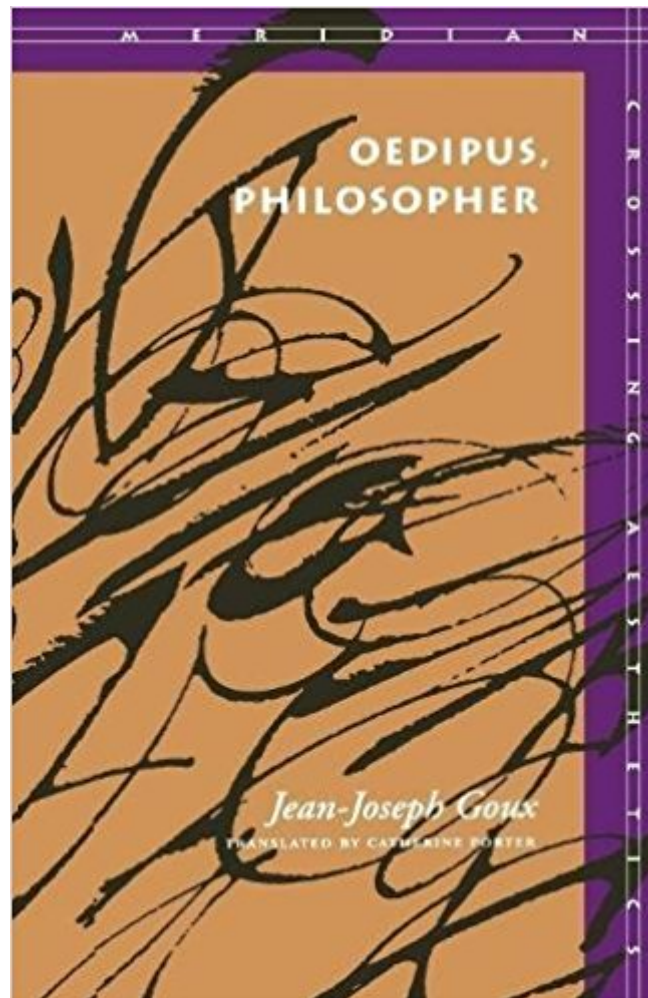




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Oedipus, Philosopher (Meridian: Crossing Aesthetics)



Synopsis

If the logic of the Oedipus myth were subjected to rigorous and thoroughgoing analysis with the tools of anthropology, comparative mythology, and narratology, might it invalidate the approach to the 'Oedipus complex' that Freud derived from his psychoanalytic experience? This book answers 'yes', arguing that instead of the Oedipus complex explaining the myth, the Oedipus myth explains the complex. The author argues that the Oedipus myth is an historical anomaly, a myth of failed royal investiture or of avoided masculine initiation. Does this mean that we must return to the wisdom of tradition and strike out twenty-five centuries of Oedipal history? The author knows very well that such a solution would be fantasy, and he concludes by speculating on how his analysis might contribute to a vision that has eluded Freudian psychoanalysis: how to surpass the Oedipus complex, with all the ethical consequences this would entail.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation) Original Language: French --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Oedipus, Philosopher" informs on so many levels. Goux has provided an excellent account of comparative mythology, the hero's journey and narrative analysis to the story of Oedipus. Goux then shows how Oedipus fits into the history of philosophy- as a paradigmatic shift from other myths, with Oedipus' actions defining himself as the first philosopher. Next he shows how Freud

came to find Oedipus, by the remainder left over from the other philosopher's accounts. He wraps this up showing how Oedipus in "Oedipus at Colonus" finishes the missing pieces of the hero's journey from "Oedipus Rex". If that's not enough, any student will find this book to be an excellent example of a well argued, step by step development of his thesis. In other words, read it in order and it's really great writing. I give it 5 stars for this alone. At the conclusion of the book he's left with further questions about Freud's use of the Oedipus myth. I'm curious why this author with such encyclopedic range of knowledge never mentions Lacan and his rereading of Freud. I can't wait for the sequel- Oedipus, Sinthome.

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