

William Meredith-Owen

‘Freud in the context of Jung's Self’

I will be taking a particular approach to this topic which might have been more accurately reflected in a title such as "Freudian/Kleinian perspectives *on* Jung's self". In other words the emphasis will be more on how Jung's notions of how the self is structured could be critiqued and/or complemented from a Freudian/Kleinian standpoint. I will attempt to tie this in with consideration of the extent to which their (Freud & Jung's) respective theories reflect their respective personalities, and the influence of their early experiences on that.

So, to set the scene, I recommend a selection from what is still the definitive biography of Freud, Peter Gay's *Freud: a life for our time*. The whole book is an excellent and engrossing read, particularly effective at putting Freud (and Jung) in their historical cultural context. The extracts I have recommended are intended to impart a sense of Freud the man (and child), and how that might have informed his relationship with his work and with Jung.

Gay, P. (1988). *Freud: a life for our times*. London: Dent. Pps: 3-14, 38-41, 142-149, 197-205, 225-243.

To balance this I am presuming that by now you will all have read Jung's quasi-autobiography: revisiting the first three chapters is always worthwhile –

Jung, C. G. (1961). *Memories, Dreams, Reflections*. Ed. A. Jaffe. New York: Random House.

Our second seminar will explore what some might argue are the theoretical preoccupations driven by such backgrounds. Winnicott speaks to this in his own inimitable way –

Winnicott, D. (1964). 'Memories, Dreams, Reflections by C. G. Jung'. *International Journal of Psycho-analysis*, 45, 450–55. Also presented as Chap. 57 in *Psycho-Analytic Explorations*.

And you could follow that up with one of mine –

Meredith-Owen, W. (2011b). 'Jung's shadow: negation and narcissism of the Self'. *Journal of Analytical Psychology*, 56, 5, 674 – 691.