

#18 From dissociation to repression

After this lecture (or, very likely, after the next) you should be able to say something about

1. *How does the sense of self change during development*
2. *Why is it worth studying Freud (if he was “wrong”)?*
3. *What is the Freudian Unconscious? (and how does it differ from other implicit processing?)*
4. *Is it a good thing or a bad thing to be repressed? Why?*

Back to multiple personality disorder.

Is this for real?

Why have rates sky-rocketed in the last generation?

Possibility: It is an artifact of a particular kind of patient-therapist relationship

Another Possibility:

1. Dissociation is not new
2. The mind chooses its pathology
3. Freud made a mistake.

Masson, J. M. (1984). The assault on truth. New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE SELF

The baby new to earth and sky
What time his tender palm is pressed
Against the circle of the breast
Has never thought that "This is I?"
But as he grows he gathers much,
and learns the use of "I and me,"
And finds I am not what I see,
And other than the things I touch.

Tennyson, In Memoriam

In 1970 G. G. Gallup did an interesting (if somewhat odd) experiment with a chimp

Who knows you and who knows your inmost thoughts? (and when?)

The self as a theory that "I" hold about "me". (Piagetian stages, revisited)

Adolescence: The big bang of personality development. Why?

The goal of this stage is to develop a stable personal identity.

The dangers:

Marking transitions

A moratorium period

FREUD

Sigmund Freud believed in the unity of the mind.

#18 From dissociation to repression

Westen, D. (1998). The scientific legacy of Sigmund Freud: Toward a psychodynamically informed psychological science. *Psychological Bulletin*, 124(3), 333-371

What did Freud have in the place of dissociation?

What did Freud want to cure?

What is hysteria?

What does hypnosis have to do with this?

Frans Anton Mesmer vs Franklin, Lavoisier, and Guillotin (among others)

From Charcot to Freud

Anna O's "talking cure" or "chimney sweeping".

But where were memories hiding?

The Freudian Unconscious

Freudian Depth psychology

Consciousness <-> Preconscious <-> Unconscious

amoral (not *immoral*) infants - governed by the pleasure principle

What do you want to forget?

Repression

Why repress? Why not forget?

Memories in the dungeon

How might they escape?

Who is standing guard?

Defense mechanisms (see the book)

e.g. projection

Is this "normal"? Freud says....

Is this real?

How could you treat a hysterical symptom?

What is free association all about?