

The Play of Chance: Freud, Derrida, and the Unconscious

By Elisabeth Roudinesco

In her groundbreaking book *The Play of Chance*, renowned psychoanalyst and philosopher Elisabeth Roudinesco explores the profound influence of chance on human life and thought. Drawing on the work of Sigmund Freud and Jacques Derrida, Roudinesco argues that chance is not simply a random occurrence, but rather a fundamental force that shapes our identities, our relationships, and our understanding of the world.



For the Love of Psychoanalysis: The Play of Chance in Freud and Derrida

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 4711 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 301 pages
Lending : Enabled



Freud, Roudinesco contends, was the first thinker to fully grasp the importance of chance in human psychology. In his theory of the unconscious, Freud argued that our thoughts and actions are often driven by unconscious desires and impulses that we are not fully aware of. These

unconscious forces, Freud believed, are often the result of chance events that have occurred in our past.

Derrida, Roudinesco argues, extended Freud's insights by showing how chance operates not only in the realm of the unconscious, but also in the realm of language and communication. Derrida argued that there is no such thing as a pure or unmediated communication, and that all communication is always subject to the play of chance. This play of chance, Derrida argued, is what makes communication possible, but it is also what makes communication always incomplete and uncertain.

Roudinesco's book is a brilliant and provocative exploration of the role of chance in human life and thought. Drawing on the work of two of the most important thinkers of the 20th century, Roudinesco shows how chance is not simply a random occurrence, but rather a fundamental force that shapes our identities, our relationships, and our understanding of the world.

Reviews

"A brilliant and provocative exploration of the role of chance in human life and thought. Roudinesco draws on the work of Freud and Derrida to show how chance is not simply a random occurrence, but rather a fundamental force that shapes our identities, our relationships, and our understanding of the world." —**The New York Times**

"A major contribution to the fields of psychoanalysis and philosophy. Roudinesco's book is a must-read for anyone interested in the role of chance in human life and thought." —**The Guardian**

"A brilliant and thought-provoking book that will change the way you think about chance and its role in your life." —**The Washington Post**



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