

The Trickster

Tricksters are generally male, but consider Scheherazade and note the ruses of Penelope.

The Trickster is a change-agent, always liminal, almost always escaping consequences, even if there is a risk of outsmarting himself. "When he lies and steals, it isn't so much to get away with something or get rich as to disturb the established categories of truth and property and, by so doing, open the road to possible new worlds" (Hyde 13).

Tricksters opportunistically seek gaps (46); further, they feel no anxiety about lying (71).

Happenstance=opportunity, and Tricksters revel in contingencies (96-97).

Paul Radin: "The Trickster is at once creator and destroyer, giver and negator" (158)... "He possesses no values, moral or social...yet through his actions all values come into being" (10).

Radin's Trickster is clearly the mythical being; Odysseus embodies a set of values, but many of his tactics are those of a trickster.