

Nietzsche and Freud

PHIL 375, UBC

Philosophy and Literature

May 29, 2018

Choose from the following options. This item will be graded.

iClicker Question

[2482] Which one of these infantile activities does Freud address at length?

- A ▶ Bedwetting
- B ▶ Sleepwalking
- C ▶ Thumbsucking
- D ▶ Pottytraining

Choose from the following options. This item will be graded.

iClicker Question

[1440] What are Freud's "psychical dams"?

- A ▶ ego, id, super-ego
- B ▶ shame, disgust, and morality
- C ▶ dreams, jokes, Freudian slips
- D ▶ sublimatiion, elimination, projection

Choose from the following options. This item will be graded.

iClicker Question

[3484] In Mattia Riccardi's paper, Nietzsche is interpreted to claim that a Newton of psychology would find causal, not teleological, explanations for behaviour and actions. What, according to Nietzsche, are the components of these causal explanations?

- A ► drives
- B ► volitions
- C ► goals
- D ► commands

Choose from the following options. This item will be graded.

iClicker Question

[2627] In philosophy, “privacy” is the term for access to your own mental states; “mindreading” is the term for access to other people’s mental states. Which of the following is closest to Nietzsche’s view, according to Mattia Riccardi’s paper?

- A ▶ privacy is transparent, mindreading is obscured
- B ▶ privacy gives us privileged access to our own mental states
- C ▶ mindreading is possible only on the basis of privacy
- D ▶ privacy is as obscured as mindreading

Many of the things that Freud said were pre-empted by Nietzsche, for example the idea of the subconscious. Both Freud and Nietzsche were thinkers who were trying to understand what an honest intellectual response to the historical phenomenon of modernity could look like. Modernity is where

... the people have lost their ancient beliefs; the parson sits at home and unravels his vestments, one after another ... (Franz Kafka, A Country Doctor, 141)

Markers of Modernity

epistemological crisis “I was in great perplexity” (136)

the efficiency of aimlessness “you never know what you are going to find in your own house” (137)

the twinning of pathology and sex the boy's wound (141) Kafka's bisexuality? See Foucault's *History of Sexuality*

lack of agency first, the doctor cannot help because the boy is healthy; then he cannot help because the boy is past helping (141)

collapse of eschatology “it cannot be made good, not ever” (143)

Ontogenesis vs. Phylogenesis

Another parallel between Nietzsche and Freud is that both were trying to do to psychology what Darwin did with respect to life: explain by revealing its history. The important difference for Freud is that he used **ontogenesis** instead of **phylogenesis** for his explanation (25). Here are some key concepts in psycho-analysis.

drives irrational drives determine human behaviour; rational explanations are epiphenomenal (confabulation)

neurosis conflict between the unconscious and the conscious creates repression

subconscious the wall between the unconscious and the conscious is porous, but information which passes through is encrypted in symbols (dreams, myths, jokes, Freudian slips)

psycho-analysis therapy is bringing-to-consciousness and transference (32)

Oedipus Complex early childhood amnesia obscures the Oedipus complex

Id Ego Superego the rational identity is confronted with an animalic identity and with a repressive identity (double object selection, separated by latency, 37) (for “id” see the groom in “A Country Doctor” (137), for “superego” see the priest in “The Trial”)

sex the explanatory power of sex (16), although sexual desire ultimately must be sublimated (19, 26) (and, sometimes, a cigar is just a cigar, 40)

Highlights of Infantile Sexuality

- primeval history and amnesia: “infantile amnesia turns the childhood of each individual into something like a prehistoric past” (37)
- the importance of latency
- sexual innocence and exaggerated sexual desire (16)
- notice how Freud struggles to define abnormality (19, see his dam analogy on page 26)

It is a well-known trope in psychotherapy that the water will eventually find its way downhill, but it is in some sense left to the will to bar or encourage its flow. Freud identifies three psychological dams:

- disgust
- feelings of shame
- aesthetic and moral ideals

One way in which Freud stands in contrast to Nietzsche is the way in which Freud encourages development into a “normal and enculturated individual” (39). One of Freud’s famous tools for this development is **sublimation**: “diversion of sexual driving forces from sexual aims and their direction to new ones” (39).

Both Freud and Nietzsche have their misogynist moments, but in quite different ways.

- “the preference for the hand already suggests the important contribution that the drive for mastery will later make toward masculine sexual activity” (48)
- “under ordinary conditions, she may remain normal sexually, but if led on by a skillful seducer, she will develop a taste for every sort of perversion” (50)

The holy grail of psychology:

- identify the principal explanatory tokens of behaviour
- provide a causal rather than a teleological explanation of behaviour

The phenomenology of an action is such that it appears to be caused by a volitional state, by a willing. This is a primeval delusion.

Riccardi's *Inner Opacity* view implies the following:

- it is false that we are directly aware of our mental states
- self-knowledge (privacy) is not privileged over other-knowledge (mind-reading)

The following play a crucial role in the Inner Opacity view:

folk psychology language and the phenomenology of conscious attitudes

consciousness consciousness is a surface and sign world, a world of generalities, “all becoming conscious involves a vast and thorough corruption, falsification, superficialization, and generalization” (Gay Science, 354)

drives homuncularist and dispositionalist interpretation (Riccardi’s functionalist reading)

Some view from cognitive science that are informative with respect to Nietzsche's view:

Alvin Goldman mind-reading is primarily simulation

Alison Gopnik mind-reading is primarily theory

Peter Carruthers self-knowledge is primarily theory

According to the IO view, "the same set of cognitive capacities enables both introspective self-knowledge and outward-directed mind-reading" (226). James Sully's "obscure region of self-consciousness" (231).

Choose from the following options. This item will be graded.

iClicker Question

[2255] According to John Richardson, what is the effect of consciousness and choosing in Nietzsche's psychological theory?

- A ▶ it is effective at turning us into rational choosers
- B ▶ it is effective at turning us into herd animals
- C ▶ it is ineffective (epiphenomenal)
- D ▶ it is the effective feature of an aristocratic strong person (a master)

iClicker Question

Choose from the following options. This item will be graded.

iClicker Question

[6465] Richardson's account of freedom in Nietzsche is based on the following core result.

- A ▶ Nietzsche accepts and improves the traditional account of freedom in terms of agency and choice
- B ▶ Nietzsche identifies freedom with strength—that which is strongest is most free
- C ▶ Nietzsche rejects a traditional account of freedom and seeks to provide a new account
- D ▶ Nietzsche rejects freedom under any description

Choose from the following options. This item will be graded.

iClicker Question

[7397] Which of these characters occur in the *Daybreak* Nietzsche reading?

- A ▶ Leibniz, Napoleon, Queen Victoria
- B ▶ Pascal, Luther, St. Paul
- C ▶ Mill, Freud, Hegel
- D ▶ Kierkegaard, Schelling, Mozart

iClicker Question

Choose from the following options. This item will be graded.

iClicker Question

[3745] Which of these quotes is Nietzsche's?

- A ▶ A certain degree of neurosis is of inestimable value as a drive, especially to a psychologist.
- B ▶ Our intellect is only the blind instrument of another drive which is a rival of the drive whose vehemence is tormenting us
- C ▶ I pass my life in preventing the storm from blowing down the tent, and I drive in the pegs as fast as they are pulled up.
- D ▶ Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

Choose from the following options. This item will be graded.

iClicker Question

[8323] According to Janaway's interpretation of Nietzsche, what brings about feelings of guilt?

- A ▶ transgressing divine commands
- B ▶ failing to follow Nietzsche's recommendation how to live a good life
- C ▶ violating sexual taboos
- D ▶ internalizing the drive to cruelty and expression of power

Choose from the following options. This item will be graded.

iClicker Question

[3760] Which of these does Janaway seek to explain in his Nietzsche interpretation?

- A ▶ guilt consciousness
- B ▶ psychopathology (the lack of guilt feelings)
- C ▶ scapegoat mechanism
- D ▶ atonement