The emergence of the Post in the second half of the XXth Century, and the Post of Post-Theory is a societal and cultural symptom: the signs of amazement of a society which is unable to name its very cultural practices. Post, then, inscribes and names what is present, here and now, but also what is absent and thus the Post of Post-Theory. The Post of Post-Theory addresses radical epistemological changes, the shifting of traditional disciplinary boundaries, and what is more important, a different organization and delivery of knowledge. What the Post-Theoretical Condition entails is a radical questioning of how, today, we approach objects of knowledge. In fact, it is this probing of the what, the where, and the how of current ‘epistemologies’, that the post-theoretical thinking begins, by questioning the ontological status of knowledge. Thus Post-Theory does not infer the end of theoretical thinking; much to the contrary, it marks the site of a new theoretical épistème: nomadic, rhizomatic, cartographic. Perhaps the best way to characterize this épistème which we have named the Post-Theoretical Condition, is by underlining what it introduces to the object and practice of knowledge: (a) the dissolution of disciplinary boundaries; (b) the simultaneous elaboration of theory from conflicting epistemologies; (c) the theoretical production from the margins; and (d) the search for a ‘beyond’, a third theoretical space.

Fundamentally, the Post-Theoretical Condition unsettles the very status of knowledge, imploding the scientific cathect and dissipating the former Aufklärung. Ultimately, it erases the border of disciplines, and it deconstructs their objects, by making it nomadic, cartographic, rhizomatic, ambivalent and undecidable: it presents/allows multiple entries, as the papers collected in this volume clearly show. And what characterize these collected papers is precisely the heterogeneity of the theoretical gaze, springing from multiple epistemological sites. Thus heterogeneity, rhizomaticity and the site from where our gaze explores and probes the new realities, constitute the very activity of Post-Theory.

FERNANDO DE TORO is Full Professor in the Department of English at the University of Manitoba, where presently he is the Dean of Graduate Studies. He has published extensively in the fields of theatre, semiotics, and culture. In addition he specializes in Post-Modernism, Post-Colonialism, Deconstruction and Feminism. Prof. de Toro is currently researching a book on these subjects, including postmodern fiction and culture.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Preface**  
The *Post of Post-Theory*  

**Fernando de Toro**  
Explorations on Post-Theory: New Times  

**Patrick Imbert**  
Literary Theory in the Age of Post-Theory: The Permanent Transition  

**Jacques M. Chevalier**  
Post Apocalypse Now  

**Barry Rutland**  
The Other of Theory  

**Mario J. Valdés**  
Literary Theory in an Age of Post-Theory  

**Henry W. Sullivan**  
‘Unreduced Fortresses’: The Lacanian Episteme behind the Lines of ‘Post-Theory’  

**Penelope Ironstone-Catterall**  
The “Post-” of the Subject? A Meditation on Identity, Community and Death in the “Age of Aids”  

**Anne Koenen**  
The (Black) Lady Vanishes: Postfeminism, Poststructuralism, and Theorizing in Narratives by Black Women  

**Mark Salber Phillips**  
Historiography After Hayden White: The Contribution of Genre-Studies  

**Gabriel Weisz**
Shamanism: Metaphors of the Body

Craig DeQuetteville
Practicing Post-Theory

Authors of this volume