

Ethan Doyle White:  
The Revived Cult of Antinous

The twentieth-century saw the proliferation of a wide array of contemporary Pagan movements, reimagining and reviving the cults of ancient deities for modern-day needs. Among these revived movements was the cult of Antinous, the deified male lover of Roman Emperor Hadrian, who at the Emperor's implementation had been venerated in the Roman Empire during the second century CE. While research has gone into exploring Antinous the historical figure and the deification process that followed in the wake of his death, little work has been done in researching the revival of his worship in a twentieth and twenty-first century setting. This paper seeks to go some way to rectifying this omission, examining the development of this particular new religious movement, outlining its history, and situating it within the context of the broader Pagan movement and Pagan explorations of Queer Spirituality. Discussing the motivations of those involved and the establishment of an online community of Antinous worshippers, it will focus in particular on how these contemporary Pagans have pieced together the broken fragments of the historic Antinous cult and thus how these ancient materials have been transformed and transmuted in a modern context.

Keywords:

[Neo-Paganism](#), [New Media](#), [Queer Culture](#)

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