



## Classical Myth and Psychoanalysis: Ancient and Modern Stories of the Self (Classical Presences)

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Since Freud published the *Interpretation of Dreams* in 1900 and utilized Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex* to work through his developing ideas about the psychosexual development of children, it has been virtually impossible to think about psychoanalysis without reference to classical myth. Myth has the capacity to transcend the context of any particular retelling, continuing to transform our understanding of the present. Throughout the twentieth century, experts on the ancient world have turned to the insights of psychoanalytic criticism to supplement and inform their readings of classical myth and literature.

This volume examines the inter-relationship of classical myth and psychoanalysis from the generation before Freud to the present day, engaging with debates about the role of classical myth in modernity, the importance of psychoanalytic ideas for cultural critique, and its ongoing relevance to ways of conceiving the self. The chapters trace the historical roots of terms in everyday usage, such as narcissism and the phallic symbol, in the reception of Classical Greece, and cover a variety of both classical and psychoanalytic texts.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

It is a collection that will make an impact on psychoanalytic studies, as well as classics, with re-evaluations of psychoanalytic narcissism and masculinity, and of Freud's engagements with ancient myth, drama and epic. Helen Morales, *The Times Literary Supplement* engaging ... these writings preserve lively traces of the oral performance by an international roster of scholars committed to - and critical of - the interpretation of Greek and Roman mythology through the various theoretical frameworks of psychoanalysis. Steven Z. Levine, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* With an introduction and eighteen essays this volume displays the wide ranging conversance with psychoanalytic theory that classicists have developed in the last thirty years. Victoria Pedrick, *Hermathena*

#### About the Author

**Vanda Zajko** is Senior Lecturer in Classics at the University of Bristol. She has wide-ranging research interests in the reception of classical literature, particularly in the 20th century, and in mythology, psychoanalytic theory, and feminist thought. She has published on a variety of ancient authors including Homer, Aeschylus, and Ovid, and on Shakespeare, Keats, Ted Hughes, Melanie Klein, James Joyce, Freud, Mary Shelley, and Robert Graves. She was co-editor with Miriam Leonard of *Laughing with Medusa: Classical Myth and Feminist Thought* (OUP, 2006) and with Alexandra Lianeri of *Translation and the Classic: Identity as Change in the History of Culture* (OUP, 2008).

**Ellen O'Gorman** is Senior Lecturer in Classics at the University of Bristol. She works on ancient historiography and its reception, and on historical and psychoanalytic theory. She has published on Livy, Sallust, Tacitus, Ovid, Homer, Lucan, Statius, Flaubert, Freud, and Lacan. She is the author of *Irony and Misreading in the Annals of Tacitus* (2000).

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