



Theory's Empire: An Anthology of Dissent

From Daphne Patai

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Not too long ago, literary theorists were writing about the death of the novel and the death of the author; today many are talking about the death of Theory. Theory, as the many theoretical ism's (among them postcolonialism, postmodernism, and New Historicism) are now known, once seemed so exciting but has become ossified and insular. This iconoclastic collection is an excellent companion to current anthologies of literary theory, which have embraced an uncritical stance toward Theory and its practitioners. Written by nearly fifty prominent scholars, the essays in *Theory's Empire* question the ideas, catchphrases, and excesses that have let Theory congeal into a predictable orthodoxy. More than just a critique, however, this collection provides readers with effective tools to redeem the study of literature, restore reason to our intellectual life, and redefine the role and place of Theory in the academy.

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Editorial Review

Review

This is a splendid anthology that evaluates, puts into perspective and thoughtfully criticizes contemporary literary and cultural theory. A welcome alternative to dogmatic thought, this book is designed to generate a lively debate. A must for every serious student of literature and culture. (Thomas Pavel, University of Chicago, author of *The Spell of Language: Poststructuralism and Speculation*)

Patai and Corral's *Theory's Empire* represents the invigorating leading edge of a new diversity of thought in the academy, the vision of a healthy skeptical approach to what has become theoretical orthodoxy and dogmatism. (Jon Erickson, Ohio State University, author of *The Fate of the Object: From Modern Object to Postmodern Sign*)

If you never quite believed that thought is the same as action, that fact is irrelevant, that declaration amounts to proof, or that cultures rather than individuals compose works of art, you will discover in *Theory's Empire* why you are neither deluded nor delusional. Theories may help scholarship seem relevant, but they are no substitute for empirical evidence, logical argument, and plain old common sense. (Mary Lefkowitz, Wellesley College, author of *Not Out Of Africa: How Afrocentrism Became AnExcuse To Teach Myth As History.*)

Superb introductions, guaranteed to stir every reader dejected by deconstruction. (*Library Journal*)

Clearly, this is not your father's textbook; it's closer to *The Norton Anthology of Screw-the Academy* (Michael Potemra *National Review*)

A sign that things may be changing...its 47 contributors patiently dissect all aspects of theory. (James Seaton *Wall Street Journal*)

Theory's Empire is important because it shows that the opposition to theory is not just the preserve of intellectual lightweights. (William Pannapacker *Chronicle of Higher Education*)

This is a valuable book for scholars and for those encountering literary theory for the first time... Recommended. (*Choice*)

Theory's Empire is a unique documentation of an intellectual deformation that still affects the way literature is studied. (Brian Vickers, A 2005 Book of the Year *Times Literary Supplement*)

Patai and Corral waste no time and pull no punches. (Michael Berube *Common Review*)

Theory's Empire offers a powerful retrospective on the rise of "Theory" in the American academy. (Sara Castro-Klaren *Modern Language Notes*)

About the Author

Daphne Patai is professor of Brazilian literature and literary theory at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She is the author of a number of books on literature, utopian studies, and the culture wars, most recently *Professing Feminism: Education and Indoctrination in Women's Studies*, Revised Edition (with Noretta Koertge).

Will H. Corral teaches Spanish American literature and culture at California State University, Sacramento. He is the author or editor of several books in Spanish, the most recent of which is *El error del acierto (contra ciertos dogmas latinoamericanistas)*; he lives in Davis, California.

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Charles Felton:

Here thing why this specific Theory's Empire: An Anthology of Dissent are different and reliable to be yours. First of all studying a book is good however it depends in the content of it which is the content is as tasty as food or not. Theory's Empire: An Anthology of Dissent giving you information deeper as different ways, you can find any reserve out there but there is no book that similar with Theory's Empire: An Anthology of Dissent. It gives you thrill reading journey, its open up your own personal eyes about the thing which happened in the world which is perhaps can be happened around you. It is possible to bring everywhere like in recreation area, café, or even in your technique home by train. For anyone who is having difficulties in bringing the printed book maybe the form of Theory's Empire: An Anthology of Dissent in e-book can be your substitute.

Judith Craig:

Theory's Empire: An Anthology of Dissent can be one of your nice books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to place every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing Theory's Empire: An Anthology of Dissent nevertheless doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource data that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information can certainly drawn you into completely new stage of crucial considering.

Michael Spicer:

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