

Fernando de Toro (Ed.)

Explorations on Post-Theory: Toward a Third Space

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 *epistème: nomadic, rhizomatic, cartographic*. Perhaps the best way to characterize this *epistème* 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 *cathexis* 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*.

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TKKL 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

TCCL (Semiotics-Epistemology-Interpretation)

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