

*Ex-position* Feature Topic Call for Papers (#001)

## Literary Criticism Scene of the 1980s, Revisited

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Publication Date: December 2018 (Issue No. 40)

Submission Deadline: June 30, 2018



The predecessor of *Ex-position* was founded in the year of 1985. As a first step toward renewing ourselves, we find it timely to begin with the putative beginning and revisit literary academia around that time. What topics dominated the conversations in literary criticism (and in the humanities in general) back then? What critical and theoretical terms were casting intellectual debates? Are any of these terms worth a serious re-vision today?

The humanities and social sciences in our new century are witnessing a surge of interest in periodized themes: the Cold War, the post-Cold War era, neoliberalism, in particular. Our feature topic is amenable to such interest, in the sense that these themes combined gesture toward the importance of the time factor (a historical hindsight of sorts) in the assessment of a historical development and its repercussions. How, then, can we refashion literary criticism and theory of the 1980s in light of these historical frameworks, as that was, to be sure, the decade that saw the institutionalization of neoliberalism in the two Western powers, UK and US, and the nominal end of the Cold War? Can new insights be gained through this historical lens?

On the other hand, we also invite scholars to return to specific thinkers that produced groundbreaking works or whose representative works were translated and brought to the attention of a particular academic community during the 1980s, or to reexamine the trajectory of a specific field of study which made a crucial turn in the eighties. Does any key concept merit a closer reconsideration today? In what sense was the eighties a moment of crux for a field? Did the field take root or suffer a decisive downturn at that time? What paradigm shifts took place in terms of disciplinary mapping? The following are suggestions that are by no means exhaustive: M. M. Bakhtin, Jean-François Lyotard, Michel Foucault, Jacques Derrida, Paul de Man, Deleuze and Guattari, Fredric Jameson, Edward W. Said, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, deconstruction, Marxism, psychoanalysis, sexuality and gender studies, minority discourse, colonial and postcolonial studies.

We are especially interested in articles that examine conditions specific to a community, be it local, national, regional or disciplinary.

*\*\*For this feature topic, we also accept articles that are slightly shorter than typical manuscripts the journal solicits: submissions of 5,000 words are welcome.*

*\*\*For submission guidelines, visit the journal's website:*

*<http://ex-position.org>*

*\*\*Ex-position continues the issue numbering of what came before it: Studies in Language and Literature (launched in 1985) and NTU Studies in Language and Literature (renamed in 2000). The first issue to be published under the name Ex-position is Issue Number 40 in the history of the journal.*