

Patrick Imbert

The Permanent Transition

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TEORIA Y CRITICA DE LA CULTURA Y LITERATURA

Investigaciones de los signos culturales
(Semiótica-Epistemología-Interpretación)

THEORY AND CRITICISM OF CULTURE AND LITERATURE

Investigations on Cultural Signs
(Semiotics-Epistemology-Interpretation)

The goal of this concise book is to trace the modalities of discursive changes in the framework of the postmodern condition contextualized with postcolonialism.

From the paradigm „within/without“, one contrasts the discourse of modernity and the discourse of postmodernism. The former is based on conflicts which lead to the fabrication of histories which forget the death of the victims. The latter is linked to economic and symbolic competition and to dynamic paradigms originating in specialized languages and disseminating into public language. These paradigms initiate a process of production of signification which gives a voice to the victims.

It is through this process that marginalized groups can 1) reread the past, 2) orient themselves towards the future, 3) penetrate the centers of the postmodern/post-colonial era and transform the dualistic center/margins paradigm into a process based on crossing thresholds.

PATRICK IMBERT has been a Professor at the University of Ottawa (Canada) since 1975 and a Full Professor since 1984. He published eight books and more than 100 scientific articles pertaining to semiotics, discourse analysis, French and Québec Literatures, Canadian Studies, Latin America and postmodernism.

He was the recipient of the Prize for the Professor of the year of the Faculty of Arts in 1998. He is now involved in two research projects: one (in conjunction with the University of Leipzig) is dealing with post-modernism and postcolonialism and the other one is concerned with theories and questions of exclusion, multiculturalism and identity.

