

## AFTER LACAN

This book draws on the distinct phases of Jacques Lacan's career to show his way of thinking in and beyond his lifetime. It is an examination of the past, present, and futures of psychoanalysis, as these are developed beyond the routes of analysis in the clinic and in the dimensions of language, literature, logic, philosophy, visual culture, identity and sexuality, and politics. The interdisciplinary approach of the volume allows it to work across clinical, sociological, philosophical, and literary fields to both add dimensions to the literary/critical reception of Lacan and enable the system of Lacanian psychoanalysis to have a wider conversation. Reexamining the fundamental concepts of Lacanian theory in its historical contexts through the topological structures he inaugurated, *After Lacan* makes innovative critical interventions in contemporary debates on racism, Islam, the Communist Party, poetry, new media, disability identity, and queer theory. It is a key resource for students, graduates and instructors of literary theory, psychoanalysis, and the works of Lacan.

ANKHI MUKHERJEE is Professor of English and World Literatures at the University of Oxford and a Fellow of Wadham College. She is the author of *Aesthetic Hysteria: The Great Neurosis in Victorian Melodrama and Contemporary Fiction* (2007) and *What Is a Classic? Postcolonial Rewriting and Invention of the Canon* (2014), which won the British Academy Rose Mary Crawshay Prize in English Literature in 2015. She has edited *A Concise Companion to Psychoanalysis, Literature, and Culture* (2014, with Laura Marcus).

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-316-51218-0 — After Lacan  
Edited by Ankhi Mukherjee  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

---

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-316-51218-0 — After Lacan  
Edited by Ankhi Mukherjee  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

---

# AFTER LACAN

*Literature, Theory, and Psychoanalysis  
in the Twenty-First Century*

EDITED BY  
ANKHI MUKHERJEE  
*University of Oxford*



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-316-51218-0 — After Lacan  
Edited by Ankhi Mukherjee  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,  
New Delhi – 110025, India

79 Anson Road, #06-04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of  
education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781316512180](http://www.cambridge.org/9781316512180)

DOI: 10.1017/9781108650311

© Cambridge University Press 2018

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions  
of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place  
without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2018

Printed in the United States of America by Sheridan Books, Inc.

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

ISBN 978-1-316-51218-0 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-108-46648-6 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs  
for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not  
guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

## *Contents*

<i>Notes on Contributors</i>	<i>page vii</i>
Introduction Ankhi Mukherjee	I
<b>PART I: FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS</b>	
1 Voice after Lacan Mladen Dolar	23
2 Freud's Return to Lacan Anna Kornbluh	41
3 Beyond the Oedipus Complex Tracy McNulty	58
4 Psychoanalysis as Poetry in Lacan's Clinical Paradigm Dany Nobus	74
<b>PART II: AFTER LACAN</b>	
5 The Queer Repression of Jacques Lacan Merrill Cole	95
6 Cinema after Lacan Todd McGowan	115
7 Lacan and Politics Jodi Dean	129
8 Lacan and Race Azeen Khan	148

## PART III: BEYOND LACAN

9	Lacan and Disability Studies Anna Mollow	167
10	Lacan and New Media Clint Burnham	185
11	Islam after Lacan Nouri Gana	206
	<i>Index</i>	225

## *Notes on Contributors*

**Clint Burnham** is Professor of English at Simon Fraser University. His research interests include cultural studies (film and popular culture), contemporary poetry, and theory (psychoanalysis and Marxism in particular). He is the author of *Does the Internet Have an Unconscious? Slavoj Žižek and Digital Culture* (Bloomsbury, 2018), *Fredric Jameson and the Wolf of Wall Street* (Bloomsbury, 2016), and *The Jamesonian Unconscious: The Aesthetics of Marxist Theory* (Duke University Press, 1995), and he has published works of poetry such as *Pound @ Guantanamo* (Talonbooks, 2016). Burnham has co-edited *Digital Natives* (Other Sights, 2011) and *From Text to Txtng* (Indiana University Press, 2012) and is one of the founding members of the “Lacan Salon,” a psychoanalytic study group based in Vancouver, Canada.

**Merrill Cole** is Professor of English at Western Illinois University, specializing in poetry, modernism, queer studies, and creative writing. He has published *The Other Orpheus: A Poetics of Modern Homosexuality* (Routledge, 2003) and his critical articles have appeared in collaborative volumes such as *The Psychoanalysis of Race* (Columbia University Press, 1998) and the *Cambridge History of Gay and Lesbian Literature* (Cambridge University Press, 2015) and peer-reviewed journals including *Women's Studies*, *Twentieth-Century Literature*, and *American Imago*. Cole is also a published poet. His translation from the German of Anita Berber and Sebastian Droste's *Dances of Vice, Horror, and Ecstasy* was published in 2012 by Side Real Press.

**Jodi Dean** is Professor of Political Science at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Her areas of specialization are contemporary political theory, communism, theories of digital media, psychoanalysis, feminist theory, and climate change. She is the author of multiple critical works, including *Crowds and Party* (Verso, 2016), *The Communist Horizon* (Verso, 2012), *Democracy and Other Neoliberal Fantasies* (Duke University Press, 2009),

and *Žižek's Politics* (Routledge, 2006). Dean has edited *Reformatting Politics* (with Jon Anderson and Geert Lovink; Routledge, 2006), *Empire's New Clothes: Reading Hardt and Negri* (with Paul Passavant; Routledge, 2004), and *Cultural Studies and Political Theory* (Cornell University Press, 2000), and she is the former co-editor of *Theory and Event*.

**Mladen Dolar** is professor and a senior research fellow in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, and Professor of Philosophy at the European Graduate School (EGS). His areas of research are German idealism, psychoanalysis, structuralism, and the philosophy of music and film. Together with Slavoj Žižek and others, Dolar founded what has become known as the “Ljubljana School of Psychoanalysis” in the late 1970s. The author of twelve books and more than a hundred articles, his works in English are *Opera's Second Death* (co-authored with Slavoj Žižek; Routledge, 2001) and *A Voice and Nothing More* (MIT Press, 2006).

**Nouri Gana** is Professor of Comparative Literature and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and a current recipient of a New Directions Fellowship awarded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in the United States, dividing his time between Tunisia and Turkey. He has published numerous articles and chapters on the literatures and cultures of the Arab world and its diasporas in such scholarly venues as *Cultural Politics*, *PMLA*, *Public Culture* and *Social Text*, and he has also contributed op-eds to magazines and international newspapers, such as *The Guardian*, *El Pais*, *Internazionale*, *Electronic Intifada*, *Jadaliyya*, and *CounterPunch*. Gana is the author of *Signifying Loss: Toward a Poetics of Narrative Mourning* (Bucknell University Press, 2011), and the editor of *The Making of the Tunisian Revolution: Contexts, Architects, Prospects* (Edinburgh University Press, 2013) and *The Edinburgh Companion to the Arab Novel in English* (Edinburgh University Press, 2013). He is currently completing a book manuscript on the politics of melancholia in the Arab world and another on the history of cultural dissent in colonial and postcolonial Tunisia.

**Azeen Khan** is Assistant Professor in the Department of English and Creative Writing at Dartmouth College. She specializes in postcolonial literatures and theory, feminist and critical theory, continental philosophy, and psychoanalysis. Her book project, “The Subaltern Clinic,” draws on the history of colonial medicine and psychiatry, feminist studies, and critical race theory to trace the movement of psychoanalysis from its



birthplace in Europe to the “rest of the globe” – to Algeria, India, and South Africa, among other places. Her publications include “Extimate Enemies,” a translation (with Fredric-Charles Baitinger) of Jacques-Alain Miller’s writings in the *Lacanian Review* (Summer, 2017) and “An Alibi of Reason,” in *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* (48/2, 2015).

**Anna Kornbluh** is Associate Professor in the English Department at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her research and teaching interests center on Victorian literature and critical theory. She is the author of *Realizing Capital: Financial and Psychic Economies in Victorian Form* (Fordham University Press, 2014) and her articles have appeared or are forthcoming in *ELH*, *Novel: A Forum on Fiction*, *Henry James Review*, *Mediations*, among others. Kornbluh is a founding member of the V21 Collective, a group of Victorianist scholars with shared interests in critical theory and what they term “strategic presentism.” She has co-edited a special issue of *Boundary 2 Online* on “Presentism, Form, and the Future of History,” and edited “Lukács 2016: *The Theory of the Novel* at 100,” a special issue of *Mediations*.

**Todd McGowan** is Professor of Film and Television Studies at the University of Vermont. He teaches courses in theory and film and his areas of interest include Hegel, psychoanalysis, and existentialism. McGowan is the author of several books, including *Only a Joke Can Save Us: A Theory of Comedy* (Northwestern University Press, 2017), *Capitalism and Desire: The Psychic Cost of Free Markets* (Columbia University Press, 2016), and *Enjoying What We Don't Have: The Political Project of Psychoanalysis* (University Press of Nebraska, 2013). And he has written on a wide range of topics, including Christopher Nolan, David Lynch, and Spike Lee.

**Tracy McNulty** is Professor of French and Comparative Literature at Cornell University. Her research interests include twentieth-century French literature and comparative modernism, psychoanalytic theory (especially Freud and Lacan), contemporary French philosophy, and political theory. In addition to these fields, she regularly teaches interdisciplinary courses on the origins of language, myth and symbolic thought, eroticism and perversion, and philosophical, scientific, and psychoanalytic theories of subjectivity and human agency. McNulty is the author of two books, *The Hostess: Hospitality, Femininity, and the Expropriation of Identity* (University of Minnesota Press, 2007) and *Wrestling with the Angel: Experiments in Symbolic Life* (Columbia University Press, 2014).

She has co-edited a special issue of *Diacritics* (“Taking Exception to the Exception”, 2008) and edited a special issue of *Differences* (“Constructing the Death Drive”, 2017).

**Anna Mollow** is an independent scholar whose research interests include disability studies, fat studies, feminism, queer studies, and critical race studies. She is the co-editor of *Sex and Disability* (with Robert McRuer; Duke University Press, 2012) and *DSM-CRIP* (with Merri Lisa Johnson; *Social Text Online*, 2013). Mollow’s articles on disability, queerness, feminism, race, and fatness have appeared or are forthcoming in *African American Review*, *Hypatia: Journal of Feminist Philosophy*, *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies*, *The Disability Studies Reader*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, the Wiley-Blackwell *Companion to Critical and Cultural Theory*, *Disability Studies Quarterly*, *Huffington Post*, and others.

**Ankhi Mukherjee** is the author of *Aesthetic Hysteria: The Great Neurosis in Victorian Melodrama and Contemporary Fiction* (Routledge, 2007) and *What Is a Classic? Postcolonial Rewriting and Invention of the Canon* (Stanford University Press, 2014), which won the British Academy Rose Mary Crawshay Prize in English Literature in 2015. She has published articles on a wide range of topics – Victorian literature and culture, intellectual history, modern fiction, postcolonial studies – in journals such as *PMLA*, *MLQ*, *Paragraph*, *Parallax*, *Contemporary Literature*, and the *Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry*, and co-edited *A Concise Companion to Psychoanalysis, Literature and Culture* (with Laura Marcus; Wiley-Blackwell, 2015). Mukherjee is currently working on an AHRC- and Wellcome Trust-funded research project, “The Psychic Life of the Poor in Mumbai, London, and New York,” which is the basis of her third monograph, *Unseen City*.

**Dany Nobus** is Professor of Psychoanalytic Psychology at Brunel University London. He is also a clinical psychologist, psychoanalytic psychotherapist, and Chair of the Freud Museum London. His main research interests are the history, theory, and practice of psychoanalysis, the history of psychiatry, and the intersections between psychoanalysis, philosophy, and the arts. In 2017, Nobus was awarded the Sarton Medal of the University of Ghent for his outstanding contributions to the history of psychoanalysis. He is the author of more than 150 journal articles and book chapters, and his monographs in English include *Jacques Lacan and the Freudian Practice of Psychoanalysis* (Routledge, 2000), *Knowing Nothing, Staying Stupid: Elements for a Psychoanalytic Epistemology* (Routledge, 2005), and *The Law of Desire: On Lacan’s “Kant with Sade”* (Palgrave, 2017).