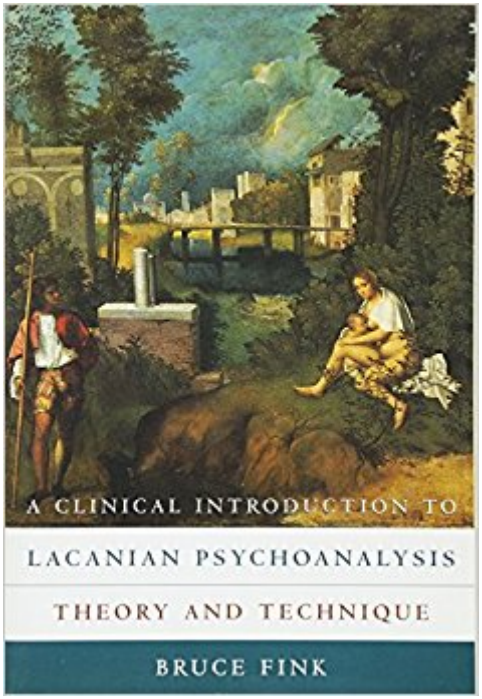
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A Clinical Introduction To Lacanian Psychoanalysis: Theory And Technique



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Synopsis

"The goal of my teaching has always been, and remains, to train analysts."--Jacques Lacan, Seminar XI, 209Arguably the most profound psychoanalytic thinker since Freud, and deeply influential in many fields, Jacques Lacan often seems opaque to those he most wanted to reach. These are the readers Bruce Fink addresses in this clear and practical account of Lacan's highly original approach to therapy. Written by a clinician for clinicians, Fink's Introduction is an invaluable guide to Lacanian psychoanalysis, how it's done, and how it differs from other forms of therapy. While elucidating many of Lacan's theoretical notions, the book does so from the perspective of the practitioner faced with the pressing questions of diagnosis, what therapeutic stance to adopt, how to involve the patient, and how to bring about change.Fink provides a comprehensive overview of Lacanian analysis, explaining the analyst's aims and interventions at each point in the treatment. He uses four case studies to elucidate Lacan's unique structural approach to diagnosis. These cases, taking up both theoretical and clinical issues in Lacan's views of psychosis, perversion, and neurosis, highlight the very different approaches to treatment that different situations demand.

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Customer Reviews

Professor Fink's Clinical Introduction to Lacanian Psychoanalysis addresses the clinically minded of all stripes, from the formally trained psychoanalyst to the layman who may be in, or in any way interested in, psychotherapy. His book will be particularly useful to analysts-in-training and doctoral-level students in psychology and the cognate disciplines. No previous exposure to Lacan's thinking is required. (William Richardson, Boston College)Written with a clarity and accessibility

unusual in Lacanian studies, Professor Fink's book leads the reader step by step through Lacanian analysis, moving progressively toward the more problematic aspects of the theory. For students and practitioners of psychoanalysis, I'd recommend this book as the best I've seen. (Stanley A. Leavy, M.D., Western New England Institute for Psychoanalysis)Bruce Fink has established his place as one of the central authorities on Lacan in this country, without peer in his familiarity with all phases of Lacan's work and in the clarity of his exegeses. Fink presents something that has not yet been seen in America, and rarely approached with such perspicacity anywhere: an introduction to Lacanian psychoanalysis not only as theory, but as clinical methodology and practice. (Kenneth Reinhard, University of California, Los Angeles)Bruce Fink has established his place as one of the central authorities on Lacan in this country, without peer in his familiarity with all phases of Lacan's work and in the clarity of his exegeses...Professor Fink presents something that has not yet been seen in America, and rarely approached with such perspicacity anywhere: an introduction to Lacanian psychoanalysis not only as theory, but as clinical methodology and practice. (Kenneth Reinhard, University of California, Los Angeles)

Professor Fink's Clinical Introduction to Lacanian Psychoanalysis addresses the clinically minded of all stripes, from the formally trained psychoanalyst to the layman who may be in, or in any way interested in, psychotherapy. His book will be particularly useful to analysts-in-training and doctoral-level students in psychology and the cognate disciplines. No previous exposure to Lacan's thinking is required. (William Richardson, Boston College) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

After having a go at Lacan's writings directly- I fell back to the common piece of advice: read about Lacanian theory before you read it directly. Fink's Clinical Introduction was the first text I went to, and found it extremely helpful. Notions that are used in various contexts in other author's works, like the 'Real,''object a,' etc., finally came to life through Fink's focus on their clinical application. For this reason, I can see how this book would also suit the psychoanalytically minded clinical psychologist ,despite only being a student myself; throughout the book, he also compares and contrasts ego-psychology (the prevalent approach in the Anglo-Saxon world) with Lacan's thoery. As Fink explains in the opening pages, Lacan's seminars were meant to be taught, to help practicing clinicians diagnose/treat patients under three structural categories: psychosis, neurosis, and perversion. Understanding these fundamental structural categories in the clinical context, brought the theory back down to earth for me- making other abstract theorists work- like the Lacanian

philosopher Slavoj Zizek, more approachable reads as well.One bit of information I will mention, however, is that in going into an overview of Lacan from a clinical perspective, Fink is forced to cut some corners on the theory side of things. For this, of course, he has another book: 'The Lacanian Subject.' I'm reading it now, and wish I had even read it before reading this one, because it delves into how all of the theoretical points- object a, fantasy, unconscious as language, etc. tie into one another...Heck, I'll just read this one again afterward. So I suppose it depends on what it is you are hoping to get out of your reading, in deciding which to read, or in what order.

Amazing. I have since read other books by Fink. I love Lacan and Fink makes me love Lacan

After having read Lionel Bailly's book on Lacan, I was ready to dive into this amazing book! Fink explains via Lacan the hysteric, the obsessive, the pervert,the psychotic...It was very illuminating. No where else have I found such a clear understanding of various disorders. I only wish Fink would write the sequel he alludes to in his book!! I want to learn more but unfortunately find many of the other books a bit obtuse. Definitely a wonderful read.

I purchased this to supplement my understanding of Lacan for a doctoral seminar on Ãƒâ |Ã Â iÃƒâ |Ã Â ek. It is extremely readable with theory and case examples, and notes points of divergence between Freud and Lacan. A must read for anyone interested in psychoanalytic theory.

I've been fascinated by Lacan for years, but repeatedly give up on the "chewy" verbiage. This book is well-written, and in American English, so that I can relate Lacanian concepts to what I already believe and what are new thoughts to ponder.

Even though French is my mother tongue and I am fascinated by both Freud and linguistics, Lacan is an extremely difficult read. Not only because the subject matter is tough, but Lacan loves word play including puns, pleonasms, arcane references and just plain verbal titillation. You could say that Lacan is as much interested in foreplay as much as mind penetration. Having said that I think Dr. Bruce Fink has done a masterful job of making this brilliant French thinker accessible. It is particularly wonderful that Dr. Fink gives us case studies from his own practice to guide us through the labyrinths of hysterics and the rigidity of the the obsessive. Very well done.Understanding Lacan is always a work in progress but well worth the effort. Goes extremely well with Zizek who brings

home certain Lacanian concepts such as the other, l'objet petit a, etc....

My French is fluent, Lacan was so cultured, and complex in his thinking, Fink really breaks it down for the rest of us

Brilliant.Starts with trivial observations, ends with a philosophically complex discussion on the development of Lacan's view of the goal of & end of analysis, with great elaborations & case studies of the clinical structures in between.Highly recommended.

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