

**Charter of the International of the Forums of the Lacanian Field –
School of Psychoanalysis of the Forums of the Lacanian Field (IF-SPFLF)
2008
Followed by an Appendix**

[...] if there is something that remains to be done in analysis, it is to institute this other field of energetics, which would demand other structures than those of physics, and which is the field of *jouissance*. [...] As from what comes from the field of *jouissance*—which, sadly, will never be called the Lacanian field, for I will surely not have the time even to sketch out the bases, but I have wanted to—there are some remarks to be made.

Jacques Lacan, *The Seminar, Book XVII, The Other Side of Psychoanalysis*, New York & London: Norton, 2007.

The International of the Forums of the Lacanian Field (IFLF) aims to federate the activities of the Forums of the Lacanian Field, whose creation was first proposed in Barcelona, in July 1998, and to develop new working relationships among them.

The Forums originate historically in 1980 with the dissolution of the School of Lacan, the *École Freudienne de Paris*. They emanate from a stream which, at that time and in France, created a new School, the *École de la Cause freudienne*. It then expanded to Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, Israel, Italy, Spain, Venezuela and other countries. Following the crisis of 1998 the Forums attempted to develop a counter-experience. Born out of the opposition to the misuse of the One in psychoanalysis, they aim at an institutional alternative oriented by the teaching of Sigmund Freud and Jacques Lacan.

The Assembly of the IF held in Paris on 16 December 2001 proclaimed the creation of the School of the IF, the School of Psychoanalysis of the Forums of the Lacanian Field (SPFLF), in consonance with the provisions of its Charter of 1999.

Accordingly, the title of the IF is now IF-SPFLF.

Wherever the institutional mechanisms of the School exist, the title of the ensemble Forum-School is School of Psychoanalysis of the Forums of the Lacanian Field of X; e.g. School of Psychoanalysis of the Forums of the Lacanian Field of France, or SPFLF-France.

1. The Forums of the Lacanian Field

A. Definition

The Forums associated within the IF are of the Lacanian Field. Their name is borrowed from and refers to the developments that Jacques Lacan devoted to this notion in his seminar *L'envers de la psychanalyse* (*The Other Side of Psychoanalysis*).

Their main objective can be deduced both from their origin and from this reference: to contribute both to the presence and to the continuity of what is at stake in the analytic discourse within the conjunctures of our century.

The Forums of the Lacanian Field are not Schools and provide no analytic guarantee. One could say of them what Lacan asserted about the Freudian Cause after the dissolution of the École Freudienne de Paris: 'It is not a school, but a field'; and also: 'It will have its School'.

B. Objectives

The main objective, stated above, can be formulated according to three axes: critique; articulation with other discourses, and orientation towards a School of psychoanalysis.

1. The Forums were born out of a demand concerning the conditions for the continuity of the analytic discourse. In conformity with this origin, the critique of what is declared in the name of psychoanalysis in the various streams of the analytic movement and the institutional practices which intend to support it will remain a permanent objective. The Forums began with a critical debate and they will make sure that it is maintained as a necessary requirement, depending on future conjunctures.

2. Since the Forums are of the Lacanian Field, which includes the entirety of the discourses that regulate jouissances, their very vocation is to ensure the repercussion and the impact of the analytic discourse amongst the other discourses. This means that connections with the social and political practices which confront the symptoms of our time and links with other theoretical forms of praxis (science, philosophy, art, religion, etc.) will be most specially within their province.

3. The Forums are oriented towards the School from which they derive their meaning, for the School is devoted to developing the analytic discourse. Experience proves that this discourse, ever-threatened by repression and by the tendency to lose itself and be re-absorbed within the common discourse, is at the mercy of the contingencies of the analytic act.

A School is intended to support these contingencies by giving it the support of a community which is driven by the transference of work. Through the treatments, supervisions, personal work on texts, the collective elaboration in cartels and the test that the transmission of the pass represents, it endeavours to disseminate and to submit to scrutiny the knowledge derived from experience and without which there is no analytic act.

The Forums are not a School, but they are part and parcel of the preservation of these objectives of a School. They have adopted as their objective the preparation of a return to the School Lacan wanted, within the frame of the necessities of our time.

The School is governed by the *Guiding Principles for a School Oriented by the Teaching of Sigmund Freud and Jacques Lacan*, updated over time by the vote of all its members.

C. Functioning

The Forums may adopt different forms. They may be associations or federations; national or regional; and with or without legal status, provided that their members have paid their subscription. There can be informal Forums without formal admission of members.

The Forums, whether they have legal status or not, function according to the democratic rule. Those in charge of the management of the various institutional levels are chosen by vote, by

secret ballot, and for a maximum of two years, the rule of permutation affecting all administrative responsibilities.

Within this framework, the necessary choices are made by a case-by-case decision, each Forum giving itself the institutional structures and all the means necessary for the achievement of its goals: committees, cartels, debates, colloquia, meetings, newsletters, publications, etc.

The Forums function therefore according to the principle of initiative, limited only, if applicable, by the principle of solidarity. The principle of initiative is simple: it ensures that the bureaucratic functioning does not stifle new ideas nor be an obstacle to unprecedented proposals when these are compatible with the objectives of the Forums. The principle of solidarity concerns the fact that within an ensemble linked by a common project, the acts of one, whether an individual member or an entire Forum, involves the whole of the others by its consequences. It thus encourages cooperation at all levels and the assumption of responsibilities by each individual.

The IF exerts no directorship over the functioning of the Forums.

2. The International of the Forums of the Lacanian Field.

The IF is a federation of the Forums of the Lacanian Field. Its institutional members are the associations or federations of the Forums of the Lacanian Field, national or regional, which adopt the present Charter, and those that in the future will be admitted to join the federation. The members of each of these ensembles are themselves members of the IF.

The IF can admit informal Forums and it can also admit individual members on a temporary basis for a period of up to one year, when there is a prospect for the creation of a forum, on condition that they formally request it and that their request is accepted by the Assembly.

A. Objectives

The IF is a structure of representation and cohesion of the ensemble constituted by the Forums. It has no power of decision whatsoever regarding the internal management of the Forums that compose it.

Its object is thus to ensure the maintenance of connections, both national and international, within the various Forums of the Lacanian Field in the world and to create all the instruments necessary to encourage exchanges, the circulation of information and publications appropriate to the consolidation of the network of epistemic links which make a community of work.

B. Administration

The IF functions according to the principle of a collegial direction. This comprises two administrative levels, in which an exchange of posts takes place every two years. Former members cannot be immediately re-elected to the same function.

- A College of the Representatives of the large linguistic areas.
- A College of Delegates of the Forums.
- An International Mediation Committee (IMC), exchanging posts every four years.

- The SPFLF has two international organs:
- The International College of the Guarantee (ICG), and
- The College of Initiatives and Orientation of the School (CIOS)

The College of Representatives

This College represents the unity of the ensemble. It has a double function: to ensure the circulation of information and to carry out the actions decided on by the Assembly following the initiatives of the Forums and the School.

It is responsible for ensuring the circulation of information emanating from the Forums and the organisms of the School. It collects that information through the Delegates and distributes it among the ensemble.

It is also its responsibility to produce the publications of the IF.

In addition, in June of each year, the College of Representatives examines and notifies the ensemble of applications for admission to the IF-SPFLF presented either by new Forums or by individuals for provisional membership, and submits them to the Assembly for approval.

It convenes the Assembly every year, if possible, on the occasion of an International Rendezvous. It draws up an agenda based on the proposals of the Forums. It presents a report on the work accomplished. If relevant, it submits its financial balance-sheet and proposes the amount of the annual subscription.

As the tasks assigned to the College of Representative are of transmission and execution, it consults with the assembly of voters through the electronic list on any decision that does not strictly correspond to the application of the rules of this Charter, and proceeds according to the majority of the recommendations that it receives.

Composition of the College of Representatives

The College is composed of the Representatives for the different areas.

It elects its Secretary and distributes the tasks to be carried out among its members.

Each member of the College is elected for two years by the ensemble that he or she represents. The election takes place upon candidature and by secret ballot within each Forum. The Representative of Latin America South is elected by the members of Argentina and Chile; the Representative of Latin America North is elected by the members of Colombia, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico and Venezuela; the Representative of the Anglophone Area is elected by the members of Australia and Israel; the Representative of Brazil, by the members of that country; the two Representatives of Spain, by the members of that country; The Representative of France, by the members of France, Belgium and Greece; and the Representative of Italy, by the members of Italy.

The College of Delegates

The Delegates ensure the articulation between their Forum and the three International Colleges.

They participate in the reporting and editing committees instituted by the International Colleges.

They regularly transmit the relevant items of information which are to be distributed immediately or which deserve to be published in the bulletin, and more generally, all the suggestions stemming from their Forum. In the same way, they relay to their respective Forums the various items of information concerning all the other Forums retransmitted by the College of Representatives. After the Assembly, they give an account to their Forum of the debates of the Assembly, on the basis of the report which they are responsible for distributing.

Composition of the College of the Delegates

This College comprises all the Delegates of the Forums. Each Delegate is elected upon candidature, by secret ballot and for a maximum of two years, by the members of his or her national or regional Forum whose subscription is paid up to date. It is up to each Forum to organise this election, along with that of the member of the College of Representatives, according to the time of the exchanges.

The number of Delegates

The number of Delegates per Forum is proportional to the number of members of each Area whose subscriptions are up to date at the time of the vote, on the basis of one hundred delegates for the entire ensemble of the IF. The institutional organisms of each Area, in liaison with the CRIF, assume responsibility for the distribution of delegates among the local forums, ensuring that each forum has at least one delegate.

In those countries in which there is a double structure—that is, a national association and regional forums whose members are up to date with their subscriptions—the country must choose between being represented in the IF-SPFLF either by the delegates of the regional forums or by the delegates of the national association. In those countries in which there is only a national association, it will be up to this association to make sure, as far as possible, that the various places where the activity of the Forums has been established be represented in the College of Delegates, bearing in mind that the delegates bind themselves to attend the Assembly and that this implies their crossing the Atlantic periodically.

The regulations concerning the functioning of the two Colleges may be articulated in detail in internal rules elaborated by each of the Colleges, which will submit them to the Assembly.

The International Mediation Committee

This Committee intervenes in cases of conflicts within a forum, or between a forum and a Clinical College, in order to facilitate a solution.

It is composed of three members elected upon candidature for four years by the Assembly of voters, on the occasion of an International Rendezvous. Exceptionally, in the case of the first Committee, and until the Assembly of 2010, the election will take place by the electronic vote of the Assembly of voters organized by the CRIF.

Election of Representatives and Delegates

The election of Representatives and Delegates takes place every two years, after the International Rendezvous. The CRIF declares the opening of the period of elections, which must be carried

out within two months. Each Forum chooses the modality of election which will be implemented, according to the particular situations, by the meeting of the members or by mail. Everywhere the vote takes place upon candidature and by secret ballot. Only the members duly registered in a Forum and who are up to date with their subscriptions can vote. Any member of a Forum can be a candidate. The candidatures must be made public 15 days before the election.

If a delegate is unable to perform his or her duties in the course of his/her mandate, the Forum elects a substitute delegate who remains in charge of the relevant functions until the next exchange.

The counting at the two elections is public. It takes place at the end of the ballot for the Forums that can meet. For those that vote by mail, it takes place in the presence of the persons in charge of the Forum one week after the date of the closure of the elections. The election of candidates takes place by simple majority.

The results are transmitted to the College of Representatives, which is responsible for communicating them on the electronic list of the IF-SPFLF, and through the Delegates. The document bearing the results should mention the nominal list of members registered in the Forum who have paid up their subscriptions for the current and the preceding year, the number of voters and the distribution of votes among the candidates.

The Assembly

Composition of the Assembly

The Assembly includes the members of the IF-SPFLF, the representatives of informal Forums and individual members who have been accepted on a provisional basis. All may participate in the Assembly's debates, but only the elected members of the Colleges, namely the two Colleges of the IF and the two International Colleges of the School may vote. They constitute the assembly of voters.

The functions of the Assembly

The Assembly ensures the continuity of the specific objectives of the Forums and adopts all the measures necessary for the promotion of the spirit of debate and discussion. It decides on the orientations and actions relevant for the IF-SPFLF.

The Assembly of the IF meets every second year on the occasion of the International Rendezvous.

The College of Representatives may consult the Assembly of voters by electronic mail whenever it deems necessary, or when a third of the voters of the Assembly so requests.

In June of every year, the College of Representatives submits the candidatures of new Forums to the Assembly.

If a member of the Assembly of voters is unable to participate, he or she may give his/her proxy vote to another member of the Assembly. Only one proxy vote per member of the Assembly is allowed.

A Secretary of the Assembly, elected at its meeting, is in charge of writing the minutes of the debates, which is then distributed among the members of the IFLF by the representatives, and by the Delegates among their respective Forums.

The Assembly hears the reports of the College of Representatives and the International Colleges of the School; decides on requests for admission; determines the amount of the

subscriptions paid by each Forum, calculated according to the number of members; agrees on the frequency, date, location and theme of the International Rendezvous of the Forums; debates and decides on the policy for the journal, on the actions to be undertaken and on all the questions included on the agenda.

The votes are generally taken by raised hands. However, if it is a question concerning individuals, or if the Assembly decides otherwise, the vote will be by secret ballot. The IF does not intervene in the internal politics of the Forums. The Assembly is sovereign for all exceptional cases.

Articulation of the Clinical Colleges with the Forums/School

- Each institutional structure must mention in its statutory documents *the Lacanian Field*, which is for us the unitary signifier. Currently the clinical colleges have a diversity of titles. Whatever they may be, it will be easier for them to add a subtitle stating specifically that they belong within the *Clinical Formations of the Lacanian Field*.
- All the teachers of the Colleges must be members of the IF.
- In the case of invited teachers, the College must include an activity within the frame of the Forum or the School.
- Our (IF-SPFLF) statutory documents must mention the link of solidarity between the Clinical colleges and the Forum/School.

Publications

1. *Hétérité*, the journal of the IF and the SPFLF appears in electronic version, gathers the contributions to the International Rendezvous, which can be eventually published in hard copy by the journals of the different areas.
2. The **Directory** is produced by the CRIF and appears every second year, in the languages of the IF-SPFLF, both in electronic and hard copies. The updates are in charge of one of the Representatives and are periodically included in the electronic version. Only the members of the Forums who have paid up their subscription fees appear in the Directory. N.B.: for the Directory of 2006-2008, the subscriptions considered are those of the period 2005-2006.

Composition of the Directory

It includes as reference texts:

- The Charter of the IF.
- The foundational texts by Jacques Lacan mentioned in the ‘Guiding Principles for a School oriented by the Teaching of Sigmund Freud and Jacques Lacan’.
- The lists of members of the IF and SPFLF.
- The alphabetical list of the members of the Forums, including name, address, titles and functions, membership of the School and, if relevant, the School titles of Analyst Member of the School (AMS) or Analyst of the School (AS).
- The list of members of each Forum, with mention of membership of the School and the titles of the School if relevant.

- The list of AMS and AS.
- The list of organs of the IF-SPFLF.
- The list of members of the International Colleges.

3. The Archives

- Documents of the Archives:
- The Charter
- The Directories
- The minutes of the Assemblies of the IF
- Any other document of importance
- Location: the Archives are kept at the offices of the national associations, in those places where they exist. If this is not the case, they are kept at the address of the Representative of the area, who makes them available to the Forums.

Resources of the IF and the School

The resources are constituted by the subscriptions of the members of Forums which have Delegates, the donations, the sale of publications and any other resources not forbidden by law. The amount of the subscriptions is determined by the Assembly of voters.

The CRIF adopts the decisions concerning the use of funds at the international level (publications, Web site, transportation, etc.). It appoints the international Treasurer from within its members. The Treasurer presents the balance sheet to the Assembly. Each Representative administers the subscriptions of his/her area.

The amount of the subscriptions to the School for its members and the AMS and AS is determined by each instrumentality of the School according to the conditions of each local situation. The established amount is applicable to the ensemble of its members. The members of the School in Forums attached to an instrumentality of the School pay only the international subscription.

The subscriptions corresponding to the School are collected by the Forum in which the members of the School are enrolled, and are used to organize the activities of the School. Cf. 'Rules on the financial management of the IF-SPFLF' in Appendix I.

Loss of membership

The status of member of the IF-SPFLF is automatically lost in case of non-payment by a Forum of its subscription by a year after the due date. The loss of the status of member can also be decided in the case of serious default in relation to the fundamental objectives of the Forums. It can only be decided upon by the Assembly, after discussion with the members of the relevant Forum, and by a two-thirds majority vote.

Evolution

The Assembly will be responsible for introducing from time to time into the text of this Charter the amendments deemed necessary, following the recommendations of the Forums transmitted by the Delegates.

Dissolution

At the request of one third of the members of the Assembly, the question of dissolution is put on the agenda of the Assembly. It can then be decided by a majority of votes.

APPENDIX I

Rules on the financial management of the IF-SPFLF, with the amendments voted in 2008

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SUBSCRIPTIONS OF THE IF AND THE SCHOOL

- **International account and International Treasurer**

An international account of the IF-SPFLF, managed by an International Treasurer appointed by the CRIF, will be created in order to administer the international expenses of the IF and the School. Each representative requests, centralises and administers the subscriptions for the IF and the School in his/her area, transferring a part of those subscriptions to the international account, in proportion to the number of its members, in order to cover the international expenses of the IF and the School. The Treasurer will present the global sheet balance at each Rendezvous.

N.B.: The portion of the subscriptions to be transferred by each area to the international account was not established by the Assembly. The CRIF of 2008-2010 must adopt a decision on this matter.

- **Local expenses generated by the preparation of the Rendezvous**

The expenses generated locally for the Rendezvous are assigned in each area to the local account or to the account of the IF.

- **Call for subscriptions to the IF and the School**

The Representative of each Area calls for the payment of subscriptions at the beginning of the fourth trimestre of each year. The deadline for the payment of subscriptions is the 31st of December.

- **Currency for the subscriptions**

Since 2007 the subscriptions to the IF and the School are established in euros.

- **The amount of the subscriptions to the IF and the School**

As from 2009, 30 euros. The CRIF's proposal concerning the local subscriptions of the School for attached instrumentalities was adopted. The members of the School who belong to Forums attached to an instrumentality pay only the international subscription.

- **Allocation of expenses**

The **subscriptions of the IF** cover all the international expenses of the IF, and particularly those generated by the Directory and the international Web site.

The expenses generated by the international rendezvous are not covered by the IF. According to previous decisions, they are covered by the payment of enrolment fees, and the surplus (or deficit, as the case may be) is returned to the organizing Forum, which decides on its utilization.

The **subscriptions of the School** cover the following expenses :

- The functioning of the international institutional instrumentalities of the pass.
- The conferences devoted to questions of the School (pass or other), when these are organized by an ensemble of Forums, such as the European or the Latin American Conferences .

APPENDIX II

- **The international Web site of the IF-SPFLF**

The responsibility for the reorganization and production of the international Web site of the IF-SPFLF has now been delegated to Lucile Cognard, of the Forum of Brabant (Belgium). The team for the orientation of the Web site, proposed by the CRIF, is composed of Mario Binasco, Rosane Melo, Ramón Miralpeix and Colette Soler.