



# The Unconscious

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Who or what is the unconscious?

# Rumsfeld's epistemic triptych.

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Known knowns: things we know

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Known unknowns: things we know we  
don't know

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Unknown unknowns: things we don't  
know we don't know

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Source: Rumsfeld, D, Pentagon News  
Briefing February 12, 2002.

# Rumsfeld- Žižekian epistemic quarternity.

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Known knowns: things we know

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Known unknowns: things we know we don't know

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Unknown unknowns: things we don't know we don't know

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Unknown knowns: ideology

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Source: Rumsfeld, D, Pentagon News Briefing February 12, 2002; and Slavoj Žižek on Donald Rumsfeld, Calvin College on November 10th 2006.

# Rumsveld-Žižekian epistemology applied to the structure of the psyche

1. Known knowns: the conscious register
2. Known unknowns: descriptively unconscious (symbolised content)
3. Unknown unknowns: dynamically unconscious (unsymbolised)
4. Unknown knowns: ideology



# Enlightenment

- 1685 to 1815 CE
- The Enlightenment included a range of ideas centered on the value of human happiness, the pursuit of knowledge obtained by means of reason and the evidence of the senses, and ideals such as natural law, liberty, progress, toleration, fraternity, constitutional government, and separation of church and state





# German Romanticism

- Circa 1798 to 1837 CE
- (German: Deutsche Romantik) was the dominant intellectual movement of German-speaking countries in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, influencing philosophy, aesthetics, literature, and criticism.







## Quaternity of German Idealists

- Immanuel Kant (1724 – 1804)
- Friedrich Wilhelm Joseph Schelling (1775 – 1854)
- Arthur Schopenhauer (1788 – 1860)
- Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel (1770 - 1831)

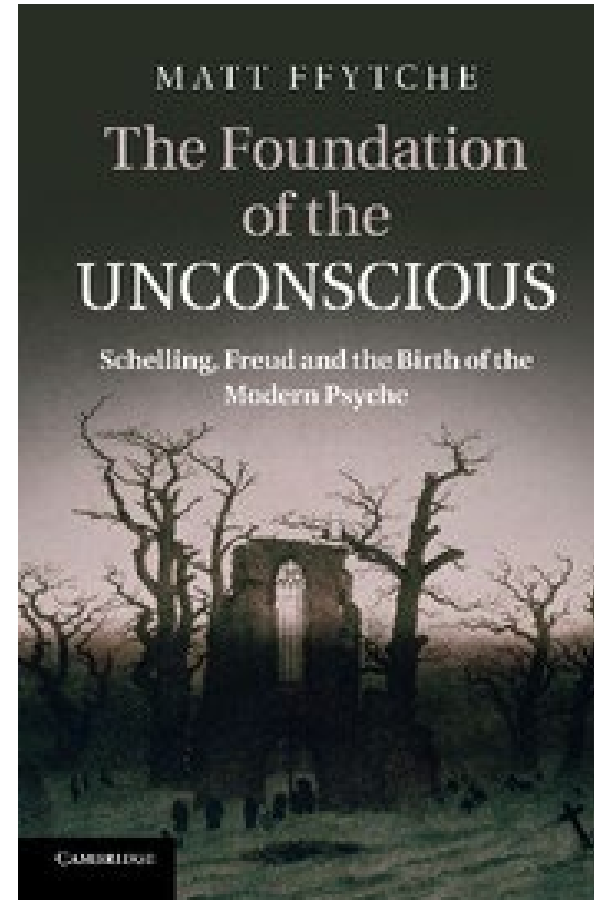
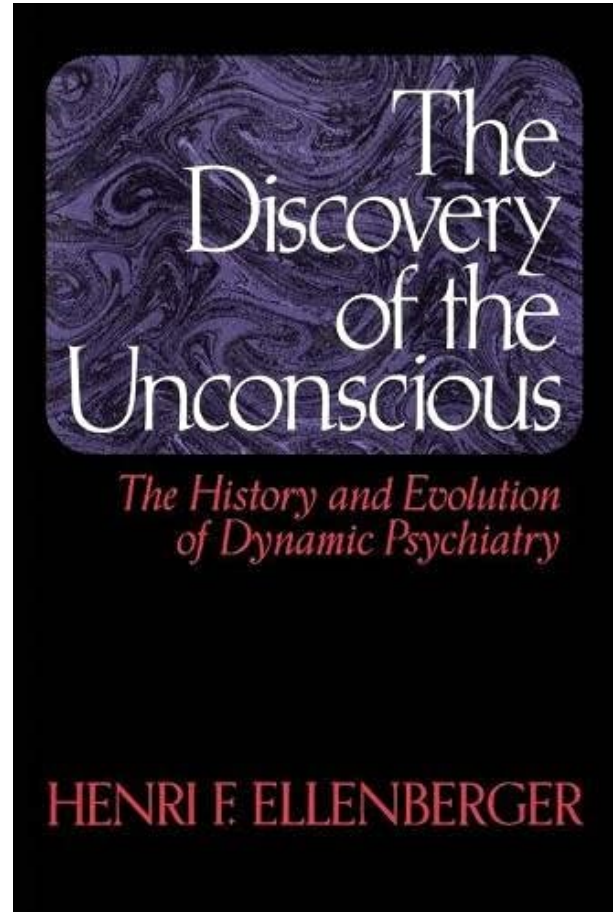


# the unconscious 'Unbewusste'

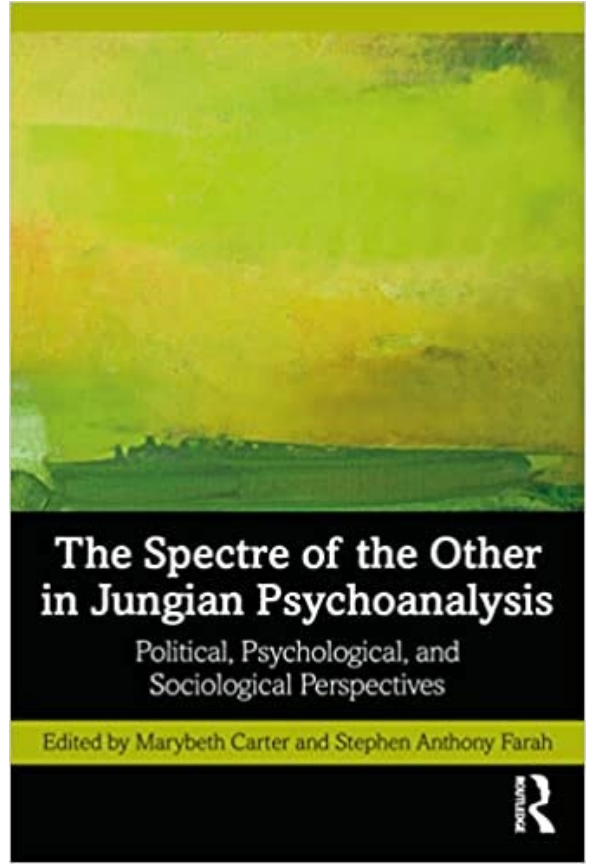
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- **Kant:** transcendental idealism. Kant's contribution here is two-fold: noumenal-phenomenal divide, a priori categories of pure reason
- **Schelling,** naturphilosophie, the irrational, nature as source of renewal and inspiration, the unconscious soul of man being an artifact of nature, uncivilised, uncultured and untamed.
- **Schopenhauer:** the idea of will and representation, "You can do as you will, but not will as you will."
- **Hegel: and Hegelian dialectics,** typically referred to as the master-bondsman or master-slave dialectic

# Discovery of the Unconscious







**The Spectre of the Other  
in Jungian Psychoanalysis**

Political, Psychological, and  
Sociological Perspectives

Edited by Marybeth Carter and Stephen Anthony Farah

