



The Lure of Dreams: Sigmund Freud and the Construction of Modernity

By Harvie Ferguson

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From literary theory to social anthropology, the influence of Freud runs through every part of the human and social sciences. In *The Lure of Dreams*, Harvie Ferguson shows how Freud's writings and particularly *The Interpretation of Dreams* contribute, both in their content and in the baroque and dream-like forms in which they are cast, to our understanding of the character of modernity. This novel and stimulating approach to Freud and to the dilemmas of modernity and postmodernity will fascinate everyone with an interest in the development of the modern consciousness.

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- Sales Rank: #4044242 in eBooks
- Published on: 2005-08-04
- Released on: 2005-08-04
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Review

This is an interesting, thought-provoking book, which leads the reader to question the apparent divides between theories in Psychology, Sociology, and Biology through giving examples from the far reaching work of Freud - especially dream analysis. - PSIGE Newsletter, Jan 2000

From the Back Cover

From literary theory to social anthropology, the influence of Freud runs through every part of the human and social sciences. In *The Lure of Dreams*, Harvie Ferguson shows how Freud's writings and particularly *The Interpretation of Dreams* contribute, both in their content and in the baroque and dream-like forms in which they are cast, to our understanding of the character of modernity. He argues that the recent tendency to view Freud's work mainly as a product of nineteenth-century developments in biology and medicine have obscured what is most important and suggestive for us in his writings. Instead Harvie Ferguson discusses the development of Freud's ideas in the context of the Viennese fin de siècle culture in which they were nurtured, and examines the extent to which they reflect a breakdown of classical forms of rationalism in both the sciences and the arts and, more generally, the rehabilitation of dreams in late modernity. This novel and stimulating approach to Freud and to the dilemmas of modernity and postmodernity will fascinate everyone with an interest in the development of modern consciousness.

About the Author

Harvie Ferguson teaches sociology at the University of Glasgow.

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