

Contents

Preface ix

1. Introduction: The Prehistory and Rise of "Theory" 1
2. Introduction Continued: Theory and Functionalization 12

FIRST REFLECTIONS ON INTERPRETATION AND READING

3. Ways In and Out of the Hermeneutic Circle 27
4. Configurative Reading 39

TEXT AND STRUCTURE

5. The Idea of the Autonomous Artwork 55
6. The New Criticism and Other Western Formalisms 68
7. Russian Formalism 82
8. Semiotics and Structuralism 95
9. Linguistics and Literature 108
10. Deconstruction I: Jacques Derrida 123
11. Deconstruction II: Paul de Man 137

AUTHOR (READER) AND PSYCHE

12. Freud and Fiction 153
13. Jacques Lacan in Theory 166
14. Influence 179
15. The Postmodern Psyche 192

THE SOCIAL CONTEXT

16.	The Social Permeability of Reader and Text	207
17.	The Frankfurt School of Critical Theory	220
18.	The Political Unconscious	233
19.	The New Historicism	246
20.	The Classical Feminist Tradition	259
21.	African American Criticism	272
22.	Postcolonial Criticism	285
23.	Queer Theory and Gender Performativity	299
24.	The Institutional Construction of Literary Study	312

THEORY CON AND PRO

25.	The End of Theory? Neo-Pragmatism	329
26.	Conclusion: Who Doesn't Hate Theory Now?	342

Appendix: Passages Referenced in Lectures 355

Notes 363

*The Varieties of Interpretation: A Guide to Further Reading
in Literary Theory, by Stefan Esposito* 365

Index 379