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**THE DEPTHS OF BEING: FREUD'S UNCONSCIOUS AND ITS
PHILOSOPHICAL LEGACY**

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This paper revisits Sigmund Freud's theory of the unconscious, situating it at the crossroads of science, philosophy, and clinical interpretation. Freud's conceptualization of the unconscious as a structured and dynamic realm – governed by repression, desire, and intrapsychic conflict – marked a decisive break from Enlightenment notions of the rational, self-knowing subject. Through both his topographical and structural models, Freud offered a theoretical architecture that continues to influence contemporary debates on human cognition and behavior (The Ego and the Id).

The study considers Freud's metapsychological framework as both a scientific hypothesis and a philosophical proposition. By examining key texts such as *The Interpretation of Dreams*, *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*, and *Civilization and Its Discontents*, it analyzes the epistemic status of the unconscious in relation to questions of verifiability and interpretation. Post-Freudian thinkers – particularly Paul Ricoeur, Michel Foucault, and Jacques Lacan – are discussed for their rearticulations of Freud's thought through hermeneutic, genealogical, and structuralist perspectives.

While critics like Karl Popper have doubted psychoanalysis as a science, developments in neuroscience and psychology suggest that certain Freudian ideas may still hold value – especially in discussions around unconscious processing and emotional regulation. Ultimately, this paper argues that Freud's enduring significance lies not only in his clinical theories but in his reconceptualization of subjectivity as fundamentally divided, mediated, and opaque – questions that remain as relevant today as they were in his time.