

psychoanalysis and feminism

Psychoanalysis and Feminism: A Complex Intertwining

Introduction:

For decades, the relationship between psychoanalysis and feminism has been one of intense debate, collaboration, and, at times, outright conflict. This seemingly paradoxical pairing – a field born from a largely male perspective analyzing the female psyche, interacting with a movement dedicated to female liberation – offers a rich tapestry of theoretical clashes, groundbreaking insights, and ongoing discussions relevant to understanding gender, identity, and power dynamics today. This article delves deep into this fascinating intersection, exploring key criticisms, influential figures, and the evolving dialogue that continues to shape both fields. We will unpack the ways in which psychoanalysis has both reinforced and challenged patriarchal structures, examining its impact on feminist thought and the crucial role of feminist critique in reshaping psychoanalytic theory. Prepare to navigate a complex landscape of ideas, where the personal becomes political and the unconscious reveals profound truths about gender.

1. The Early Encounters: Freud and the "Penis Envy" Debate

Sigmund Freud, the father of psychoanalysis, remains a central figure in this conversation, despite the controversies surrounding his theories. His work, while groundbreaking for its time, often reflected the prevailing patriarchal biases of his era. His concept of "penis envy," for instance, became a significant point of contention for feminists. Many argued that this concept pathologized female development, framing women's lack of a penis as a source of inherent inferiority and psychological distress. This interpretation, they argued, reinforced societal structures that privileged men and positioned women as inherently deficient. Feminist critics highlighted the inherent male-centric lens through which Freud analyzed female sexuality and psychology, pointing out the lack of consideration for societal pressures and cultural conditioning in shaping female experience. The very framework of psychoanalytic interpretation, they argued, was biased.

1. Challenging the Patriarchal Gaze: Feminist Psychoanalytic Theory Emerges

However, the story doesn't end with criticism. The very existence of feminist critique spurred significant

developments within psychoanalysis itself. Feminist psychoanalysts emerged, challenging Freud's assumptions and developing alternative theoretical frameworks. They argued that psychoanalytic theory needed to move beyond a phallogentric perspective, acknowledging the impact of social and cultural factors on gender identity and development. These feminist voices championed a more nuanced understanding of female sexuality, challenging the notion of female passivity and highlighting the complexity of female experience. The emphasis shifted from deficit models to exploring female agency and power.

1. Key Feminist Psychoanalytic Thinkers and Their Contributions

Several prominent figures significantly contributed to the evolution of feminist psychoanalysis. Karen Horney, for example, offered a powerful counterpoint to Freud's theories, challenging the concept of penis envy and emphasizing the impact of social and cultural factors on shaping personality. She highlighted the importance of cultural conditioning in fostering feelings of inferiority in women, arguing that these feelings stemmed from societal structures, not inherent biological differences. Similarly, Nancy Chodorow's work on mother-daughter relationships explored the impact of socialization on gender identity development, providing a groundbreaking analysis of the psychological processes that shape female subjectivity. Other influential figures like Luce Irigaray and Hélène Cixous brought post-structuralist and deconstructionist perspectives to bear on psychoanalysis, challenging the very foundations of language and representation as inherently male-dominated.

1. The Role of the Unconscious in Gender Construction:

Feminist psychoanalysis emphasizes the critical role of the unconscious in constructing gender identity. The unconscious, in this perspective, is not a neutral space but a site where societal norms and power dynamics are internalized and reproduced. The internalization of patriarchal values, for example, can lead to self-limiting beliefs and behaviors in women, perpetuating gender inequality on a personal level. Understanding this unconscious dimension is crucial for challenging oppressive gender norms and fostering genuine gender equality.

1. The Ongoing Dialogue: Contemporary Applications and Debates

The dialogue between psychoanalysis and feminism continues to evolve. Contemporary feminist psychoanalytic theorists grapple with new challenges, including issues of intersectionality, exploring the

complexities of gender identity in relation to race, class, sexuality, and other social categories. They examine the impact of trauma, particularly on women from marginalized groups, and seek to develop therapeutic approaches that are sensitive to these diverse experiences. The focus remains on empowering individuals and challenging systems of oppression.

1. Conclusion: A Necessary and Ongoing Conversation

The relationship between psychoanalysis and feminism has been, and continues to be, a complex and often contentious but ultimately productive one. While initial encounters were marked by significant criticisms of Freud's male-centric theories, this critique spurred the development of feminist psychoanalytic perspectives that offer valuable insights into gender identity, power dynamics, and the unconscious. This ongoing conversation remains crucial for understanding the psychological dimensions of gender inequality and developing effective strategies for promoting gender justice and equality.

Book Outline: "Unraveling the Psyche: Psychoanalysis and Feminism in Dialogue"

Introduction: The historical context of the relationship between psychoanalysis and feminism.

Chapter 1: Freud's legacy: Critiques and contributions to understanding gender.

Chapter 2: Key feminist psychoanalytic thinkers and their theoretical advancements.

Chapter 3: The unconscious and the construction of gender identity.

Chapter 4: Psychoanalysis and social justice: Addressing issues of intersectionality.

Chapter 5: Contemporary applications of feminist psychoanalysis in therapy and social critique.

Chapter 6: Future directions: The ongoing conversation and challenges ahead.

Conclusion: The enduring significance of the dialogue between psychoanalysis and feminism.

Bibliography: A comprehensive list of key texts and resources.

(Detailed explanation of each chapter would follow, expanding on the points already made in the article.)

FAQs:

1. What is the main criticism of Freud's work from a feminist perspective? The main criticism centers on his phallocentric bias, particularly the concept of "penis envy," which pathologizes women and reinforces patriarchal norms.

1. Who are some key feminist psychoanalytic thinkers? Karen Horney, Nancy Chodorow, Luce Irigaray, and Hélène Cixous are among the most influential.
1. How does feminist psychoanalysis differ from traditional psychoanalysis? Feminist psychoanalysis challenges the male-centric assumptions of traditional psychoanalysis, emphasizing social and cultural factors in shaping gender identity.
1. What is the role of the unconscious in gender construction, according to feminist psychoanalysis? The unconscious is seen as a site where societal norms and power dynamics are internalized, impacting gender identity and behavior.
1. How does intersectionality relate to feminist psychoanalysis? Intersectionality highlights the interconnectedness of gender with other social categories like race, class, and sexuality, demanding a more nuanced understanding of gendered experiences.
1. What are some contemporary applications of feminist psychoanalysis? Contemporary applications focus on addressing issues of trauma, exploring intersectionality, and developing culturally sensitive therapeutic approaches.
1. What are the limitations of feminist psychoanalysis? Some critiques focus on potential essentialism or overemphasis on certain aspects of female experience.
1. How does feminist psychoanalysis contribute to social justice? By challenging patriarchal structures and promoting a more equitable understanding of gender, it contributes to broader social justice efforts.

1. Is feminist psychoanalysis relevant today? Absolutely. Its insights remain highly relevant for understanding gender identity, power dynamics, and addressing issues of inequality in contemporary society.

Related Articles:

1. "The Politics of the Unconscious: Psychoanalysis and Gender": Explores the political implications of unconscious processes in shaping gender roles.
1. "Karen Horney: A Feminist Voice in Psychoanalysis": A biographical and theoretical exploration of Horney's contributions.
1. "Nancy Chodorow and the Reproduction of Mothering": Details Chodorow's influential work on mother-daughter relationships.
1. "The Female Body in Psychoanalytic Theory": Examines how the female body has been represented and interpreted within psychoanalysis.
1. "Trauma and Gender: A Feminist Psychoanalytic Perspective": Focuses on the unique impact of trauma on women.
1. "Psychoanalysis and Intersectionality: Exploring the Complexities of Gender": Discusses the intersection of gender with other social categories.
1. "Feminist Therapy: Integrating Psychoanalytic and Feminist Approaches": Explores the application of

feminist psychoanalytic concepts in therapy.

1. "The Future of Feminist Psychoanalysis": Examines emerging trends and directions in the field.

1. "Deconstructing Gender: Psychoanalytic and Post-Structuralist Perspectives": Analyzes gender through a post-structuralist lens in relation to psychoanalytic theory.

psychoanalysis and feminism: Feminism and Psychoanalytic Theory Nancy J. Chodorow, 1989-01-01 Essays discuss the relations among gender, self, and society, the significance of women's mothering for gender personality and gender relations, and how the psychodynamics of gender create and sustain individualism

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psychoanalysis and feminism: *Psychoanalysis and Feminism* Juliet Mitchell, 1974

psychoanalysis and feminism: **Feminism and Its Discontents** Mari Jo BUHLE, Mari Jo Buhle, 2009-06-30 With Sigmund Freud notoriously flummoxed about what women want, any encounter between psychoanalysis and feminism would seem to promise a standoff. But in this lively, often surprising history, Mari Jo Buhle reveals that the twentieth century's two great theories of liberation actually had a great deal to tell each other. Starting with Freud's 1909 speech to an audience that included the feminist and radical Emma Goldman, Buhle recounts all the twists and turns this exchange took in the United States up to the recent American vogue of Jacques Lacan. While chronicling the contributions of feminism to the development of psychoanalysis, she also makes an intriguing case for the benefits psychoanalysis brought to feminism. From the first, American psychoanalysis became the property of freewheeling intellectuals and popularists as well as trained analysts. Thus the cultural terrain that Buhle investigates is populated by literary critics, artists and filmmakers, historians, anthropologists, and sociologists--and the resulting psychoanalysis is not so much a strictly therapeutic theory as an immensely popular form of public discourse. She charts the history of feminism from the first wave in the 1910s to the second in the 1960s and into a variety of recent expressions. Where these paths meet, we see how the ideas of Freud and his followers helped further the real-life goals of a feminism that was a widespread social movement and not just an academic phenomenon. The marriage between psychoanalysis and feminism was not pure bliss, however, and Buhle documents the trying moments; most notably the Momism of the 1940s and 1950s, a remarkable instance of men blaming their own failures of virility on women. An ambitious and highly engaging history of ideas, *Feminism and Its Discontents* brings together far-flung intellectual tendencies rarely seen in intimate relation to each other--and shows us a new way of seeing both. Table of Contents: Introduction Feminism, Freudianism, and Female Subjectivity Dissent in Freud's Ranks Culture and Feminine Personality Momism and the Flight from Manhood Ladies in the Dark Feminists versus Freud Feminine Self-in-Relation The Crisis in Patriarchal Authority In the Age of the Vanishing Subject Notes Acknowledgments Index Reviews of this book: Where some feminists have been hostile to psychoanalysis, and some psychoanalysts have

been hostile to feminism, Buhle, a MacArthur Fellow and professor at Brown University, finds them linked in their quest to understand selfhood, gender identity, family structures and sexual expression...Feminism and Its Discontents is an excellent guide to the history of these ideas...The struggles of feminism and psychoanalysis may be cyclical, but they are far from over, and far from dull. --Elaine Showalter, Washington Post Book World Reviews of this book: Buhle's project is to uncover the 'continual conversation' that feminism and psychoanalysis have had with one another, to show how they are mutually constitutive. By charting the exchanges between psychoanalysis and feminism, Feminism and Its Discontents corrects the common impression that feminist criticisms fell on deaf, if not disdainful, ears. Buhle takes pains to detail how feminists and their opponents inside and outside psychoanalysis have set the terms for key debates...Buhle is an animated and engaged storyteller. The story she tells--covering nearly a century of the vicissitudes of psychoanalysis and feminism--is full of twists and turns, well-chosen anecdotes and occasional double-crosses. The cast of characters is inspiring, exasperating, remarkable, mercurial, colorful and sometimes slightly loony. Buhle draws them with sympathy and a keen eye for the evocative detail...Buhle writes with zest, touches of humor and energy. Her style is witty and readable...It is no mean feat to avoid ponderous and technical language when writing about psychoanalysis, but she manages it...All told, psychoanalysis and feminism, sometimes in tandem and sometimes at arm's length, have made vital contributions to the question of female selfhood. The 'odd couple' of our century, they share a large part of the responsibility for our particular form of self-consciousness and for the meaning of individuality in modern society. Mari Jo Buhle deftly illuminates how together they advanced the ambiguous and radical project of modern selfhood. --Jeanne Marecek, Women's Review of Books

Reviews of this book: Feminism and Its Discontents sets out to unravel the wondrously complex love-hate relationships between--and within--feminism and psychoanalysis, which it sees as the two most important movements of modernity...The twists and tensions in that relationship highlight the continuous arguments around sexual difference and their entanglement in the messy conflicts in women's lives between motherhood and careers, self-realization and gender justice...Buhle leads her readers through the repeated battles over feminism, Freudianism and female subjectivity with exceptional clarity and care. Her book will...serve as a reliable introduction for those who have scant knowledge of the historical ties binding feminism to psychoanalysis [and] is also useful for those...who wish to remind themselves of what they thought they already knew, but may well have forgotten. --Lynn Segal, Radical Philosophy

Reviews of this book: Feminism and Its Discontents adds a novel and welcome twist to [the Freud] conversation, the proposition that feminism was so central to Freud's Americanization that the quest for gender equality can be credited with turning psychoanalysis into what we imagine it always was: an enterprise centered on femininity and female sexuality...[Buhle's] assertions are as enticing as they are controversial...The book [is] as relevant for students of feminist politics as for scholars interested in the history of psychoanalysis itself. --Ellen Herman, Journal of American History

Reviews of this book: An exhaustively researched and accessibly written account of the intersections and collisions between [psychoanalysis and feminism]...Buhle chronicles the gyrations of history and assesses how social theory influences culture and vice versa. The result is far-reaching, and she is at her best when reflecting on how the mainstream accommodates and interprets the scholarly. Overall, the text promises a lively overview of the mutual benefits derived from a critical coalition between psychoanalysis and feminism. Highly recommended for all libraries. --Eleanor J. Bader, Library Journal

Reviews of this book: [Buhle] bases her intriguing and expansive historical study on the premise that feminism and psychoanalytic theory, each in its own way concerned with understanding the 'self,' developed in continuous dialogue with each other. The author's captivating, energetic writing style reflects the often spirited, surprisingly tenacious relationship of these two theories--from their emergence as 'unlikely bedpartners of Modernism'; through the shifting intellectual patterns of this century and the insidious mother-blaming of the '50s; to the contemporary postmodern paradigm of subjectivity and selfhood. Combining thorough research and incisive analysis, Buhle examines the ongoing discourse among Freudian, new-Freudian, and feminist theorists throughout the century as well as the endless

fascination of popular culture with the questions of biology versus culture, difference versus equality. A vital addition to both women's studies and psychology collections. --Grace Fill, Booklist
 Reviews of this book: *Feminism and Its Discontents* covers a dazzling spectrum of thinkers and polemicists, ranging from Charlotte Perkins Gilman to Barbara Ehrenreich, with admirable clarity and succinctness. [Buhle's] reach in terms of American [and French] classical, neo-, and post-Freudian writing by men and women on women's psychosexual development is equally impressive...Few scholars would attempt a comprehensive intellectual history on such a charged topic. Buhle has done so in this informative scholarly feat. --Kirkus Reviews
 Reviews of this book: Buhle has bridged the void between feminism and psychoanalysis with a historian's thorough and penetrating interpretation of theories and thoughts implicit in 20th-century liberation movements. The introduction is clearly developed and carefully documented...Each [chapter] is skillfully organized with extensive references and notes to motivate the astute scholar...There is no question that Buhle has adeptly used a multidisciplinary approach to present ideas and thoughts that give contemporary feminists and post-Freudians another opportunity for dialogue on the terms 'difference' and 'equality.' --G.M. Greenberg, *Choice*
 Feminism and psychoanalysis have each been defining moments of this now fading century, and in their tangled relations lie some of its main preoccupations. It takes a historian's eye to unravel this story, and one with the breadth, sympathy, insight, and wit of Mari Jo Buhle to do it justice. *Feminism And Its Discontents* will undoubtedly stand as the definitive study of the encounter between these two great movements. --Joel Kovel, Bard College, author of *Red Hun*

psychoanalysis and feminism: *Between Feminism and Psychoanalysis* Teresa Brennan, 2002-03-11 In this landmark collection of original essays, outstanding feminist critics in Britain, France, and the United States present new perspectives on feminism and psychoanalysis, opening out deadlocked debates. The discussion ranges widely, with contributions from feminists identified with different, often opposed views on psychoanalytic criticism. The contributors reassess the history of Lacanian psychoanalysis and feminism, and explore the significance of its institutional context. They write against the received views on 'French feminism' and essentialism. A remarkable restatement of current positions within psychoanalysis and feminism, the volume as a whole will change the terms of existing debates, and make its arguments and concerns more generally accessible.

psychoanalysis and feminism: *The Bonds of Love* Jessica Benjamin, 2013-05-01 Why do people submit to authority and derive pleasure even others have over them? What is the appeal of domination and submission, and why are they so prevalent in erotic life? Why is it so difficult for men and women to meet as equals? Why, indeed, do they continue to recapitulate the positions of master and slave? In *The Bonds of Love*, noted feminist theorist and psychoanalyst Jessica Benjamin explains why we accept and perpetuate relationships of domination and submission. She reveals that domination is a complex psychological process which ensnares both parties in bonds of complicity, and shows how it underlies our family life, our social institutions, and especially our sexual relations, in spite of our conscious commitment to equality and freedom.

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subjectivity. Stone argues that in the West the self has often been understood in opposition to the maternal body, so that one must separate oneself from the mother and maternal care-givers on whom one depended in childhood to become a self or, in modernity, an autonomous subject. These assumptions make it difficult to be a mother and a subject, an autonomous creator of meaning. Insofar as mothers nonetheless strive to regain their subjectivity when their motherhood seems to have compromised it, theirs cannot be the usual kind of subjectivity premised on separation from the maternal body. Mothers are subjects of a new kind, who generate meanings and acquire agency from their position of re-immersion in the realm of maternal body relations, of bodily intimacy and dependency. Thus Stone interprets maternal subjectivity as a specific form of subjectivity that is continuous with the maternal body. Stone analyzes this form of subjectivity in terms of how the mother typically reproduces with her child her history of bodily relations with her own mother, leading to a distinctive maternal and cyclical form of lived time.

psychoanalysis and feminism: *Lesbians, Feminism, and Psychoanalysis* Judith Glassgold, Suzanne Iasenza, 2014-01-09 Get a feminist perspective on important changes in psychoanalysis! *Lesbians, Feminism, and Psychoanalysis: The Second Wave* examines recent changes in psychoanalysis that have opened the door for new perspectives on same-sex desire. Authors from a variety of disciplines and theoretical orientations combine feminism with psychoanalytic and postmodern theories to celebrate diversity in gender and sexual experience. This collection of lesbian-affirmative writings addresses transference and countertransference, gender subjectivities, privilege and racism, therapist homophobia, and violence in lesbian relationships. In the past decade, psychoanalysis has undergone changes in clinical theory that have led to views on human sexuality that are less focused on what is normal and therapy practices that resist attempts to fit individuals into prescribed developmental models. *Lesbians, Feminism, and Psychoanalysis* presents a variety of backgrounds (psychiatry, psychology, and social work), analytic training (formal institute training, study groups, supervision), and theoretical perspectives (self-psychology, object relations, relational psychoanalysis, feminist theory, queer theory, postmodernism, Lacanian theory) unified by the healing power of psychoanalytically informed theory and practice. The book is divided into three sections: Community: Personal and Political, Ongoing Clinical Issues, and New Thinking on Sexuality and Gender, addressing lesbian tomboy development, the queering of relational psychoanalysis, how attachment theory and intersubjectivity can contribute to newer gender theory, and including: interviews with lesbian psychoanalytic foremothers Joanne Spina, Lee Crespi, and Judy Levitz Dr. Darla Bjork's account of her journey to becoming an openly lesbian therapist contrasting views on transference and countertransference from gay and lesbian therapists and much more! *Lesbians, Feminism, and Psychoanalysis: The Second Wave* is an essential practical resource for clinicians and a vital classroom tool for academics working in psychology, social work, psychoanalysis, gender and women's studies, queer studies, and lesbian and gay studies.

psychoanalysis and feminism: *Feminism and Psychoanalysis* Elizabeth Wright, 1992-11-03 *Feminism and Psychoanalysis: A Critical Dictionary* is of major interest to those who are aware of the breadth of its two component areas, and wish to explore the common ground between them more intensively. Entries deal with concepts from and significant figures in psychoanalysis, issues of sexual politics that intersect with psychoanalysis, feminist aesthetics and criticism which both use and challenge psychoanalytic thought. Each entry concludes with a short, carefully selected list of further reading.

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psychoanalysis and feminism: *Subject to Biography* Elisabeth Young-Bruehl, 1998 Elisabeth Young-Bruehl illuminates the psychological and intellectual demands writing biography makes on the biographer and explores the complex and frequently conflicted relationship between feminism and psychoanalysis. She considers what remains valuable in Sigmund Freud's work, and what areas -

theory of character, for instance - must be rethought to be useful for current psychoanalytic work, for feminist studies, and for social theory. Psychoanalytic theory used for biography, she argues, can yield insights for psychoanalysis itself, particularly in the understanding of creativity.

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psychoanalysis and feminism: Femmes Fatales Mary Ann Doane, 2013-06-17 In this work of feminist film criticism, Mary Ann Doane examines questions of sexual difference and knowledge in cinematic, theoretical, and psychoanalytic discourses. *Femmes Fatales* examines Freud, the female spectator, the meaning of the close-up, and the nature of stardom. Doane's analyses of such figures as Pabst's Lulu and Rita Hayworth's Gilda trace the thematics and mechanics of masks, masquerade, and veiling, with specific attention to the form and technology of the cinema. Working through and against the intellectual frameworks of post-structuralist and psychoanalytic theory, Doane interrogates cinematic and theoretical claims to truth about women which rely on judgements about vision and its stability or instability. Reflecting the shift in conceptual priorities within feminist film theory over the last decade, *Femmes Fatales* addresses debates over female spectatorship, essentialism and anti-essentialism, the tensions between psychoanalysis and history, and the relations between racial and sexual difference. Doane's nuanced and original readings of the femme fatale in cinema illustrate confrontations between feminism, film theory and psychoanalysis. This book should be of interest to students and lecturers in women's studies, communications studies and film theory.

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psychoanalysis and feminism: The Feminist Difference Barbara Johnson, 1998 Employing surprising juxtapositions, *THE FEMINIST DIFFERENCE* looks at fiction by black writers from a feminist/psychoanalytic perspective, at poetry, and at feminism and law. The author presents an unfailingly close reading of moments at which feminism seems to founder in its own contradictions--and moments that reemerge as sources of a revitalized critical awareness. Copyright © Libri GmbH. All rights reserved.

psychoanalysis and feminism: Psychoanalysis and Feminism J. Mitchell, 1979

psychoanalysis and feminism: The Politics of Psychoanalysis Stephen Frosh, 1999-07-21 Psychoanalysis has had a profound influence on twentieth-century thought in a wide variety of areas, from psychology and psychiatry to sociology, literature, feminism and politics. Most importantly, it

offers insights into the relationship between individual subjectivity and social relations, making it a key discipline for understanding the links between social phenomena and personal experience. Since its first publication in 1987, *The Politics of Psychoanalysis* has been widely recognised as one of the best introductions to psychoanalytic theory from the point of view of its relevance for social relations. As well as describing Freud's work, it examines the basic assumptions and social implications of a broad spectrum of post-Freudian psychoanalytic thought, especially object relations, Kleinian and Lacanian theory. Feminist and critical psychoanalytic approaches are explored, along with questions of psychoanalytic practice and its implications for social and personal change. For this second edition, the book has been thoroughly revised, with updated accounts of the theories covered in the first edition, plus new material on contemporary feminist psychoanalytic work and on the engagement of psychoanalysis with postmodernism. The result is a book that combines a lucid introduction to theory with a radical examination of the value of psychoanalysis for therapeutic and social practice.

psychoanalysis and feminism: Religion and Psychology in Transition James W. Jones, 2008-10-01 In this thought-provoking book, clinical psychologist and professor of religious studies James W. Jones presents a dialogue between contemporary psychoanalytic thinking and contemporary theology. He sheds new light on the interaction of religion and psychology by viewing it from the perspective of world religions, providing an epistemological framework for the psychology of religion that draws on contemporary philosophy of science, and bringing out the importance of gender as a category of analysis. Developments in psychoanalysis provide new resources for theological reflection, Jones contends. The Freudian view that human nature is isolated and instinctual has shifted to a vision of the self as constituted in and through relationships. Jones uses this relational model of human nature to explore the convergence between contemporary psychoanalysis, feminist theorizing, and themes in religious thought found in a variety of traditions. He also critiques the reductionism inherent in Freud's discussion of religion and proposes nonreductionistic and genuinely psychoanalytic ways for psychoanalysis to treat religious topics. For therapists, psychologists, theologians, and others interested in spiritual or psychological issues, Jones offers illuminating clinical material and insightful analysis.

psychoanalysis and feminism: Rage and Creativity Lucille Spira, 2020-11-11 *Rage and Creativity: How Feminism Sparked Psychoanalysis*, (IPBooks), edited by Lucille Spira, with a major essay by Arlene Kramer Richards, celebrates the interplay between the ideals of second wave feminism and the principles of psychoanalysis. This lead off essay is followed by discussions from feminist psychoanalytic thinkers-women and men -conversing about the essay, gender, race, psychoanalysis and feminism. Among the contributors are: Rosemary Balsam, Sandra Cohen, Nancy Goodman, Dorothy E. Holmes, Nancy Kulish, Merle Molofsky, the Novicks, Jeffrey Stern and others who share their ideas and, in some cases, personal stories about how the convergence of feminism and psychoanalysis impacted both psychoanalysis and their overall psychology.

psychoanalysis and feminism: On the Relation Between Feminism and Psychoanalysis Anna Maria Rain, 2010-02-24 Essay aus dem Jahr 2009 im Fachbereich Didaktik für das Fach Englisch - Landeskunde, Trinity College Dublin - The University of Dublin (Department of English), Veranstaltung: Critical and Cultural Theory, Sprache: Deutsch, Abstract: In her article "Feminism: A Movement to End Sexist Oppression", Bell Hooks claims that the major problem within feminist discourse is the "inability to either arrive at a consensus of opinion about what feminism is or accept definition(s) that could serve as points of unification". Without agreed upon definitions, feminism lacks a sound foundation on which to construct a theory or engage in overall meaningful praxis. Presumably it is also due to this internal vagueness in definition that feminism turned to other, more or less related, schools of thought such as Marxism, science studies or psychoanalysis in order to stabilize itself in the academic world. From all liaisons with the above mentioned (and many other) analytic fields that feminism entered, I find psychoanalysis to be the most natural, as feminism, for all its difficulties in definition, explicitly aims to end sexist oppression⁴. In order to do so, it needs to closely analyse sex, sexes, and gender(s), for which it lacks a methodological apparatus of its own.

Whereas in other disciplines that feminists have tried to reshape for their purposes (i.e. sciences more concerned with societal problems, such as politics) the argument for gender neutrality or irrelevance can be more easily sustained by traditionalists, the advantages of a feminist psychoanalytic approach are substantial, as Nancy Chodorow⁵ argues: [...]

psychoanalysis and feminism: The Monstrous-Feminine Barbara Creed, 2015-09-04 In almost all critical writings on the horror film, woman is conceptualised only as victim. In *The Monstrous-Feminine* Barbara Creed challenges this patriarchal view by arguing that the prototype of all definitions of the monstrous is the female reproductive body. With close reference to a number of classic horror films including the *Alien* trilogy, T

psychoanalysis and feminism: The (M)other Tongue Shirley N. Garner, Claire Kahane, Madelon S. Sprengnether, 2019-06-30 This timely and provocative collection of sixteen essays combines feminist and psychoanalytic approaches to literary theory and to the reading of literary texts. It demonstrates not only the ways in which psychoanalytic theory can illuminate traditional literary texts, but also the ways in which feminist theory can modify, enlarge, and in some instances transform the body of psychoanalytic literature. Treating psychoanalysis as a form of narrative as well as a method of interpretation, the editors have divided their collection into three sections: 1) interpretations of the relation between contemporary feminism and Freud; 2) rereadings of classic patriarchal texts in the light of psychoanalytic feminism; and 3) readings of texts by women writers that have subverted patriarchal structures and given authoritative new voice to the maternal figure. Many of the essays make original contributions to the current debate about the conjunction of Freud and feminism; others offer innovative readings of specific texts that illustrate the significance of that relation. The Introduction provides an up-to-date survey of feminist psychoanalytic theory and enumerates the central issues. Because of the diversity of critical perspectives it offers and the range of texts it considers, this rich and important book will attract a broad spectrum of readers.

psychoanalysis and feminism: The Subject of Anthropology Henrietta L. Moore, 2013-04-23 In this ambitious new book, Henrietta Moore draws on anthropology, feminism and psychoanalysis to develop an original and provocative theory of gender and of how we become sexed beings. Arguing that the Oedipus complex is no longer the fulcrum of debate between anthropology and psychoanalysis, she demonstrates how recent theorizing on subjectivity, agency and culture has opened up new possibilities for rethinking the relationship between gender, sexuality and symbolism. Using detailed ethnographic material from Africa and Melanesia to explore the strengths and weaknesses of a range of theories in anthropology, feminism and psychoanalysis, Moore advocates an ethics of engagement based on a detailed understanding of the differences and similarities in the ways in which local communities and western scholars have imaginatively deployed the power of sexual difference. She demonstrates the importance of ethnographic listening, of focused attention to people's imaginations, and of how this illuminates different facets of complex theoretical issues and human conundrums. Written not just for professional scholars and for students but for anyone with a serious interest in how gender and sexuality are conceptualized and experienced, this book is the most powerful and persuasive assessment to date of what anthropology has to contribute to these debates now and in the future.

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2003-07-31 This collection of specially commissioned essays by academics and practising psychoanalysts, first published in 2003, explores key dimensions of Jacques Lacan's life and works. Lacan is renowned as a theoretician of psychoanalysis whose work is still influential in many countries. He refashioned psychoanalysis in the name of philosophy and linguistics at the time when it underwent a certain intellectual decline. Advocating a 'return to Freud', by which he meant a close reading in the original of Freud's works, he stressed the idea that the unconscious functions 'like a language'. All essays in this Companion focus on key terms in Lacan's often difficult and idiosyncratic developments of psychoanalysis. This volume will bring fresh, accessible perspectives to the work of this formidable and influential thinker. These essays, supported by a useful chronology and guide to further reading will prove invaluable to students and teachers alike.

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His Grandmother (1922), merges sexuality with religion, encapsulating three ages of woman child, to a lost soul and the Devil's bride, to the Devil's Grandmother. Written in charmingly convoluted dialogue, this work has a cinematic, fanciful feel. Both pieces dispense with academic formality and point to a relaxed new phase in Salome's writing life. Interestingly, this tone can also be detected in her blossoming correspondence with Sigmund Freud, which contrasts starkly with her sombre letters to Rainer Maria Rilke. It is with the spirit of free thinking demonstrated in these two selections, perhaps informed by Salome's experimentation with free association, that the reader is transported to a new theatre of Salome's imagination.

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