

Violent Children and their Urgency!¹

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In the work with children, we experience cases in which children display aggressiveness. Aggression can be related to eruptions of the death drive or symptomatic acting-outs due to a demand of love². In some cases of violent children, the drive has not been displaced and we see the irruption of pure *jouissance* of the death drive. J.-A. Miller conceptualizes that there is no substitution of one drive by another. It irrupts from the real without touching the symbolic³.

In that case, the child experiences a “*pure jouissance of destruction*”, a plus-de-jouir. A surplus *jouissance* that has not been mediated by the symbolic. J.-A. Miller elucidates these acts are without a reason, they aren't a reaction to something. It is an action in which the pleasure is the destruction per se. It points to a defect in the process of repression, a dysfunction of the master signifier.

The clinical distinction between pure manifestation of the drive or acting-out as a symptom is crucial to the treatment, once it might elucidate lacks in the symbolic in which an implementation of a master-signifier (S1) helps to establish a boundary and create meaning to the death drive.

The expression of violence mobilizes not only families but also school staff, who implements interventions to decrease its manifestations. In the public American school system, we can find classes constituted by “violent children” that have special academic programs to separate them from the “non-violent” students.

Electronic games as *Fortnite* instigates empowerment by aggression. Clinical work with signifiers used in online games can be considered a tool for the creation of S1s, opening space to new meanings and the possibility of symbolization of the violence.

Furthermore, schools and families are experiencing the urgency to protect their children from internet challenges. *The Blue Whale* is an example. Suicide attempts and scarifications are encouraged. The online leaders instigate the users to self-harm and harm others by menacing the users. The anguish generated by these *new waves* of violence create a demand for the analyst to look for subjective capacity to symbolized singularly what the analysand has experienced as a social urge of aggression.

A 6 years old boy mentioned one day in session that his uncle terrified him by saying the *Boogeyman* would come to catch him if he misbehaves. We realized in session how many times he displayed aggression to test if he would be caught by the *creature*. The recognition of the ghost's inexistence reduced his anxiety and consequently his aggression, minimizing also the urgency of his family to punish him.

1. Presented on 2019 November 3rd, at the second Cartels Presentation online organized by the Lacanian Compass.

2. Miller, J.-A. : “Enfants violents” in *Après l'enfance : travaux récents de l'Institut psychanalytique de l'Enfant*, Navarin, 2017, p. 195-207. “Crianças Violentas”, Intervenção de encerramento da 4a Jornada do Instituto da Criança – Universidade Popular Jacques Lacan. Traduzido por Ana Lydia Santiago e Cristina Vidigal.

3. *Ibid.*