

# THE NOVEL IN A POSTFICTIONAL AGE

JUNE 16 | 10-15 | ES 203

## TIMOTHY BEWES

Before beginning at Brown in 2004, Timothy Bewes held teaching and research positions at University of Sussex, the University of North London, Liverpool John Moores University, and Brandeis. He held a post-doctoral fellowship at the Pembroke Center at Brown in 2003-04.

He is the author of *Cynicism and Postmodernity* (Verso 1997); *Reification, or The Anxiety of Late Capitalism* (Verso 2002); *The Event of Postcolonial Shame* (Princeton UP, 2011), and *Free Indirect: The Novel in a Postfictional Age* (Columbia UP, 2022).

He has also edited several collections of essays, including *The Anagonist* (Duke UP, 2020), *Jacques Rancière and the Novel* (Duke UP, 2014), *The Contemporary Novel: Imagining the Twenty-First Century* (Duke UP, 2012), *Georg Lukács: The Fundamental Dissonance of Existence (Aesthetics, Politics, Literature)* (Continuum, 2011, with Timothy Hall), *Cultural Capitalism* (Lawrence and Wishart 2001, with Jeremy Gilbert), as well as a special issue of *New Formations* titled *After Fanon* (2002).

## ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

Everywhere today, we are urged to “connect.” Literary critics celebrate a new “honesty” in contemporary fiction or call for a return to “realism.” Yet such rhetoric is strikingly reminiscent of earlier theorizations. Two of the most famous injunctions of twentieth-century writing—E. M. Forster’s “Only connect . . .” and Fredric Jameson’s “Always historicize!”—helped establish connection as the purpose of the novel and its reconstruction as the task of criticism. But what if connection was not the novel’s *modus operandi* but the defining aesthetic ideology of our era—and its most monetizable commodity? What kind of thought is left for the novel when all ideas are acceptable as long as they can be fitted to a consumer profile?

We will be joined by Prof. Timothy Bewes to discuss his book *Free Indirect*, a finalist for the 2022 NBCC Award for Criticism. Participants of the workshop are expected to read the assigned chapters from the book ([see indico registration page](#)) before the workshop.

For any further questions, please contact [Gulsin Ciftci](#): [gulsin.ciftci@uni-muenster.de](mailto:gulsin.ciftci@uni-muenster.de)

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