

Editorial

Defining the Boundaries of *Critical Studies*

German Primera

There is irony in those efforts one makes to alter one's way of looking at things, to change the boundaries of what one knows and to venture out a ways from there. Did mine actually result in a different way of thinking? Perhaps at most they made it possible to go back through what I was already thinking, to think it differently, and to see what I had done from a new vantage point and in a clearer light.

Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality Vol. 2: The Use of Pleasure*

One could claim that there are no fixed boundaries. If anything, *Critical Studies* aims at corroding disciplinary frontiers; at bringing together differing traditions of thought, differing geographies, differing temporalities. *Critical Studies* challenges the division between so-called analytic and continental philosophies; it aims at suspending the 'theory versus practice' schema and what it has been allowed to sanction (and prohibit) within academia.

We are committed to rigorous critical thinking, and by that (at the very least) we mean thinking that intends to denaturalise what appears as given. We invite, then, radical critiques of our contemporary predicament; alternatives from which to rethink the notion of resistance; and also studies that, without calling into question the general coordinates of the status quo, address its specific effects on our everyday lives. Needless to say, we are also open to engagements with, revisions of, and challenges to the traditions that have formed the terrain of cultural and critical studies, broadly construed.

This, of course, directs our attention toward particular fields of analysis - for example violence, neoliberalism, the body, race, sovereignty, biopolitics, war, gender - which we welcome and promote, but only on the understanding that these fields do not define or delimit the scope of the journal. *Critical Studies* remains open to any inquiry devoted not only to a critical study of the world but also to a scrutiny of our very way of "doing" humanities.

As a postgraduate journal, *Critical Studies* seeks to constitute a meeting point for scholars who are at different stages of their academic lives, who are willing to contribute to an ongoing interdisciplinary dialogue, and who provide innovative perspectives on the theory and practice of the humanities: a theory that is always already embodied in social and political processes and a practice that in turn is im-

bricated in our modes of thought. To that end, *Critical Studies* hopes to contribute to the resistance not only to attacks on the humanities, but to the financialisation of higher education internationally. This commits us, finally, to an open access model of publishing, founded on the premise that the dialogues that constitute *Critical Studies* should not be profited from nor that access to them should be privileged.

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