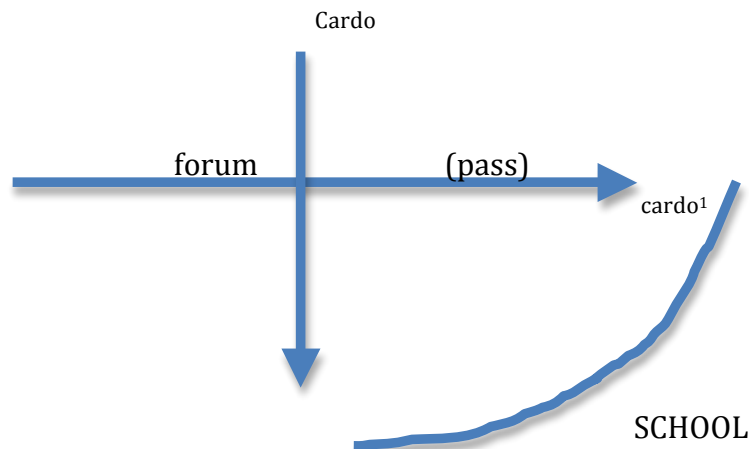


## The Cartels for Winter Sclinic 2013

### *Brief Description*

The word *cartel* comes from the latin word *cardo*, or *gond*, meaning hinge, pivot, which traditionally indicates a pole running north/south on the celestial vault on which the universe seems to pivot. Since the urbanism of the romans, the *cardo* has designated the north/south mainstreet on which the city pivots. From this, one also takes the etymological origin of the word *cardinal* as in the *cardinal points* of an organization of place: a universe, city, or home. There can be many cardos, or axi, in a city, but given at least two, north/south and east/west, a *forum* or *agora* was taken to be at their intersection, while in the western tradition the school put outside the walls and away from the *cardo* (or mainstreets). Thus, we find the transmission of knowledge reduced to teaching in the *lyceums* (Aristotle), *academies* (Plato), and *gardens* (Epicurus), while the school in the United States has been isolated serenely in the *campus* (more often than not, resembling 'country-clubs' rather than 'faculties' of knowledge).



There are two points to be brought out here:

Firstly, if we have learned anything from the work of Levi-Strauss, it is that the organization of a myth, universe, city, or home, is far from being a mere archaeological, touristic, or administrative problem. On the contrary, it is indicative of an originary passage of the individual from private to public (and vice versa) that Freud first introduced as a problem of narcissism. Lacan went further by stating that this 'originary topos' has absolutely no need to exist or to be recognized unless

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<sup>1</sup> -Strictly speaking the axis running east/west in roman urbanism was called the *decumanus*.

it is taken responsibility for by introducing its place – a place of the unconscious – into the discourse of science and our current day institutional frameworks. Just beginning to make room for this place, sets up the practical basis for the Lacanian clinic and cure.

Secondly, what is remarkable is that this narcissistic organization of space still conditions, but is bypassed by the dominant scientific, ethical, medical, and psychological establishments and institutes. Needless to say, without accounting for their conditions, the dominant academic oriented psychoanalysis is trivialized the moment it is spoken from within this system. As a consequence, a re-orientation beyond the current factical publications on the 'Lacanian Clinic' is long overdue.

What has been important for the School/Clinic of PLACE is that its analytic structure would not be predetermined from within an administrative organization of its *topos* even before we begin. It has been crucial, therefore, to set up the **school**, **clinic**, **pass**, and **association** in a way that renders account of a problem of narcissism without adopting its organizational bias as our *modus operandi*.

What will be important to present in our first meeting on the 31st of January 2009 is how the cartels produce something like a school, but do it in a way that transmits a truth and 'savoir' that is no longer pushed outside the borders and rumble of mainstreet. This is not to say, that in taking the *cardo* seriously we are merely inverting the usual hierarchy of knowledge to create a totalitarianism of the people or consumer rights group, but rather we are re-orienting, permuting, and critiquing how the figure of the person and the claim to knowledge functions in a transmission. Indeed, Lacan invented the *procedure of the pass* to operate on this border of the *cardo* in the passage from private to public.

It is on the basis of this passage that the Lacanian clinic cannot be separated from its transmission: there is not first a school, then an 'application' in the clinic; on the contrary, a clinic, defined analytically, can only be established in the difficulties of its transmission. Rather than call the collective place that forms a receptacle for such symptoms a school, we stenogram it here as a *Sclicnic*, while leaving the significance of this term to be developed in future writings.

### *Functioning of the Cartels*

***I-Overview- the following summarizes how the cartel works. Though it would help to familiarize yourself with the procedure, there is no need to put it to memory. Each email communication with the vector comes with instructions telling how to accomplish the process.***

**1)** Choose the name of three and only three topics. Send them into the vector with your name and address to PLACE@topoi.net.

**2)** Once all the choices of topics and names are tabulated by the vector, you will be sent back a map showing the various formations around topics.

**3)** Inspect the different collections of people arranged around the topics and names of people, choose at least one, no more than two collections to participate in.

**4)** If there are collections on the same topic with more than 4 people, you may either choose to diminish the collective, or augment it to no more than 6 people. If there are more than 6 people who have chosen the same topic, you can only diminish the collective. Every cartel must contain either 4 or 6 people. On some circumstances visitors may be invited to the cartel once it has formed. If you choose to diminish a collective, this can be done by only choosing the names of those you want to work with on any one topic. For example, if John, Mary, Serge, Ron, and Hubert are listed as wanting to work on the same topic, you only have the option of cutting off one of the names from your desired cartel. If there were a sixth person listed you could effectively choose to work with all six.

**5)** On the selection of one or more collectives with names, pick one of the persons in the collection that you would like to be responsible for the functioning of the collective. Label this person the (+1). The choice of this person can be made on several levels, ethical, knowledge, etc. or it can be made by default as a random choice. Then send this second email back with this information to the vector.

**6)** You will be sent an email back as soon as all the topic/names are collected. Directions will be included in the second email containing the names and email addresses of those participating. A group email will also be sent out by the vector notifying everyone at once of the results of the decisions. At this time, it will be up to the plus one to coordinate the place and first date/time of the meeting. The meetings will be scheduled at times and places that are open to everyone participating.

**7)** The duration of a cartel is not more than 3 hours per meeting. Usually the meeting is only 2.5 hours. The frequency of meeting is at least once per month, twice if the cartel is particularly motivated. The duration of a Cartel is not more than 8 months and coincides with the end of the semesters of the Schlinic. The same cartel topic may, however, decide to revectorize for the following semester. It may continue with or without all of the same people. The maximal duration of any one cartel over semesters is 16 months.

**8)** Anyone who does not abide by these conditions excludes themselves from participation.

## ***II- Vectors***

**1)** The vectorization procedures have already been outlined (see 1999/2001 guidelines).

**2)** The vectors are responsible for the classification of results, their discretion and anonymity of the participants, and a prompt notification of the participants as to their status in the process. The vectors are not responsible for addressing anyone in particular in regards to policy, only the names who have followed the formal guidelines of the cartel. You may, however, address any questions of procedure to the vectors.

**3)** The vectors will all be committed to working out of the [PLACE@topoi.net](mailto:PLACE@topoi.net) web address.

