

The Sixteenth Annual Conference of APW:

Psychoanalysis: Science and Truth

Friday to Sunday, 5 – 7 October 2018
Boston, Massachusetts

Keynote speakers: Tom Svolos and Renata Salecl

Freud assumed that psychoanalysis shared the *Weltanschauung* of science. Lacan was less sure, and in Seminar 11, he explicitly questioned the scientific status of psychoanalysis. Part of his tentative answer in that seminar was that psychoanalysis didn't adopt the position of the sciences, but rather that of Science—in other words, it is not grounded in empiricism, but rather in a search for truth. Moreover, scientific knowledge presupposes a subject for whom science is meaningful. So in that year, Lacan also put into question the subject of science, namely science's practitioner. Sustaining both directions of inquiry through the next seminars, Lacan continued to ponder how—if at all—science might coincide with truth. In Seminar 13 he suggested a forced choice between science and truth similar to that of the subject's alienation. If one chooses science (knowledge), one loses truth; if one chooses truth, one loses both. Lacan returned to these questions while developing the formalization of the four discourses. In Seminar 17, the scientist's discourse is not that of the university but rather that of the hysteric, and knowledge and truth coincide only in the analyst's discourse. By the time of Seminar 25, Lacan announced flatly that psychoanalysis is not a science because, as Karl Popper would say, it is irrefutable.

The sixteenth annual conference of Affiliated Psychoanalytic Workgroups will be held in Boston, from Friday to Sunday, 5 to 7 October, 2018. Our title will be *Psychoanalysis: Science and Truth*, and we'll take up questions of the scientific status of psychoanalysis, of the subject of science, and of the status of truth. Our keynote speakers will be Tom Svolos and Renata Salecl.

Visit apwonline.org for registration information.