The Carter–Jenkins Center presents
Michael Poff, MSW, MA
Psychoanalyst - The Carter-Jenkins Center Psychoanalytic Institute
M.A., Anthropology, The University of Chicago
The Carter-Jenkins Center for Psychoanalytic Studies

Grand Rounds Lecture Series:

The Role of Anthropology in Psychoanalysis

Michael Poff, MSW, MA
Psychoanalyst - The Carter-Jenkins Center Psychoanalytic Institute
M.A., Anthropology, The University of Chicago
Freud's Anthropological Theory

Part II

Image: Freud's Office, Berggasse 19, Vienna. From 1938, days before the Freud family left for London.
Freud and 19th Century Cultural Evolutionism

Herbert Spencer (1820-1903)

- *Progress: Its Law and Cause* (1857)
- first applied Darwin’s theory to culture
- gods are displacements from the father
- grand process theory of world evolution
Freud and 19th Century Cultural Evolutionism

Charles Darwin (1809-1882)

On the Origin of Species (1859)
The Descent of Man (1871)

- sexual dimension to religion
- incest taboo implies underlying wish
- the primal horde
- emotional expressions: ‘survivals’
- applied biological evolution to culture/society
Freud’s Estimation of Totem and Taboo (1913)

“… a first attempt on my part at applying the point of view and the findings of psycho-analysis to some unsolved problems of social psychology.”

Freud, Preface to Totem and Taboo

Images: (L to R): #1 Camel, Chinese Early Tang style (618-907); #2 Baboon of Thoth, Roman Period (30 B.C.-A.D. 395); #3 Guardian Figure, Chinese Bronze (15th-17th century); #4 Roman bronze Venus, Egyptian marble (1st or 2nd century A.D.)
Totem and Taboo (1913)

Carl Jung (1875–1961)
Wilhelm Wundt (1832-1920)

“I readily confess that it was from these two sources that I received the first stimulus for my own essays.”

Freud, Totem and Taboo
“The most daring enterprise I have ever ventured.”

- psychoanalytic reconstruction
- primal trauma
- origins of culture, civilization
- parricide in the primal horde
- Oedipus complex: the ‘nuclear complex of the neuroses

Totem and Taboo (1913)

Chapter I
The Horror of Incest

- Primitive Incest Taboos and the Neuroses
- Totemism: functions to prevention of incest
- Two primal taboos:
  1. killing the totem
  2. sex within the clan

Image: Athenian Hydria, (380-360 B.C.)
Oedipus facing the Sphinx.
The Social Contract

• Thomas Hobbes (1588–1679)
• John Lock (1632-1704)
• J-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)

The Enlightenment

‘Social Contract’ Theory
The ‘state of nature’

“The new organization would have collapsed in a struggle of all against all...”

Freud, Totem and Taboo
The Social Contract

• David Hume (1711-1776)
  Emphasized unconscious mechanisms
  example: Projection

• Ludwig Feuerbach (1804–1872)
  “Religion is the dream of waking consciousness…”

• Frederich Nietzsche (1844-1900)
  ‘...some primeval relic of humanity is at work...’
“Taboo and Emotional Ambivalence”

- Taboo prohibitions – ‘untouchable’
- Mysterious, dangerous, sacred/unclean
- Transmissibility of taboo
- Resemblance between taboo and neuroses

Anthropology and 19th Century Cultural Evolutionism

- **Edward B. Tylor (1832-1917)**
  - *Primitive Culture (1871)*
  - ‘Father’ of Social Anthropology
  - theory of Animism
  - defined cultural evolutionism for Anthropology

- **James Frazer (1854-1941)**
  - *The Golden Bough (1890)*
  - *Totemism and Exogamy (1910)*

  “The law only forbids men to do what their instincts incline them to do...”
Chapter III
“Animism, Magic and the Omnipotence of Thoughts”

• Animism/Neurosis: the omnipotence of thought
• Projection of emotional impulses
• Animistic “Philosophy of Nature”
• Domination of the association of ideas
• Evolutionary Correlations
• Psychic Reality Vs. Historical Reality

Image: Shabti Figure of Djehutyemheb, Egyptian (1323-1190 B.C.) limestone and painted wood head
### Totem and Taboo (1913)

#### Freud’s Evolutionary Scheme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Philosophy of Nature: Evolutionary Phases</th>
<th>Magic/Animism Phase</th>
<th>Religious Phase</th>
<th>Scientific Phase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Locus of Omnipotence:</td>
<td>Self/Spirits</td>
<td>Self/The gods</td>
<td>‘Necessity’ Power of the Human Mind Natural Laws</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

42:26
Appendix

Current views on the possible validity of some aspects of Lamarckian theory

The Role of Anthropology in Psychoanalysis

Freud’s Anthropological Theory

Part II
a production of

The Carter–Jenkins Center
The End
Copyright 2013