

Dream interpretation in theory: Drawing on the contributions of Freud, Jung, and the Kleinians

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Abstract

While Freud (1900) made the greatest contribution to our understanding of dreams, his followers diverged in their thinking and developed differing theories. The evolution of psychoanalysis saw the focus on dreams in the early 1900s give way to other areas of investigation. Consequently, relatively little was published on dream analysis in the following century. While the few recent contributions to the field are acknowledged, this paper examines the original contributions to theories of dream interpretation made by Freud, Jung, and Klein and her followers. The paper presents a sequential four-stage structure of dream analysis, devised to contrast the contributions of these different psychoanalytic perspectives at each stage. This is illustrated through reference to Freud's case-study, 'A fragment of an analysis of a case of hysteria' (1905).