

# Fair Sex, Savage Dreams



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In "Fair Sex, Savage Dreams", Jean Walton examines the work of early feminist psychoanalytic writing to decipher it in the unacknowledged yet foundational role of race. Focusing on the 1920s and 1930s, a time when white women were actively refashioning Freud's problematic accounts of sexual subjectivity, Walton rereads in particular the writings of British analysts Joan Riviere and Melanie Klein, modernist poet H.D., the eccentric French analyst Marie Bonaparte, and anthropologist Margaret Mead. Charting the fantasies of racial difference in these women's writings, Walton establishes that race - particularly during this period - was inseparable from accounts of gender and sexuality. While arguing that these women remained notably oblivious to the racial meanings embedded in their own efforts to re-articulate feminine sexuality, Walton uses these very blind-spots to understand how race and sex are deeply imbricated in the constitution of subjectivity. Challenging the notion that subjects acquire gender identities in isolation from racial ones, she thus demonstrates how white-centred psychoanalytic theories have formed the basis for more contemporary feminist and queer explorations of fantasy, desire, power and subjectivity. "Fair sex, Savage Dreams" will appeal to scholars of psychoanalysis, literary and cinematic

modernism, race studies, queer theory, feminist theory and anthropology. Jean Walton is Associate Professor of English, Women's Studies, and Film Studies at the University of Rhode Island.

作者介绍:

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