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Jacques Lacan, Past And Present: A Dialogue



Jacques Lacan Past and Present

A DIALOGUE

ALAIN BADIOU & ÉLISABETH ROUDINESCO

TRANSLATED BY JASON E. SMITH



Synopsis

Prompted by the thirtieth anniversary of the French philosopher Jacques Lacan's death, this exchange between two prominent intellectuals is rich with surprising insights. Alain Badiou shares the clearest, most detailed account to date of his profound indebtedness to Lacanian psychoanalysis. He explains in depth the tools Lacan gave him to navigate the extremes of his other two philosophical "masters," Jean-Paul Sartre and Louis Althusser. Elisabeth Roudinesco supplements Badiou's experience with her own perspective on the troubled landscape of the French analytic world since Lacan's death -- critiquing, for example, the link (or lack thereof) between politics and psychoanalysis in Lacan's work, among other issues. Their dynamic dialogue draws readers into an intimate, at times contentious, yet ultimately productive debate that reinvigorates the work of a pivotal twentieth-century thinker.

Book Information

File Size: 261 KB

Print Length: 110 pages

Publisher: Columbia University Press (May 6, 2014)

Publication Date: May 6, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00IHGTPH8

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #847,765 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #29 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Movements > Structuralism #59 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Movements > Deconstruction #87 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Movements > Structuralism

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