

Reflecting on Foucault: taking what's required

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Abstract

Twenty-five years after his death, reflecting on Foucault is an enormous task. Foucault's legacy muddies theoretical waters, forcing strange synergies and theoretical configurations such as the antifoundational humanist. Growing from the murky ferment of French colonial history, the father of post-structuralism's story is as complex as that encounter, and his legacy is as mutating, unsettling and transformative. A reflection on Foucault needs to accommodate not only a consideration of the enormity of the shadow that such a legacy casts over continuing intellectual production, but also an engagement with the inevitability of inconsistencies and complexities that such a shadow subsumes.

Biography

Ian Goodwin-Smith is a lecturer in social theory and social policy at the University of South Australia. His research interests orbit around an intersection of postcolonial theory and social policy. He has a particular interest in new theoretical directions for progressive politics with a focus on culture, social identity, subjectivity and social democratic citizenship, as well as an interest in critiques of expertise and professionalism.