Differences that matter

_Feminist Theory and Postmodernism_

_Differences That Matter_ challenges existing ways of theorising the relationship between feminism and postmodernism which ask ‘is or should feminism be modern or postmodern?’ Sara Ahmed suggests that postmodernism has been allowed to dictate feminist debates and argues instead that feminism must itself ask questions of postmodernism. In other words, feminist theorists need to speak (back) to postmodernism, rather than simply speak on (their relationship to) it. This ‘speaking back’ involves a refusal to position postmodernism as a generalisable condition of the world, and uses close readings of postmodern constructions of rights, ethics, ‘woman’, subjectivity, authorship and film. Moreover, the differences that matter are shown to concern not only the differences between feminism and postmodernism, but also the differences which define the terms themselves. How to do justice to these differences while ‘speaking back’ is a question central to the ethics of close reading offered in this book.

_Sara Ahmed_ is Lecturer at the Institute for Women’s Studies at Lancaster University. Following her first degree at the University of Adelaide, she undertook doctoral studies at the Centre for Critical and Cultural Theory, Cardiff University before taking up her present post. She has published widely on feminist and critical theoretical themes, and is editor of the newsletter of the Women’s Studies Network (UK) Association, of which she has been an executive committee member since 1996.
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Sara Ahmed
For my mother
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