



The Rebirth of American Literary Theory and Criticism

Scholars Discuss Intellectual Origins and Turning Points

By *H. Aram Veesper*

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The interviewees of this volume fall into three groups: the main players who brought about the rise of theory (Fish, Gallop, Spivak, Bhabha); a younger group of post-theorists (Bérubé, Dimock, Nealon, Warren); the anti-critique theorists (Felski); and new order theorists (Puchner, Wolfe). They discuss elemental questions, such as trying to grasp what was logic and what was rhetoric; trying to see down the road while fog and turmoil held visibility to arm's length; and trying to pick legible meanings out of the cultural blanket of deafening noise. Theorists were not only good thinkers but also pioneers who were seeking profound transformations.

Readership

This book appears at a good time. The book will be valuable to anyone who has an interest in hearing Theorists explain, in accessible language, their own conception of what it was like to become a major theorist.

Contents

Acknowledgments; Introduction; The First Wave; 1. Stanley Eugene Fish; 2. Richard Allen Macksey; 3. Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein-Graff; 4. Vincent Barry Leitch; The Second Wave; 5. Walter Benn Michaels; 6. Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak; 7. Jane Gallop; 8. Homi K. Bhabha; 9. William John Thomas Mitchell; 10. William Germano; 11. Steven Mailloux; The Third Wave; 12. Wai Chee Dimock; 13. Rita Felski; 14. Kenneth W. Warren; 15. Cary Wolfe; 16. Martin Puchner; 17. Michael Bérubé; 18. Jeffrey Nealon; Afterword by Heather Love; Index.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Aram Veesper edited 4 books on literary theory and theorists and wrote his own book, *Edward Said: The Charisma of Criticism* (2010). In addition, he has worked as a journalist and addressed, in print, a nonacademic readership.

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