

## **After-Ideology**

*The Art of Swerved Poetry*

Roger Connah

# SYNTEESI

TAITEIDENVÄLISEN TUTKIMUKSEN AIKAKAUSLEHTI 3/1985

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But the game is not yet over. We can count on fierce resistance from the moral creatures that we are, a resistance that springs out of the depths of the species, its vital exigency, its refusal of any final solution. This refusal is not a matter of human rights; it is a matter of life and death.

**Jean Baudrillard, *The Vital Illusion*, 2000.**

### **Post-Culture**

Stir well from source. Add various sorts of battered, paperback editions of Modern Thinkers. Call it 'The Crepuscule of the Idols'. Continue to stir. Add further quantities of a new laxative, previously tested on the unemployed, even those geriatric Dionysians. Shake furiously before turning upside down and pouring. Use sparingly. (Keep away from the hands of children!)

### **Post-Critical**

Depending on how useful the intellectual wants to be could spend time identifying the latest thinkers and critical masters as being responsible for future 'trends'. But would not necessarily need to absorb these as the pace of cultural change would blur the effort taken to attempt any 'understanding'.

### **Post-Authoritative**

Would have to invite momentary authority external to the self; if only to imagine a 'self' outside and even beyond that self. In other words: 'the other'.

### **Post-Informational**

Would imply a return (*have we ever left*) to the necessary tyranny of meaning; an essential selection process in all diverse (perverse) stimuli to prevent drowning in any further excess (*some hope!*)  
The computer at home may help!

### **Post-Fallible**

Abdication, admissions of defeat, ironic  
or otherwise, will be unnecessary  
Being 'wrong' will be the shame  
it unfortunately always has been  
(whichever authority is cited for this 'express' purpose).

### **Post-Nietzschean**

A post-Kantian practising a philosophy of language  
at its most critical and post-critical stage  
but denying it all by scepticism. Continually!  
So hard, so hard!

### **Post-Subversive**

Taking subversion on and on  
will naturally re-return to itself,  
collide with Nietzsche, entertain Kirkegaard,  
subvert back to the previous mountains  
from which to fall off again; not a particularly  
pleasant activity.  
Latecomer!

### **Post-Modernist**

Will interrogate its own synonymy  
and even similarity to Modernism  
and may see it all later as an inadequate  
'good laugh', 'bon mot', or useful jape.  
That would be such a waste!

### **Post-Fragmental**

Partial words become a whole; scholars  
will trace this endlessly back and beyond  
whilst novelists have been doing it deeper  
for years: continual contravention, continual obedience!

### **Post-Ideological**

Art nor indeed culture has any arrogance outside  
its own momentary (im)possibility. A pity?  
Following that, all looser and looser applications will  
make sure that each era has a dominant hold over itself.  
Or then ignores it for a decade or so.  
That would be such a shame!

### **Post-Kantian**

Tongue definitely in cheek., no need to rescue  
philosophy from abysmal snares of sceptical doubt.  
No need to rescue the rhetoric by insisting  
that the mind could 'know' reality.  
Neither is it necessary to have the interest to show  
the inevitable structuring.  
Instead, throw the dice again. Pass GO.  
But GO straight to jail  
This is no holiday for language.

### **Post-Newtonian**

Naturally this will begin and end (*neat sequence?*)  
with the paradox of taking a role in the shift  
from A (Aristotelian) Thinking towards  
Non-A Thinking and believing it precise when known  
as Non-Newtonian thinking.

### **Post-Cartesian**

But will this introduce not only the doubt  
but even the 'why' of the discourse. Some will yawn.  
The aim will be to know the questions in advance,  
recognise the 'repertoire' in order to drag one's  
parole into certain, known directions  
(*if at all possible!*)

### **Post-Mediocrity**

No longer will it be scandalous to indulge in the  
phenomenology of mediocrity and banality.  
Some cultures will naturally do it with more elegance  
(*once more with feeling!*) a celebration  
then a brief denial of intellectual terrorism.

### **Post-Political**

Mercer, Resnais Bogarde? (*Who?*) Post-providential  
then? The third wave, the holistic shift,  
the turning point, the diagnostic look;  
the slow lizard-crawling elegance of chance coherence,  
and more, much more than momentary irresponsibility.

### **Post-Phenomenological**

After Husserl (*who else?*) but waiting for Flaubert!

### **Post-Providential**

A nonsense and non-sense: a state which  
though never losing sight of the exaggerated  
objectives of political change  
operates in the excruciating  
slowness of change itself.

### **Post-Modernism (revised)**

A way of thinking (*hardly!*)  
a sensibility that cannot suddenly be expected  
to avoid the decay of Modernism  
as explored through its limits (*and Habermas...*)  
Neither can it suddenly be expected to resist  
the eventual dispersal and decay of  
any other movement in and of ideas.  
(*Mischief is here to stay!*)

### **Post-Scriptural**

Writing is about writing  
a disease to explore its  
own contamination.  
Waiting for its subject, it is there  
to defeat itself and its sovereignty. Its own confessional  
authority will pull it down.  
Result: supreme self-defeat.

### **Post-Beckettian**

More and more *concerned* with the reactions of  
the audience which will in one era make the  
third-rate work first-rate  
and in another era first-rate work third-rate.  
There should be no sighs at that. Coughing perhaps!  
Then one can participate in a desperate attempt  
to choreograph all sound, all theatre,  
all personal croakings, once and for all.

### **Post-Flaubertian**

Living in a 'liminal' space, stepping over from one  
zone to another! Able to change, go backwards  
and forwards and in between make a hobby of  
encyclopaedic rehearsals, with a strong interest in  
gossip of the higher (non-sensical) sort.  
Believes this *is* achieved by inventing such  
post-Flaubertian space.

### **Post-Aporian**

The super-searcher for the cogent,  
accessible, talented, credible, intelligent, rigorous  
(*stop now!*) alternative to linguistic scepticism;  
pauses just before this remarkable discovery. Why?  
To doubt it of course!

### **Post-Derridean**

A willed, wit-full intellect of sovereignty, vomiting choices to reinstate a passionate, often blind (*according to the era*) but nevertheless longed-for reason and closure. Sad, but a more-than-momentary hater of carnivals.  
Open hospitality awarded generosity.

### **Post-Undecidability**

The useful, talented indifference that refuses to be remotely interested in the simple quest for variations or that quest for cognitive assurance from any first principles.

### **Post-Aporian** (*The right version!*)

The repeated authority limps back from all contamination shouting stop, stop, can't take any more.  
Cognition in hand, being in head and urgency in Body.  
Ethics castrated from Aesthetics.  
S & M. So it moves!

### **Post-Provincialism**

Or fortunate slithers of the world that avoid Deconstruction. Ending up in Fin-Lande or Ground Zero with nowhere, absolutely nowhere to go.  
The Never-Ending story.  
The Whisperer's Gallery and Yawning Heights.  
Hell's Angels on 750 Hondas from here to Leningrad.  
And back. In a day!

### **Post-Kierkegaardian**

The trembling depriver of any redemptive or exculpating weight and authority. Will try to go even further in transforming guilt by displays of narrative skill, making redundant anything written not as it originates but way, way back long before its emergence was even intimated.

### **Post-Deconstruction** (*Scenario 1*)

Needing the authority and nominations of a movement that questions authority ensures that anyone needing this authority will anyway pass on to the next movement.

This, all quite painlessly with the one useful difference:

The library is much smaller.

Deconstructed authors were burnt  
(*along with their books!*)

### **Post-Deconstruction** (*After the flames*)

In the ashes, comic remorse! You are full of it!  
As Jacques-the-useful-fait-accomplished and Gang pushed Wittgenstein, Kierkegaard, Plato, Hegel and Freud in a Bataille of 'batailles' over the precipice until they *were* no longer worth their own singular salts  
They trapped you in your own word.  
You destroyed all trace of them.  
Now it's too late to begin The Library anew.  
What? You're actually sorry. Oh dear,  
You don't know how lucky you are.

### **Post-Postsaussurian**

Aim for the willing, welcome denial of the arbitrary nature of the sign in a (*desperate?*) bid to re-establish the referential function of language.

The carnival's over!

Put another way:

that wounded recovery of the word denied in post-saussurian discourse.

It will not be easy.

It will not be any picnic. Heads will roll.

As when all carnivals are dismantled.

### **Post-Intellectual**

The weary though not unattractive individual contaminated with a new type of cultural journalism swerves from all the indifference presented and refuses (*absolutely refuses*) to prepare terser entries for the Encyclopaedia asked by The Chief Editor.

A Fair Player or sorts, a carnival seeker, a precipice finder, a self lacerator, a kenotic actor, a full performer in the final labyrinth of all.

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