



The Critical Situation

Vexed Perspectives in Postmodern Literary Studies

By Robert T. Tally Jr

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The Critical Situation: Vexed Perspectives in Postmodern Literary Studies comprises a selection of essays that register the situatedness of critical theory and practice amid various intellectual, institutional, and cultural contexts. This book offers examples of situated criticism, which in turn are concerned with the ways in which literary and cultural criticism are and have been situated in relation to a variety of ideological and institutional structures, including those of world literature, American studies, spatial literary studies, cultural critique, globalization and postmodernity. These structures influence the ways that criticism is practiced, and due recognition of their continuing effects is crucial to the success of any meaningful critical practice in the twenty-first century.

Key selling points

- Deals with key issues in contemporary literary criticism.
- Demonstrates the continued significance of critical theory for literary studies.
- Argues for the need to embrace transnational approaches to literature.
- Contributes to discussions of world literature, spatial literature studies, American Studies, the history of the novel and literary criticism.

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Robert T. Tally is Professor of English at Texas State University. His recent books include *For a Ruthless Critique of All that Exists: Literature in an Age of Capitalist Realism* (2022), *J.R.R. Tolkien’s The Hobbit: Realizing History through Fantasy* (2022) and *Topophobia: Place, Narrative, and the Spatial Imagination* (2019).

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