

In view of the magnitude of the administrative tasks, the IGC may have recourse to the help of a secretary for a time, the cost of which will be borne, within the limits of its means, by the International Treasury.

3) Symposium on the functioning of the *dispositif* of the Pass

Every two years, on the occasion of an international Rendezvous, a symposium on the Pass will take place, gathering all the members of the International College of the

Guarantee of the two preceding periods, the *passeurs* who have exercised their function and the corresponding *secretariats* of the Pass.

X – The epistemic instance

1) Composition

The epistemic instance of the School is sustained by a College of Animation and Orientation of the School (CAOS).

The College is composed of four members: the two secretaries of the International College of the Guarantee, plus two members chosen by them from among the members of the International College of the Guarantee from a different zone than their own. It will be necessary to associate to these four, another member chosen within each *dispositif* of the School, in charge of securing the link and collaborate with the CAOS in the planned activities.

2) Functions

This College has the mission of animating the debate of the School at an international level. This College is in charge of coordinating the activities and/or themes of the Seminars of the School; initiate them there where they don't exist, plan Journées, in short, it will make the work of the School exist at the international level.

The Preparatory Volume of the International Rendezvous will be replaced by the preliminary papers on the theme of the Rendezvous, which will be distributed electronically during the two years preceding each Rendezvous by the relevant organizing committee.

The College participates in the choice of the theme of the Rendezvous in consultation with the CRIF and the ICG.

The College will produce electronically the international Bulletin of the School, *Wunsch*. This publication has the aim of presenting the program of the activities of the School and specially of regularly disseminating the work produced in the seminars of the School.

XI – International laboratory for the politics of psychoanalysis of the IF and its School

1) Definition and functions

An International Laboratory for the politics of psychoanalysis of the IF and its School is responsible for the reflection and the research on the objectives and the means of our School in the urgencies of the time, on the basis of the fundamental options inscribed in the Charter of the IF in 1999.

It is composed of two members per zone, elected by candidacy: one of them has to be a former Representative and/or former ICG member – excluding outgoing colleges (eg, with an election in 2020, members of CRIF and ICG 2018/2020 are not immediately candidates), and the other, a member of the School that has not yet been in such instances. The renewal of half of the members of the Laboratory takes place every two years.

This Laboratory works in close contact with members. To do this, its members get in touch with the different situations of the EPFCL via those responsible for intercartels, the delegates and the AMSs of each zone. Depending on needs it can also create ad hoc consultive structures, as well as all the necessary relays, for example from the cartels, in order to have a view point adjusted to the realities of the base of the Forums of the various zones.

The questions studied and the opinions issues are transmitted progressively to through the IF list, before being condensed in the report that will be presented every two years to the Assembly for its debate. The Laboratory will keep a Book of the problems treated and will forward it to the next Laboratory.

2) Election of the Laboratory

It is elected according to the following provisions, homologous to those fixed for the Representatives: “It is composed of two members per zone, elected by candidacy: one of them has to be a former Representative and/or former ICG member – excluding outgoing colleges (eg, with an election in 2018, members of CRIF and ICG 2018/2020 are not immediately candidates), and the other, a member of the School that has not yet been in such instances.” The renewal of half of the members of the Laboratory takes place every two years, after the RV. The CRIF opens the election period. This extends over two months maximum. Each Forum chooses the modality of the election, which can be done, depending on the case, by holding a meeting of the members or by correspondence. But everywhere, the vote for the candidates is made by secret ballot, and only the members duly registered in a Forum and up to date with their membership fees for the current and preceding year, cast their ballots. Candidacies must be made known 15 days before the election.

The counting of votes is public. This occurs at the end of the vote for Forums that can meet. For those who vote by correspondence, the count takes place in the presence of the office bearers of the Forum, one week after the closing date of the elections. Elected officials are elected by a simple majority.

The results are sent to the College of Representatives, who is responsible for its publication in the IF-SPFLF list and via the Delegates. The results document mentions the nominal list of members registered in the Forum up to date of their fees for the current and preceding year, the number of voters and the distribution of votes among the candidates.

XII – The Assembly of the School

The Assembly takes place on the occasion of the International Meeting of the School. All members of the School may participate, but only members of the Assembly of voters may vote.

The Assembly of voters is composed of the College of Representatives (CRIF), the College of Delegates (CD), the last three International Colleges of the Guarantee (ICG), and the College of Animation and Orientation of the School (CAOS), and the *Secretariats* of the Pass corresponding to these three ICG.

Voting is usually by show of hands. However, in the event that it is a question of persons, or if the Assembly decides otherwise, the vote will be taken by secret ballot.

At the same time, all the debates are recorded for archiving. The audio recordings are available. The text of the decisions voted by the Assembly is drafted on the spot, read back to the meeting for approval, and recorded as in the minutes of the Assembly.

When a majority abstains (50% plus one), the item under consideration is adjourned. Within this limit, votes shall be by simple majority when there is the choice between Yes or No, or between two possibilities. When there are several choices, a first vote is taken, then the two choices with the most votes are put to the vote by simple majority.

If in a Forum or Pole there was a delegate who was not a member of the School, that Forum or Pole may designate a member of the School to represent him/her in the Voter's Assembly. Each member will have no more than the power of two proxy votes.

The Assembly decides on the reports of the ICG and the CAOS, on the financial report of the School (especially, on the sum and management of the School's international subscriptions), and takes all the decisions required by the International Meetings of the School and by the general politics of the School.

XIII – The instances of functioning of the School at the local level

The tasks corresponding to the functions of the School—the committee for the admission of new members, the *Secretariat* of the Pass (reception of the requests for the pass and establishment and upkeep of the list of passers), the committee in charge of the proposal of AME and the epistemic instance for the work of cartels and the animation of the work of doctrine—must be carried out in each place by ad hoc *dispositifs*.

The conditions for the admission of members by the Reception Committee are defined in Article VI of these current “Guiding Principles”. As regards to the Commission of Guarantee (*Secretariat* of the Pass and the committee in charge of the proposals of AME) and the epistemic instance, the *dispositifs* must be defined in each place according to the context, understanding that they can only be applied to a community of at least 50 members of the School for the *dispositifs* of the Guarantee, and at least 30 members of the School for the epistemic *dispositifs*.

If these minimum numbers are not reached, several Forums may associate in order to make the structures of the School function; isolated Forums may thus opt, with majority of members in agreement, for attaching themselves to an epistemic and/or guarantee *dispositif*. In order for members of this Forum to become members of the School, it will be necessary that this Forum (or set of Forums) present the request to be attached to the *dispositifs* of a zone, and that this request would result in a formalised agreement, ratified by the majority of its members, among both parties (the forum requesting and the *dispositif* requested). The members of the Forums thus attached may vote and be eligible for the IGC and the local instances of the requested *dispositif*, according to the criteria of election and eligibility detailed in the “Guiding Principles” (Articles VI, IX, XIII).

On another note, the delegates of the IF who are members of the School ensure that the presence of the School is effective locally, by way of seminars or other activities of the school appropriate to the local situation. In cities where there are already committees of the School, the delegates can participate in these in order to make function the activities of the School; in cities where there are no committees of the School, it is the delegate’s responsibility to sustain such activities. Given that situations may be very distinct in different places, the modalities should be decided after discussion and agreement with the members of the International Colleges of the Zone concerned.

XIV – Permutation and non-accumulation of mandates

All the positions must permutate, are not immediately renewable and are not cumulative. In particular, positions cannot be held concurrently in one of the international instances (ICG, CAOS, CRIF, ILPP) and in a management function in the local Forum or Association of Forums. Equally incompatible are positions with the College of Representatives and with the organs of the School at the international level.

In cases in which the strict application of this rule makes the functioning of the School impossible at the local level, the matter will be considered and decided upon by a committee of delegates of the IF according to regulations to be established by the Assembly of the IF.

XV – Rule of periodical review

There will be periodic revisions of the “Guiding Principles” after the Assemblies of the School.

Addenda (07/2022) – Member of a Forum/Member of the School

The difference between a Member of a Forum and a Member of the School is quite clearly specified both in our texts and in our practices, but it is not useless to go back to its basis because that tends to become blurred, even forgotten, over time.

It is intrinsically linked to the history of our movement in which the creation of local forums and then their consolidation into the IF preceded the creation of the School in 2001. The distinction between two types of members was debated from that moment and it was settled at the Assembly in Rio in 2001 where the clause concerning this distinction was voted for by a large majority.

We can refer to the Charter which mentions that the “Forums of the Lacanian Field are not Schools and do not deliver any analytical guarantee. Their objective is to contribute to the presence and maintenance of the stakes of analytical discourse in the conjunctures of the century. We can apply to them what Lacan said of the Freudian Cause after the dissolution of his School: “it is not School, but Field”, and also: “it will have its School”.

This distinction between the Field and the School taken up from Lacan translates into another, that of distinct objectives. In the Lacanian field of discourses, forums ensure what Lacan called the “extension” of psychoanalysis, namely our presence in the social space of other discourses. As for the School, it cultivates the analytic discourse itself, it devotes itself to psychoanalysis in “intension” – to be written in French with an ‘s’. The definition of both the member of a forum and the member of the School can be deduced from there. To be a member of a forum is to engage primarily in extension, to be a member of a School is to be engaged, in addition, in and for psychoanalysis in intension. These two commitments can certainly go hand in hand, and this is often the case; they are tied together – our texts foresee this – but they are conceptually distinct.

It is in the Lacanian field of the modalities of *jouissance* specific to a time that the extension of psychoanalysis is in question. It is there that it must be inscribed, but as a different discourse; it is there that it must maintain connections with other social and political practices which confront the symptoms of the time and also with the various theoretical, philosophical, literary, artistic practices, etc. which try to think them. This task is offered to all those who want to commit to it, even to the youngest who are not yet very advanced in their careers. There is no question of guarantee in this space. A current engagement in a psychoanalysis is not something that is required, as the doors are wide open. Thus, according to our texts, the creation of a forum requires nothing more than a minimum number of colleagues who are simply known to be at least “interested” in psychoanalysis. And let's not forget how much Lacan wished for the presence of non-analysts, as long as they brought a skill in their field.

This aim is consistent with the fact that the Forums of the Lacanian field everywhere are – and must be – **legal associations**. The members of these associations have the status of being a member of an association subject to the legislation of each country. They pay the subscription to their forum and the international subscription to the IF since the forums are members of the IF, and they are admitted locally on the basis of a process that testifies to their effective interest in "the **Lacanian field**".

The School is something quite different because the "Lacanian field", as defined by Lacan, also includes the analytic discourse. This is why the forums are oriented towards the School of Psychoanalysis; it gives them their meaning because it is dedicated "to cultivating analytic discourse" as our Charter says. It is this, with its dispositives culminating in the level of the Pass, which guarantees today that there may be "the psychoanalyst", as Lacan said.

However, our School is not just any old school. Ours is characterised by being an International School, and the members of our School are members of an International School, even if they are locally appointed by a gathering of at least 30 Members of the School. The Lacanian field is de facto international, it is everywhere where there are beings who speak – which is confirmed in our title "International of the Forums". Rather, it is by choice that our School is international, with a dispositive of the Pass which brings together members who are otherwise dispersed in the groupings of local forums that make up the zones, differentiated by their languages, their histories and their cultures. The International School, being alone in its own language, unifies this Babel on the analytic plane.

This choice of an international School is consistent with the fact that it is not a legal association and it does not need to be one, either at the international level or at the local level. Its dispositives are simply housed in the associations of the Forums. But as a consequence, the request to be a member of the School, beyond being a member of a local forum, realises, or should realise according to the logic of our institution, a specific commitment which is not only a commitment to psychoanalysis in intension, **but moreover an "intension" without a border**. This commitment obviously presupposes, for each of those who find themselves in this position, a psychoanalysis and all the correlative work of training, supervision and cartels for thinking psychoanalysis with others, but it supposes even more, the horizon of a possible Pass which puts it in question. Logical, since the Member of the School can declare himself as a practising analyst, propose colleagues, whose work he knows, to the local secretariats for the title of AMS and vote in the assemblies which give rulings for the School. These are less privileges than consequences of his commitment to analytic discourse as such.

Nevertheless, analytic discourse cannot be sustained in our capitalist societies without the politics of extension and that is up to the forums to implement. The two, Forums and School, hold each other together and mutually nourish each other.