



### **The Critical Situation** Vexed Perspectives in Postmodern Literary Studies *By Robert T. Tally Jr*

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**This book is a diverse selection of essays that register the situated ness of critical theory and practice amid various intellectual, institutional, and cultural contexts. This book emphasizes the degree to which modern critical theory remains essential today.**

*The Critical Situation: Vexed Perspectives in Postmodern Literary Studies* is concerned with the ways in which literary and cultural criticism are and have been situated in relation to a variety of ideological and institutional structures, including those of world literature, American studies, spatial literary studies, cultural critique, globalization and postmodernity.

#### **Readership**

This book is very useful for students, scholars, and critics interested in literary criticism, critical theory, world literature, American Studies, cultural studies, and spatial literary studies.

#### **Contents**

Introduction: The Situation of Criticism; **Part I Critical Positioning Systems**, 1. Swerve, Trope, Peripety: Turning Points in Cultural Criticism and Theory; 2. The Aesthetics of Distance: Space, Weltliteratur, and Critique; 3. World Literature and Its Discontents; 4. Worlding Space: Spatial Literary Studies and the Planetary Turn; 5. In the File Drawer Labeled "Science Fiction": Genre after the Age of the Novel; **Part II Post-Americanist Interpolations**, 6. "Believing in America": The Ideology of American Studies; 7. "Some men ride on such space": Charles Olson's Call Me Ishmael, the Melville Revival, and the American Baroque; 8. The Southern Phoenix Triumphant: The Consequences of Richard Weaver's Ideas; 9. Bleeping Mark Twain?: Censorship, Huckleberry Finn, and the Functions of Literature; 10. I Am the Mainstream Media (and So Can You!): The Hyperreality of "Fake News"; **Part III Errant Trajectories in Postmodern Critical Practice**, 11. Nomadography: Gilles Deleuze and the History of Philosophy; 12. Power to the Educated Imagination!: Northrop Frye and the Utopian Impulse; 13. Edward Said and Marxism: Wars of Position in Oppositional Criticism; 14. An American Bakhtin: Jonathan Arac, or, the Vocation of the Critic; 15. Bathsheba's Stomach: Poiesis and Criticism in Paul A. Bové's *Love's Shadow*; Conclusion: An Anagogical Education; Acknowledgments; Index

#### **About the Author(s) / Editor(s)**

Robert T. Tally is Professor of English at Texas State University. His recent books include *For a Ruthless Critique of All that Exists: Literature in an Age of Capitalist Realism* (2022), *J.R.R. Tolkien's The Hobbit: Realizing History through Fantasy* (2022) and *Topophrenia: Place, Narrative, and the Spatial Imagination* (2019).

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