AFTER MARX

After Marx: Literature, Theory, and Value in the Twenty-First Century demonstrates the importance of Marxist literary and cultural criticism for an era of intersectional politics and economic decline. The volume includes fresh approaches to reading poetry, fiction, film, and drama, from Shakespeare to contemporary literature, and shows how Marxist literary criticism improves our understanding of racial capitalism, feminist politics, colonialism, deindustrialization, high-tech labor, ecological crisis, and other issues. A key innovation of the volume’s essays is how they attend to Marx’s theory of value. For Marx, capitalist value demands a range of different kinds of labor as well as unemployment. This book shows the importance of Marxist approaches to literature that reach beyond simply demonstrating the revolutionary potential or the political consciousness of a nineteenth-century-style industrial working class. After Marx makes an argument for the twenty-first-century interconnectedness of widely different literary genres and far-flung political struggles.

Colleen Lye teaches English at University of California, Berkeley. She is the author of America’s Asia (2005) and the co-editor of several special journal issues on the topics of realism, financialization, and the struggle for public higher education. Currently she is at work on a book on the Asian American sixties.

This series focuses on the legacy of several iconic figures, and key themes, in the origins and development of literary theory. Each book in the series attempts to isolate the influence, legacy and the impact of thinkers. Each figure addressed not only bequeathed specific concepts and doctrines to literary study, but they effectively opened up new critical landscapes for research. It is this legacy that this series tries to capture, with every book being designed specifically for use in literature departments. Throughout each book the concept of “After” is used in three ways: After in the sense of trying to define what is quintessential about each figure: “What has each figure introduced into the world of literary studies, criticism and interpretation?” After in a purely chronological sense: “What comes after each figure?” “What has his/her influence and legacy been?” and “How have they changed the landscape of literary studies?” Lastly, After in a practical sense: “How have their respective critical legacies impacted on understanding of literary texts?” Each book is a collaborative volume with an international cast of critics and their level is suited for recommended reading on courses.

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University of Birmingham

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University of Southern California and University of Alberta
AFTER MARX

Literature, Theory, and Value in the Twenty-First Century

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