

Foreword, volume 3: On the Object of Psychoanalysis

[**Editorial note: this manuscript file will be replaced by a definitive pdf in early 2013**]

[iii] If it is to question the point at which it aims, in other words its object, a discourse is obliged to recognize a space whose depth is regulated by this point, a space that is its domain, its extension and its laws.

We will help establish the laws of the domain of psychoanalysis by stating more clearly the signifying structuration of the subject, either by constituting the latter in its singular relation to the object, or, without recourse to any form of geneticism, by articulating the succession of states through which it passes in the instauration of the forms of communication that locate and mark it [*qui le repèrent*].

We will test the boundaries of this domain by pushing its concepts to the point of analysing, without recourse to any form of positivism, the chain of a theoretical discourse, so as to perceive in it, through reversal, the very lineaments of their logic.

Whether this double movement amounts only to one, whether we recognise the authority or agency [*instance*] of the signifier everywhere its effects can be discerned, it still belongs to analysis both to measure and construct the domain, to distinguish and elucidate the object – since these [operations] only ever call for, and are only founded by, enunciation of the fissured structuration of the subject; this unity can only be read from one point: it was up to Jacques Lacan to place it.¹

For the editorial board: Jean-Claude Milner.

¹ TN: The full French passage reads: 'Que ce double mouvement n'en soit qu'un, que reconnaître l'instance du signifiant partout où les effets s'en peuvent déceler, est toujours de l'analyse, à la fois, mesurer et construire le domaine, distinguer et élucider l'objet -- puisque ce n'est jamais qu'énoncer la structuration fissurée du sujet qu'ils appellent et qui les fonde -- cette unité ne peut se lire que d'un point seulement: il appartenait à Jacques Lacan de le placer.'