

# the bloomsbury reader in the study of myth

Edited by Jonathan Miles-Watson and Vivian Asimos

FID SOZIAL- UND  
KULTURANTHROPOLOGIE  
in Zusammenarbeit mit der DFG

BLOOMSBURY ACADEMIC  
LONDON • NEW YORK • OXFORD • NEW DELHI • SYDNEY

# Contents

Copyright acknowledgements vii  
Acknowledgements xi  
In search of mythology: Introduction 1

## **part one** What is myth?

### **Section A: What is myth? 10**

Locating the field 10

- 1** A two-dimensional scheme for the classification of narratives  
C. Scott Littleton 11
- 2** The idea of folklore: An essay  
Dan Ben-Amos 21
- 3** Myth in primitive society  
Bronislaw Malinowski 29

## **part two** Why do myths exist?

### **Section A: Global theories of myth 40**

Are all myths the same? 40

- 1** Balder and the mistletoe  
James Frazer 43

- 2** The myth of the birth of the hero  
Otto Rank 51
- 3** The historical development of mythology  
Joseph Campbell 61

### **Section B: Myth and dreams 71**

(Dis)embodied mythology 71

- 1** Flying saucers: A modern myth  
Carl G. Jung 73
- 2** The vampire as bloodthirsty revenant: A psychoanalytic post mortem  
Alan Dundes 83
- 3** More than stories, more than myths: Animal/human/nature(s) in traditional ecological worldviews  
Amba J. Sepie 93

### **Section C: Myth and history 106**

The search for truth 106

- 1** Myth and reality  
Mircea Eliade 109
- 2** The original elements of mythology  
Max Müller 119

- 3** CúChulainn's women and some Indo-European comparisons  
Nicholas J. Allen 127

## **part three** What do myths do?

### *Section A: Structuralist approaches 140*

Myth and meaning 140

- 1** Jewels and wounds  
Claude Lévi-Strauss 143
- 2** Pulleyar and the Lord Buddha  
Edmund Leach 153
- 3** An outline of Propp's model for the study of wondertales  
Manuel Aguirre 163

### *Section B: Neostructuralist approaches 175*

Beyond binaries 175

- 1** We think what we eat  
Seth Kunin 177
- 2** The gun and the bow  
Stephen Hugh-Jones 185
- 3** The meaning of myth  
Mary Douglas 195

### *Section C: Spatial theories 204*

From page to place 204

- 1** Myth, memory and the oral tradition: Cicero in the Trobriands  
Frances Harwood 207

- 2** Implicit mythology in the Shimla hills  
Jonathan Miles-Watson 219
- 3** Stone-faced ancestors: The spatial anchoring of myth in Wamira, Papua New Guinea  
Miriam Khan 229

## **part four** Where are myths going?

### *Section A: Myths and popular culture 240*

What good are old stories? 240

- 1** Amateur mythographies: Fan fiction and the myth of myth  
Ika Willis 243
- 2** Storm power, an icy tower and Elsa's bower: The winds of change in Disney's *Frozen*  
Lauren Dundes, Madeline Streiff and Zachary Streiff 253
- 3** Science fiction as mythology  
Marilyn Sutton and Thomas Sutton 263

### *Section B: The future of mythology 271*

Mythological Terminalia 271

- 1** Does myth have a future?  
Robert Segal 275

Index 289