



Unstable universalities: Poststructuralism and radical politics (Reappraising the Political MUP)

Saul Newman

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ow do we think about radical politics today, in the wake of the collapse of Marxist-Leninism and the triumph of neo-liberal capitalism? How should radical political theory respond to new challenges posed by globalisation, postmodernity, the 'war on terror' and the rise of religious fundamentalism? How are we to take account of the new social movements and political struggles appearing on the global horizon?

In addressing these questions, the author explores the theme of universality and its place in radical political theory. He argues that both Marxist politics of class struggle and the postmodern politics of difference have reached their historical and political limits, and that what is needed is a new approach to universality, a new way of thinking about collective politics.

By exploring various themes and ideas within poststructuralist and post-Marxist theory, the book, available for the efirst time in paperback, develops a new and original approach to universality - one that has important implications for politics today, particularly on questions of power, subjectivity, ethics and democracy. In so doing, it engages in debates with thinkers such as Laclau, iek, Badiou and Rancière over the future of radical politics. It also applies important theoretical insights to contemporary events such as the emergence of the anti-globalisation movement, the 'war on terrorism', the rise of anti-immigrant racism, and the nihilistic violence which lurks at the margins of the political.

Its accessible style and engagement with topical issues make it suitable for students of politics, philosophy, global studies and anyone interested in new directions for radical politics.



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