

**Speaking of Lacan**  
**Seminar: October and November, 2007**

To: All Participants

From: Mavis Himes  
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**Title: The Name of the Father and the Paternal Metaphor**  
**Presenter: Dr. Mavis Himes**

What is a subject? . . . . . once there is a speaking subject, it can never be a matter simply of reducing for him the question of his relationships in so far as he speaks to an other. There is always this third, this big “other”

\_\_\_\_\_ Lacan, 15.1.58

The father is a metaphor. . . . . The metaphor is a signifier substituted for another signifier.

\_\_\_\_\_ Lacan, 22.1.58

Freud introduced the Oedipus Complex as a way of conceptualizing a fundamental structure of human personality, as well as an orientation of human desire. Lacan reworked and expanded this structuralization through his concept of *le Nom-du-Pere* (the Name-of-the-Father) and the paternal metaphor. In the first instance, the Name-of-the-Father institutes a barrier between the mother and her child, and forms the basis for the incest taboo. It also forms the inscription of the newborn within its genealogical and ancestral history. In a second instance, the Name-of-the-Father introduces the child's point of entry into the Symbolic order, thereby becoming the fundamental metaphor on which all signification rests.

In this seminar, we will explore how Lacan's re-interpretation of the Oedipus Complex allows for a re-thinking of the place and function of the father, the desire of the mother and the relation between the Law and desire. Time permitting, clinical implications will be discussed.

Suggested Readings: Selected hand-outs

**Date:** Fridays, October 19, 26, November 9, 23, 2007  
**Time:** 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.  
**Place:** Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (O.I.S.E.)  
252 Bloor St. W. (at St. George St.)  
**Room:** 8-220  
**Fees:** \$25.00 per session

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED  
Please RSVP by e-mail

### Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E- mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone no.: \_\_\_\_\_