



Transgression as a Mode of Resistance: Rethinking Social Movement in an Era of Corporate Globalization

By Christina R. Foust

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Since industrialization, two major theoretical perspectives have accompanied the vibrant practice of social change. The first, hegemony, emerged as a less deterministic route to revolution from Marxist theory, and forms the common sense of social movement today. Within hegemonic resistance, rhetoric links issues, ideas, and identities to form a recognizable collective agent, whose aim is to transform the status quo into its vision of the world. The second major mode of resistance, transgression, grows from anarchist and autonomous resistance to capitalism. Transgression attempts to free individuals' uniqueness and creative power by deconstructing authority and explicating the body in resistance.

Transgression as a Mode of Resistance: Rethinking Social Movement in an Era of Corporate Globalization provides the conceptual mapping for scholars, students, and practitioners to participate in the growing debate between these rich and powerful forces of social change. Through a broad perspective on philosophy and history, Christina R. Foust demonstrates that hegemony and transgression are sometimes conflicting, oftentimes inter-related practices. She responds to critics who believe that without a social change agent, resistance appears baseless and naïve; without a representational economy to cohere and express common interests, social movement is impossible. Through alternative social relationships and political performances, transgressive resisters may reinvent daily life.

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Editorial Review

Review

This is a richly textured, theoretically sophisticated analysis of the relationship between hegemony and transgressive rhetoric. Borrowing from Bakhtin, Gramsci, Hall, Laclau, Mouffe, Nietzsche and others, as well as interrogating a wide range of contemporary critical studies in rhetoric, Foust reinvigorates social movement theory as she reconceptualizes transgressive rhetoric through the lens of anarchist tactics. The result is a ground-breaking work that has enormous heuristic potential in moving critical rhetorical scholarship forward into new territory. (Raymie E. McKerrow)

About the Author

Christina R. Foust is assistant professor of communication studies at the University of Denver.

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