



**Ottawa Psychoanalytic Society
Société psychanalytique d'Ottawa**

**Scientific Program meeting, Presenter: Dr. Cecilia Taiana
December 3, 2022 – Saturday – 10:30am to 12:30pm, via Zoom**

Please RSVP to scientificchair.ops@gmail.com

***Title: Machine of the same: Repetition in the foundational discourse
of the Argentinean “being.” (1976–1983)***

Abstract:

Using the example of the military regime in Argentina (1976-1983) and relevant archival materials, this article demonstrates the prerequisite of exalted language in constructing an enemy and how a discursive ‘machine of the same’ was put in operation. The author argues that what made this operation unique is its structure of repetition that stimulated “the tendency to merge” what is “foreigner-to-the-ego” and the “enemy outside” into a single concept in the Argentinian national psyche. As a theoretical lens, the author examines the military regime’s language through Freud’s understanding of groups and civilization and Laplanche’s proposition that cultural narratives in the form of mytho-symbolic explanations help us translate the sexual drive and offer a “solution” to the helplessness of the infant-adult. The author further claims that at other times a cultural narration functions as an anti-translation device when set against the emergence of a new net of significations. The nation’s founding narrative of an Occidental-Spanish-Catholic “being” that first effaced its indigenous origins and then its Arabic and Jewish inheritance was brought back by the military regime as a mytho-symbolic narration that formed a shield against the repressed remnants of the enigmatic message pressing for a new translation.

Bio:

Dr. Cecilia Taiana is the 2014 and 2017 recipient of the *Dr. Douglas Levin Prize* and the *Dr. Miguel Prados Prize*, respectively, awarded by the Canadian Psychoanalytic Society for two of her articles. Her COVID harvest is extensive, with five articles and three poems. Dr. Taiana teaches at the Toronto Psychoanalytic Society and the Quebec-English Branch Institute. She also teaches residents in psychiatry at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ottawa. She is a member of the Canadian Psychoanalytic Society, Quebec-English Branch, and has a full-time practice in Ottawa, Canada.

Please note that there is a \$40 fee for participants who are not CPS members or OPS Guests, and a \$20 fee for students; if paid by credit card, the fees are \$45 and \$25 respectively:

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This event is an Accredited Group Learning Activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and approved by the Scientific Chair of the Ottawa Psychoanalytic Society. Attendance will be recorded.

Learning objectives:

After attending this presentation participants :

1. To be able to recognize and describe how a cultural narrative functions in the formation of the group and in “the tendency to merge” what is “foreigner-to-the-ego” and the “enemy outside” into a single concept (Freud 1915, 277).
2. To identify and analyze the instauration of social practices which have genocide as its aim. [Freud tells us that these practices must first break the fragile emotional ties of reciprocity among a group’s members before vertical relations of obedience are established to reorganize and discipline the group. It is at this moment when the construction of a discourse, a particular way of talking about and understanding the world (*Weltanschauung*), is vital, and, in it, the seed of destruction can germinate (Freud, 1913, 1920, 1921, 1927, 1930; Kahn 2018).]
3. To examine the concept of primal repression and the adoption of Mythos-Symbolic narrations as translation aids as understood by Laplanche. (Laplanche, 1987, 157).