The Carter–Jenkins Center presents
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The Carter-Jenkins Center for Psychoanalytic Studies

Grand Rounds Lecture Series:

The Role of Anthropology in Psychoanalysis
Part I

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Lecture One: 

*Freud's Anthropological Theory*
Outline of Discussion

• Freud’s anthropology in his psychological theory
• Three principles in Freud’s thinking
• Freud and 19th century cultural evolutionism
• Freud’s estimation of Totem and Taboo (1913)

• Totem and Taboo
  • The horror of incest
  • Taboo and emotional ambivalence
  • Animism, magic, omnipotence of thought
  • Return of totemism in childhood
Freud’s anthropology and psychology are inseparable.

Freud’s anthropological thinking is central to and integrated with his most well-known psychological theories.
Freud’s Socio-Cultural Works

• “Some Points for a Comparative Study of Organic and Hysterical Motor Paralyses” (1893) [1st cultural reference]
• “Obsessive Actions and Religious Practices” (1907)
• “Civilized Sexual Morality and Modern Nervous Illness” (1908) [1st full-length cultural essay]
• Leonardo Da Vinci and a Memory of his Childhood (1910)
• “The Antithetical Meaning of Primal Words” (1911)
• Dreams in Folklore (1911)
• “Great is Diana of the Ephesians” (1911)
• “The Claims of Psycho-Analysis to the Interest of the Non-psychological Sciences” (1913)
• “The Theme of the Three Caskets” (1913)
• Totem and Taboo (1913)
Freud’s Socio-Cultural Works

- “The Occurrence in Dreams of Material from Fairy Tales” (1913)
- “A Mythological Parallel to a Visual Obsession” (1916)
- “A Seventeenth-Century Demonological Neurosis” (1917)
- “The Taboo of Virginity” (1918)
- Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego (1921)
- The Future of an Illusion (1927)
- Civilization and Its Discontents (1930)
- “The Acquisition and Control of Fire” (1932)
- “Why War” (1933)
- Moses and Monotheism (1939)
- “Medusa’s Head” (1940)
Freud’s Anthropology in his Psychological Theory

“Now let us, by a flight of imagination, suppose that Rome is not a human habitation but a psychical entity with a similarly long and copious past…”

Civilization and its Discontents (1930)
Freud’s Anthropology in his Psychological Theory

hysterical paralysis  Breaking wedding glass  ancient custom of burning chiefs possessions/body

“Some Points for a Comparative Study of Organic and Hysterical Motor Paralyses”
1893
“Behind this childhood of the individual we are promised a picture of a phylogenetic childhood – a picture of the development of the human race, of which the individual’s development is in fact an abbreviated recapitulation influenced by the chance circumstances of life.”

The Interpretations Of Dreams (1900)
Three Principles in Freud’s Thinking

What is true generally for understanding Freud’s theoretical writing is especially true for an understanding of his anthropological writing.

“...the individual’s development is in fact an abbreviated recapitulation influenced by the chance circumstances of life.”

1. The biogenetic law
2. The ‘complemental series’
3. Lamarckian evolutionary theory
The Biogenetic Law and Freud’s Analogical Method

“ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny”

primitive

infancy

Haeckel’s image of the biogenic law
The ‘Complemental Series’

"... in which two factors converge... A less of one factor is balanced by a more of the other"
Moses and Monotheism (1939)
Freud’s Lamarckian Theory

“Possibly, however, in later generations they may have become 'organized' as an inherited psychical endowment.”

Freud, Totem and Taboo
The Role of Anthropology in Psychoanalysis

Part I:
Freud’s Anthropological Theory