



Reply no. 2

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A mathematized transmission for the pass?

I take note of Radu Turcanu's title "The Transmission in question in the pass", and his reference, in the text of the reply, to "...a transmission with a logic that is both singular and traceable, in the experience of the pass".¹

What can be said about this logic within Lacan's teaching? Is it a logic that pertains only to experience of the pass, or can it be traced in other experiences or even disciplines?

In the article *The Mathematizable in the Clinic*², Colette Soler differentiates between two types of mathemes in Lacan's teaching:

- *Mathemes of structure* that designate the universal effect of negativation of language on all speaking beings, such as the barred subject, $S/$ or the $S(A/)$, and-
- *Mathemes of contingency*, introduced in Lacan's later teaching, that attempt to capture the libidinal vector of desire and jouissance that animate the subject and are singular for each speaking-being. The question at stake, therefore, is to know "whether the animation of the structure itself is mathematicizable."³

¹ Radu Turcanu, *Reply no. 1 à l'Argument de la Journée École de la Convention européenne Venise 2025*

² Soler, C., *Une clinique d'exception*, Editions Nouvelles du Champ Lacanien, 2022, *Le mathématisable de la clinique*, pp 105-115

³ *Ibid*, pp 107

It is this striking formula of a *matheme of contingency* that I will examine in relation to the question of transmission in the pass.

Lacan refers to the mathemes of contingency in “*Television*”, where he demonstrates that in the formulas of sexuation, the contingency of the event of a sexual encounter can be matched to the necessity of the structure, that is, the impossible inscription of the sexual relation:

*“This requires only that somewhere the sexual relation cease not being written, that contingency be established (so to speak), so as to make headway on that which will later be completed by demonstrating such a relation to be impossible, that is by instituting it in the real. The possibility of that’s befalling us can be anticipated, through recourse to the axiomatic: a logic of the contingent...”*⁴.

According to Colette Soler, these mathemes of contingency can be read not only in the formulas of sexuation but also in the four discourses, and even in the theory of the Borromean knots: in all cases, a numerical matheme of structure is conditioned or governed by the contingent event of an act of saying (dire) which ex-sists the structure of language.

It is this logic of contingency, it seems to me, that governs the relation between the ‘said’(dit) and the saying (dire) that Lacan elaborated in *L’etourdit*, and is also found in the formulation of the ‘One-saying of the analysand’ that analysis can produce; a formula that can be deduced or extracted from all that has been said, but not without the contingent act of the saying.

Example: Lacan’s designation of “*Freud’s saying*”: *there is no sexual relation*, based on all he has said and written about his experience in analysis. The same for Colette Soler’s example of Lacan’s phrase “*I am a poem and not a poet, but I sign*”; a possible One-saying of a pass (dire), but not without all he has previously elaborated (dit):

*“For the one who allows his One-saying to be read in his testimony, this does not imply that he enunciates it because his One-saying is to be inferred from his sayings... (it is) proof by the One-saying that can be read in the testimony, a proof that also requires verification through its effects.”*⁵

This is also what is implied in Radu Turcanu’s text, as: *“shreds, precipitates...of an unexpected formulation...”* or *“a few happy and enlightening formulas (that) are extracted”*.⁶

Could this conception of a logic of contingency orient us regarding the transmission in question in the pass?

I leave the question open for now, only to say that it does not pertain to psychoanalysis alone. I point to this same construction not only in analysis, but also in mathematics, since it is the same logic that operates in what Lacan designates as “*the saying of Cantor*”⁷ in the discourse of mathematics. That is why Colette Soler, in her seminar “*A new Desirer?*”, can speak of “*passes of science*” that re-commence “*...in all the domains where there is construction of knowledge*”.⁸

⁴ Lacan, J., *Television*, Norton 1970, pp 39

⁵ Colette Soler, *With regard to the cartels of the pass*, Paris, France, ICG 2014-2016, Wunsch 16, pp 60

⁶ Radu Turcanu, *Réplique no. 1 à l’Argument de la Journée École de la Convention européenne Venise 2025*

⁷ Lacan, J., *L’etourdit*

⁸ Soler, Colette, *Un désirant nouveau*, Editions Nouvelles du champ Lacanien, 2023, pp79