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Jacques Lacan (2008). *My Teaching*, translated by David Macey, preface by Jacques-Alain Miller (London and Brooklyn: Verso Books), pp. 116, ISBN 978-1-84467-271-4



## INTRODUCTION

Jacques Marie Emile Lacan was preoccupied with teaching for a number of reasons. The most important of these reasons was the need to train the next generation of psychoanalysts; almost everything that Lacan did in his career was with this goal in mind.

The most important theoretical problem then was the question of transmission:

How do we know whether it is possible to train the next generation of analysts? Who authorizes the next generation of analysts? How do we ensure integrity in the transmission of the analytic doctrine from one generation to the next? And, most importantly, what is the role that will be played by the founding texts of psychoanalysis in this process of transmission?

This volume of three lectures that Jacques Lacan delivered at Lyon, Bordeaux, and Strasbourg in 1967 addresses these and other important questions in the wake of the publication of his *Écrits* in 1966. These lectures have also been touted as a possible point of entry into Lacan's work for those who are too intimidated by the *Écrits* and consider them unreadable.

These lectures also respond to the enormous curiosity evinced by a number of audiences in medical schools and psychiatric institutions who understood intuitively that psychoanalysis will never be the same in the wake of the Lacanian intervention, but were not sure as to what the main differentiators were in Lacan's approach to teaching or doing psychoanalysis.

In these lectures then Lacan is preoccupied with explaining what exactly constituted his intervention in the Freudian field, and what it means to rethink the basic presuppositions of the psychoanalytic doctrine following his contention that the 'unconscious is structured like a language.'

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