



Theory Aside

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Where can theory go now? Where other voices concern themselves with theory's life or death, the contributors to *Theory Aside* take up another possibility: that our theoretical prospects are better served worrying less about "what's next?" and more about "what else?" Instead of looking for the next big thing, the fourteen prominent thinkers in this volume take up lines of thought lost or overlooked during theory's canonization. They demonstrate that intellectual progress need not depend on the discovery of a new theorist or theory. Moving subtly through a diverse range of thinkers and topics—aesthetics, affect, animation and film studies, bibliography, cognitive science, globalization, phenomenology, poetics, political and postcolonial theory, race and identity, queer theory, and sociological reading practices—the contributors show that a more sustained, less apocalyptic attention to ideas might lead to a richer discussion of our intellectual landscapes and the place of the humanities and social sciences in it. In their turn away from the radically new, these essays reveal that what's fallen aside still surprises.

Contributors. Ian Balfour, Karen Beckman, Pheng Cheah, Frances Ferguson, William Flesch, Anne-Lise François, Mark B. N. Hansen, Simon Jarvis, Heather Love, Natalie Melas, Jason Potts, Elizabeth A. Povinelli, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, Jordan Alexander Stein, Daniel Stout, Irene Tucker

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Editorial Review

Review

"*Theory Aside* is filled with surprising analytic moves that feel absolutely necessary. The contributors seek the undetonated futures of past and current theoretical paradigms, stepping to the side of where we think we've been to open up new ways of thinking. Their essays are distinguished by a probing, lucid quality that makes them a real pleasure to read."

(Elizabeth Freeman *author of Time Binds: Queer Temporalities, Queer Histories*)

"*Theory Aside* is a terrific collection, its argument highly cogent and its organization luminously clear. As the editors realize, it is ironic that some will find brand new their claim that critical theory might have had a different history, a history that the essays in this volume reimagine in a variety of engaging ways. If something newly important can be said today about Theory's future as well as its past, *Theory Aside* will surely be the volume that catalyzes this discussion."

(Andrew Parker, author of *The Theorist's Mother*)

"This insightful collection of essays regarding the use and place of theory in a post-theoretical realm dares to imagine how theory may successfully challenge and illuminate understanding of the world. . . .

Recommended. Graduate students, researchers, faculty."

(S. Batcos *Choice*)

"Potts and Stout call for a more 'modest' critical practice that gives attention to previously neglected thinkers and considers how theory might have developed in different ways....[The book's] approach disciplines including gender studies, film, poetics and postcolonial studies from surprising, and often enlightening, perspectives."

(*Forum for Modern Language Studies*)

About the Author

Jason Potts is Assistant Professor of English at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

Daniel Stout is Assistant Professor of English at the University of Mississippi.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Glenn Flinchum:

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book entitled Theory Aside? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have different opinion?

Jennifer Garrison:

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