

III. Mythic Consciousness. Matriarchy

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20 h, biweekly, seminar for PhD students

This course proceeds upon the conviction that human consciousness and human culture develop together. The activity of human beings creates alterations in the objective living conditions and human consciousness then lives its way into the newly formed reality and builds upon it. The "master key" to this process is the use and logic of imagination. It must be possible for human beings to reach forward into the possible, into the future, and give structure and meaning to possibilities that are not yet actual, and to act in ways that bring the imagined possibilities into concrete being. We will study this process, its structure, its genesis, and its importance in this class, with special focus upon the pivotal role played by myth-making. It is my contention that all cultural functions of imagination have a basis in mythic consciousness and the way it projects imagination into the possible. I argue that reason itself is a highly refined imaginative function, as is memory. We will study the main philosophers of myth, Vico, Schelling, Cassirer, and Jung. Our main interest is in the effect of myth on the functions of consciousness and the unconscious.