

Karen Horney (nee Danielsen)

Born
1885 (Germany)

Died
1952 (NY, USA)




- Father is Norwegian ships (discipline, authoritative, “Bible thrower”, preferred brother), mom a homemaker (depressed, irritable, dominating toward Karen); brother is four years older. Also had four older step-siblings, but no contact with them.
- Felt deprived of father’s approval. Witnessed conflict between parents
- Crush on brother.
- Age 19 (1904), mother left her father (without divorcing him), taking children with her.
- Future paths...university v societal expectations. Against parents’ wishes, entered medical school. Graduates 1913
- Meets Oscar Horney (works in industry), married 1909. Three children eventually
- Within one year – first child born, both parents die. Enters psychoanalysis to help herself cope
- 1923 brother dies. Depression
- 1926, separates from husband, divorce 1937
- 1932 moves to US with daughters, due to coolness from Freud and concern about rising Nazism.

She challenges Freud's Oedipus ideas

She believed men possessed jealousy of female anatomy and that intrinsically women are smarter than men.

Horney did agree with Freud regarding females' envy of males, although, it was not because of the male anatomy (as Freud believed) but through the hierarchical status men had within society.

Ten Neurotic Needs



Horney believes that neurosis resulted from basic anxiety caused by interpersonal relationships. Horney's theory proposed that strategies used to cope with anxiety can be overused, causing them to take on the appearance of needs

Ten Neurotic Needs

Aggression – Moving Against People

4. The need for personal admiration; for both inner and outer qualities – to be valued.

5. The need for power; the ability to bend wills and achieve control over others – while most persons seek strength, the neurotic may be desperate for it.

6. The need to exploit others; to get the better of them. To become manipulative, fostering the belief that people are there simply to be used.

7. The need for personal achievement; though virtually all persons wish to make achievements, as with No. 3, the neurotic may be desperate for achievement.

8. The need for self-sufficiency and independence; while most desire some autonomy, the neurotic may simply wish to discard other individuals entirely.

Compliance – Moving Toward People

1. The need for affection and approval; pleasing others and being liked by them.

2. The need for a partner; one whom they can love and who will solve all problems.

3. The need for social recognition; prestige and limelight.

Withdrawal – Moving Away from People

9. The need for perfection; while many are driven to perfect their lives in the form of well-being, the neurotic may display a fear of being slightly flawed.

10. Lastly, the need to restrict life practices to within narrow borders; to live as inconspicuous a life as possible.

(...and nr.3 again also exhibits Withdrawal)

Children



Bridget Horney (1911-1988)

Famous actress

To US in 1932. Back to Germany later to act.

↳ Friend of actor who fell out of favor with Nazi government (because he had a Jewish wife). When this friend died in 1942, Bridget Horney went to the funeral in spite of great risk to her livelihood.

Got US citizenship after World War II.

Split time between US and Germany, later Switzerland.

Married a German Jewish art historian



Marianne Horney-Eckardt (1913-2018)

A psychologist

Renate Horney (1916-2009)

Lived in California and Mexico

Author