**PSYCHOANALYTIC CRITICISM: LACAN**

**Ron Lapsley**

Infantile sense of narcissistic completeness leads to misrecognition [*méconnaissance*] of the self in the imaginary (pre-mirror) state

As meaning depends on those (false) identifications made when interacting in the symbolic state…

🡪false images of subject and world

🡪harmful interpellations

🡪subject feels lack, can never attain clear, stable identity (also because of shifting S/s and endless unconscious meanings)

🡪no true subjecthood exists outside the (imperfect) language, only identifications that cause a. alienation, b. separation

🡪desire comes from what we feel is lacking, ideal self/world (“object a” [*objet petit a*])

* convenient courtly romance
* racism a way to maintain illusion of perfect world (“but for…”)
* “there is no sexual relation”
* *jouissance* gained is never as good as *jouissance* expected

In analysis, initial trauma is realized/ is re-interpreted with new, more aware info

🡪trauma as a fiction?

🡪”Thus, for Lacan, the meaning of a text comes from the future” (74)

Unstable identity means one can refuse interpellation, “shift” between identities to avoid inscription