

EFFECTS OF RESONANCE¹

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I want to transmit something of the experience of working in one of the *Scilicet* cartels towards the 2022 WAP Congress on the theme Woman does not Exist. A recent innovation is that contributions to this volume have not been requested from individuals working on their own but rather have been the product of work in cartels made up of members of different Schools of the WAP.

The cartel that I participated in was made up of members of the SLP, the ELP, the ECF, the NLS, with a plus one from the EOL. Between the five of us we had no common language. In fact 3 of us spoke no French, two spoke no Spanish, four spoke no Italian, and only two of us spoke English. As you can imagine, this posed an immediate challenge as to how to about our work as a cartel!

The work of the cartel was thus an effort of ongoing translation between tongues that could hope at best for some kind of effect of creative misunderstanding in our work on our theme. And yet out of this slightly haphazard experience, something precious has emerged that goes on producing resonances.

Like the composition of the cartel, the theme of work was not something that we chose but rather one assigned to us by the organising committee of the Congress. The theme of work proposed for our cartel was in Spanish formulated as “*Insatisfacción/Duda*”, the juxtaposition without further ado of two words in a foreign language, posing questions not just about the translation of each of these terms individually but also about what might be at stake in their relation.

We thus found ourselves confronted with the enigmatic conjunction of two isolated terms, without any further indication of how to go about deciphering them or what might be at stake in their relation. Confrontation with this enigma provoked in me a moment of anxiety touching on a hole in knowledge, which of course turns out to be central to the theme

of the Congress itself.

One of the reasons woman, the Woman, with the capital letter and the definite article, does not exist is that there is no signifier adequate to say it, no knowledge able to capture the jouissance of the feminine. This theme thus targets the point at which the field of sexual jouissance is not covered by the signifier and cannot be completely recuperated in the discourse of knowledge to which we are so attached.

The theme of the Congress thus poses the question not just of the non-existence of the woman, but also of the real at stake in feminine jouissance. This in

turn poses the question of how we are to align the notion of the non-existence of the woman with that of the sexual rapport, the non-inscription of the sexual rapport, that could not have been more manifestly staged than by the hole in language at the heart of our cartel.

Thus what turns out to have been most productive for me in this experience has not at all been the scraps of knowledge that we managed to produce around the edges of this hole. Rather it has

been the experience of the confrontation with my own lack of knowledge, converted via the collaboration with my colleagues into a productive and living experience of desire in the shape of a renewed transference to the work of the Lacanian School and the working community of the World Association of Psychoanalysis.

1. This text is a version of one presented at the London Society Cartel Day on 2nd October 2021.

