



Reaganism in Literary Theory

Negative Moralism and Hermeneutic Suspicion

By Jeremiah Bowen

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An enlightening study that explains how negative moralism shelters professional privilege and competition from scrutiny

Largely erased from disciplinary memory, Paul de Man's replacement of canon with literariness as the object of literary studies preserved a discourse of devotion and disqualification homologous with Reaganism. This negative moralism shelters professional privilege and competition from scrutiny, supported by misrecognitions like hermeneutic suspicion, materiality, and identity politics.

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Acknowledgments; Essay One Interpretive Politics: Reading Systemic Oppressions with Eve Sedgwick, Stephen Best and Sharon Marcus; 1. Reading the Lines; 2. Paranoid Projects; 3. Defining the Opposition; Essay Two Devotional Scholarship: Reading Academic Reaganism with Edward Said, Stanley Fish and Walter Jackson Bate; 1. Neoliberalism and Religious Intellectualism; 2. Neoconservatism as Negative Devotion; 3. Professional Privilege; Essay Three Negative Moralism: Reading Literariness, Materiality and Revolution with Paul de Man and J. Hillis Miller; 1. The Disqualification of de Man; 2. Reference to Nothingness; 3. Misreading Materialism; Index.

About the Author

Jeremiah Bowen, PhD is author of *Reaganism in Literary Theory: Negative Moralism and Hermeneutic Suspicion* and the book-length poems *Consolations*, and *Argument on the Internet*, volumes 1 and 2.

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