



**Romantic Science and the Experience of Self:  
Transatlantic Crosscurrents from William James  
to Oliver Sacks (Routledge Library Editions:  
Romanticism)**

*Martin Halliwell*

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# Romantic Science and the Experience of Self: Transatlantic Crosscurrents from William James to Oliver Sacks (Routledge Library Editions: Romanticism)

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First published in 1999, this engaging interdisciplinary study of romantic science focuses on the work of five influential figures in twentieth-century transatlantic intellectual history. In this book, Martin Halliwell constructs an innovative tradition of romantic science by indicating points of theoretical and historical intersection in the thought of William James (American philosopher); Otto Rank (Austrian psychoanalyst); Ludwig Binswanger (Swiss psychiatrist); Erik Erikson (Danish/German psychologist); and Oliver Sacks (British neurologist).

Beginning with the ferment of intellectual activity in late eighteenth-century German Romanticism, Halliwell argues that only with William James' theory of pragmatism early in the twentieth century did romantic science become a viable counter-tradition to strictly empirical science. Stimulated by debates over rival models of consciousness and renewed interest in theories of the self, Halliwell reveals that in their challenge to Freud's adoption of ideas from nineteenth-century natural science, these thinkers have enlarged the possibilities of romantic science for bridging the perceived gulf between the arts and sciences.

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