

Self and its pleasures - Bataille, Lacan, and the history of the decentered subject

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Description: -

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France -- Intellectual life -- 20th century.
Criminal psychology -- History.
Masochism -- History.
Self (Philosophy) -- History -- 20th century.
Self -- History -- 20th century.
Bataille, Georges, 1897-1962.
Lacan, Jacques, 1901-self and its pleasures - Bataille, Lacan, and the history of the decentered subject
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Yet my emphasis is not exclusively on theory but on history: How are these others constructed as other and how, then, does the self come to be constructed as an-other? Aversion and Erasure: The Fate of the Victim After the Holocaust. The story, however, does not begin with Lacan.

[Read The Self and Its Pleasures Online by Carolyn J. Dean](#)

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Questions about how and why ideas are generated by specific social relations are neglected in favor of locating contradictions immanent in texts Derrida or of providing brilliant descriptions of how power works but no explanation of why power works the way it does Foucault.

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Why was it France that spawned the radical post-structuralist rejection of the humanist concept of 'man' as a rational, knowing subject? Persons and representation: Why infant imitation is important for theories of human development. I have chosen Bataille and Lacan because they are each slippery enough to defy easy categorization and yet important enough in the history of French and Western theories of the self to be considered predecessors, founders, or exemplars of particular schools of thought. Other scholars have written the history of how the decentered self emerged prior to structuralism and poststructuralism in terms of a complex meshing of intellectual influences facilitated by cultural, spiritual crises.

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