

Skewed Projection in a Broken Mirror

by [Kenneth Francis](#) (March 2019)



The Initiate, Ian Shults, 2009

If Donald Trump, the ghosts of Socrates and Sigmund Freud walked into a bar, they'd unlikely discuss the psychological Theory of Projection. Instead, they'd probably talk about building a wall, the Oedipus complex, and the dangers of drinking hemlock.

In the circles of psychoanalysis, the term Projection, or blame-shifting, is a theory in which some people defend themselves against their own unconscious impulses or qualities (both positive and negative) by denying their existence in themselves while attributing them to others. And these three men, along with many other famous and non-famous people, had to deal with Projection in their lives. And it can manifest itself in many forms, such as denial (cognitive dissonance), regression, dissociation, reaction formation, compartmentalization, etc.

It's quite possible that the deeply flawed Freud, who allegedly fell in love with his sister-in-law, unwittingly projected his sexual fantasies onto mankind in the mother-of-all autobiographies: his popular body of writings.

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As for Trump: most of his flaws are also reflected in the traits of his many foes and fans, as we're all flawed in some way or other. Then there's Socrates: Monty Python's Philosophers' Football Match sketch had him played by Eric Idle. But the great muse was far from being idle when the dikasts of Athens probably projected their own intellectually flawed traits on him accusing him of impiety against the gods of Athens and corrupting the youth. His punishment was death by drinking a beverage of the poisonous hemlock.

Projection can also be seen in characters in literature or even TV sitcoms. In the hugely successful British TV comedy series of the 1970s, *Fawlty Towers*, the main character, Basil, plays the middle-aged owner/manager of a hotel where he regularly insults his guests, occasionally projecting his own flaws and weakness onto some of them. In one episode, *The Waldorf Salad*, a rude Basil mocks a couple of guests who tell his wife they love reading the books of Harold Robbins. She tells the couple: "But seriously, though, his men are all so interesting. Ruthless and sexy and powerful."

To which Basil replies: "Who's this then, dear? Proust? E.M. Forster—Harold Robbins. Oh, yes, of course. My wife likes Harold Robbins . . . Have you ever read any? It really is the most awful American, well, not American, Transatlantic tripe. A sort of pornographic muzak." However, Basil, in another episode can be seen in bed reading the thriller *Jaws*. Similarly, in Sinclair Lewis's *Elmer Gantry*, the fake Christian evangelist of the title is a classic "do-as-I-say, not-as-I-do" narcissist of Projection.

And let's not forget the "tolerant" Social Justice Warriors who anonymously hide behind their keyboards. Some of these extremely intolerant people project their intolerance while they accuse tolerant people, whom they don't like, of intolerance. The apologetics speaker/author Frank Turek, said: "Tolerance is passive; it means I'll stop caring and loving. Love is active: it means I'll tell you the truth even if you won't like me for it."

But it's not just with tolerance where some people have double standards. In his book, *Do as I Say (Not as I Do)*, Peter Schweizer discovers how members of the "liberal-

left" [illiberal cosmopolitan authoritarians] exude an air of moral certitude, priding themselves on being selflessly committed to the highest ideals and seem particularly confident of the purity of their motives and the evil nature of their opponents.

What he found was many contradictions: contemporary liberalism in the end forces its adherents to become hypocrites. They adopt one pose in public, but when it comes to what matters most in their own lives—their property, their privacy, and their children—they jettison their liberal principles and embrace conservative ones. In other words, they have mastered Projection when accusing others of what they in fact act out.

Freud, who projected many of his own flaws on rival psychiatrist Carl Jung, *visa versa*, considered that, in Projection, thoughts, motivations, desires, and feelings that cannot be accepted as one's own are dealt with by being placed in the outside world and attributed to someone else. What the ego repudiates is split off and placed in another. However, his rival, Jung, wrote: "All projections provoke counter-projection when the object is unconscious of the quality projected upon it by the subject."

For example, a person or a group with aggressive behaviour may constantly accuse other people of being aggressive. No more abundantly was this expressed better than during The Donald Trump presidency campaign and the hysteria that followed. Here we had anti-Trumpers acting deplorably, vilifying other "deplorables" for exercising their democratic voting rights.

Trump was also vilified and called “disgusting” for joking remarks he made to another man many years ago about inappropriately “grabbing” a part of a woman’s anatomy. The remarks were vulgar and disrespectful. However, the singer Madonna, whose performances are infused with lewd, simulated sex acts, was outraged at Trump’s men’s locker-room-talk vulgarity.

During the presidential campaign, she appeared at Madison Square Garden and addressed a huge crowd (mostly women) wearing p***y hats; some of them dressed in “vagina costumes,” while their young children looked-on confused. Madonna said: “If you vote for Hillary Clinton, I will give you a b**w job. And I’m good. I’m good. I’m not a douche and I’m not a tool. I take my time, I have a lot of eye contact, yeah. And I do swallow.”

In an essay in American Thinker magazine, David Zukerman [@NERIconoclast](#)