

Notes on surviving the 2019 'Lacan's Ecrits' Conference

The conference organizers, the Duquesne Psychology Department, its PhD students and I are very much looking forward to welcoming you to this year's conference. A couple of basic announcements with which to begin.

Firstly, try and bring cash with you if you have not paid yet for your registration or if you wish to purchase books (we have a fantastic book table) or pay for the conference party. We do not have one of those credit-card reading machines.

Secondly, while all the rooms at Duquesne have basic audio-visual stuff (projector, PC, etc.) it will help hugely if you could bring your own connecting cords if you are planning on using a Mac.

Notes on the chairing sessions (and what it will be like to be chaired...!)

We have a packed conference schedule, and as a result, those who are chairing sessions will need to be merciless with their time management.

The general rule of thumb for sessions will be that we should keep between 10-15 minutes for discussion after the papers have been presented. The rest of the time is for the presenters, and that time should be divided equally between presenters.

Chairs, please remind presenters how much time they will have for their talk, and then flash them a '5 minutes' sign and, subsequently a '2 minutes' sign and 'stop!' sign so as to keep people within time. You could also simply set a timer on your phone.... Remember: be cruel and unrepentant as chair! (Cutting people short shouldn't scare you – you are a Lacanian!)

If one of the presenters is struggling with PowerPoint slides or audiovisual problems, rather move on to the next speaker, so that we don't lose further time (hopefully the problem can be resolved during the period of the presentation. If for whatever reason, PowerPoint or whatever still doesn't work, it would be best if speakers just present without slides/audio-visual, etc.

Also, please keep introductory comments (biographies of speakers, etc.) to an absolute minimum so as to save time.

Saturday night party at Mad Mex SHADYSIDE

After the Saturday night book launch, we are headed to the SHADYSIDE Mad Mex (there are several Mad Mex restaurants in Pittsburgh, so make sure that you head to the Shadyside branch). Not everyone will have a car obviously, so we need to maximize lifts. This is the plan: if you need a list, ask colleagues at the conference if you can get a lift (I said 'lift', not 'life'). If you do have a car...please offer to help out with offering lifts to others.

Our general plan will be this: after the book launch ends – head out of the Union building and find your way to the main Starbucks entrance. There is a small traffic circle there. People with cars who are willing to offer lifts will swing past there and pick up colleagues who are looking for a lift to Mad Mex. If, for whatever reason, this doesn't work - simply use uber (remember: SHADYSIDE Mad Mex).

The conference party costs \$25 to attend. This should be paid for IN CASH at the conference registration on Friday and Saturday. The Mad Mex event is a 'build your own fajita party', and you get the following for your \$25 (in addition of course to endlessly fascinating Lacanian banter):

Mad Mex chips, fresh salsa and guacamole

Casa salad - choice of two dressings

Mad Mex Fajitas, with your choice of two proteins. Pick from, grilled steak, taco beef, margarita chicken, marinated portabella, marinated tofu. Ready to roll with grilled onions and peppers, Mexican rice, sour cream, guacamole, pico de gallo, Monterey jack cheese, shredded lettuce, and warm flour tortillas.

You also get a free first drink. All drinks after that go on each person's individual tab.