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978-0-521-59048-8 - Ideology and Inscription "Cultural Studies" after Benjamin, de Man, and Bakhtin

Tom Cohen

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Ideology and Inscription

**"Cultural Studies" after Benjamin,
de Man, and Bakhtin**

In *Ideology and Inscription: "Cultural Studies" after Benjamin, de Man, and Bakhtin* Tom Cohen questions the way history, ideology and politics are invoked in contemporary cultural studies. Enlisting the work of three seminal figures in literary theory – Walter Benjamin, Paul de Man, and Mikhail Bakhtin – Cohen argues for a new politics of memory that moves beyond what he sees as our current paralyzing preoccupation with the present, and also for a new approach to the reading and analysis of cultural texts that breaks with the mimetic premises of traditional criticism. The book challenges many of the prevailing methodologies and assumptions of the contemporary critical scene and, through analyses of such topics as the rhetoric of science, ecological criticism, and the films of Hitchcock, demonstrates the subtlety and critical power of a more genuinely "materialist" approach to a wide range of cultural texts.

TOM COHEN is Associate Professor in the Department of English at the University of North Carolina. He has published numerous essays on literary theory, film studies, American literature and modernism. He is the author of *Anti-Mimesis from Plato to Hitchcock* (Cambridge University Press, 1995).

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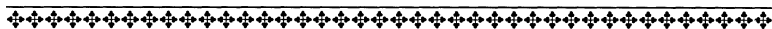
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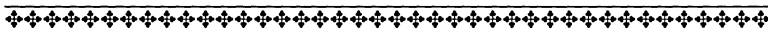
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For Michael Sprinker

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The theory of ideology depends in many of its features . . . on this theory
of the ghost.

Derrida, *Specters of Marx*

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