

# Karen Horney

16 September 1885 – 4 December  
1952

# General information

- A German psychoanalyst who practiced in the US during her later career
- Questioned some traditional Freudian views (neo-Freudian)
- Is credited with founding feminist (feminine) psychology

# Karen Horney



# Education

- University of Freiburg
- University of Göttingen
- University of Berlin

# Career & works

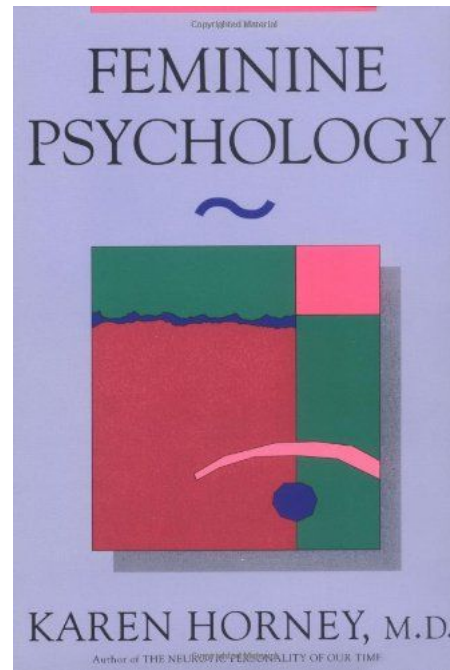
- 1920 – a founding member of the Berlin Psychoanalytic Institute
- 1932 - Chicago Institute of Psychoanalysis
- Brooklyn period (Harry Sullivan & Erich Fromm)

# Theory of neurosis

- A continuous process
- Parental indifference towards the child
- Ten patterns of neurotic needs (three groups: moving toward people, moving against people, moving away from people)
- 3 categories of needs: Compliance, Aggression, Detachment

# Feminine psychology

- Cultures and societies worldwide encouraged women to be dependent on men
- **Penis envy vs Inability to give birth to children**



# Horney

# Freud

- Believed childhood social tensions crucial for personality formation
- Said childhood anxiety, caused by a dependent child's sense of helplessness, triggers our desire for love and security
- Countered assumption that women have weak superegos and suffer "penis envy"

- Id, ego, superego
- Importance of unconscious
- Shaping of personality in childhood
- Dynamics of anxiety and defense mechanisms

- Believed that childhood sexual experiences shaped personality in childhood.
- Placed more emphasis on the unconscious mind and desire's influences on personality.
- Biased against females, believing that they suffered from "penis envy" and had weaker superegos.





**THANKS FOR  
YOUR ATTENTION  
AND  
PLEASE DON'T ASK  
TOO MUCH**