

Reducing Borders

Maria Cristina Aguirre¹

I would like to talk to you today about the important role that the work of cartels has had in our American lacanian community. Since the *Lacanian Compass* became a group associated to the NLS in 2017, the cartels have occupied a central place in the life of our community.

This was very palpable this past year as cartels and flash cartels were created with certain urgency in preparation for our annual meeting the *Clinical Study Days 12* that took place in Miami in January 2019.

The production was important to the point that we considered it deserved to have its own space and we organized a *Virtual Cartel Day* event where 13 papers, product of the cartels were discussed and presented a week before the *Clinical Study Days*. Since then, the effects have been more than positive and new cartels have been created in preparation for the Congress of the NLS or other future events.

To what do we attribute the success and the interest for the work in cartel in the USA? Like some other groups of the NLS we have to deal with the real of the geographical distance. In order to deal with this difficulty the virtual work allows people to meet and work together in this format invented by Lacan and which is considered one of the pillars of the school.

This allows people who are isolated in some cities to meet with others and to deliver a work that will have a destination: publication, presentation, the *4+1 Newsletter* and so on. And on the other hand it invites people to approach the lacanian orientation and who will eventually continue working in other activities and could become members.

Politically we aim that in each cartel there is a member of the *Lacanian Compass*, either as a *plus one* or a participating member in order to look after the orientation.

Currently there are 10 active cartels in the *Lacanian Compass*, all except one are virtual cartels and four are flash cartels towards this Congress.

So I invite all of you to have the experience and to advance the work of cartels in your communities. The precise guidelines that Lacan proposed for the constitution and work of cartel aim at dealing with the problem already outlined by Freud in Group Psychology concerning the imaginary effect of the group. By given it a limited time of operation it helps fighting against the gluing effect that a group produces, the imaginary attachments and rivalry, in order to stimulate and to facilitate the axis of the production. Something has to come out of the group but one by one. The symbolic dimension of the cartel is respected by the condition that each member of the cartel including the *plus one* has to have their own research question and to deliver a personal work, giving place to each one, one by one, sustaining the singular subjectivity. ●

1. *Lacanian Compass* and NLS' member