



Keywords for Radicals: The Contested Vocabulary of Late-Capitalist Struggle

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"An extraordinary volume that provides nothing less than a detailed cognitive mapping of the terrain for everyone who wants to engage in radical politics."—Slavoj Žižek, author of *Living in the End Times*

"*Keywords for Radicals* recognizes that language is both a weapon and terrain of struggle, and that all of us committed to changing our social and material reality, to making a world justice-rich and oppression-free, cannot drop words such as 'democracy,' 'occupation,' 'colonialism,' 'race,' 'sovereignty,' or 'love' without a fight. —Robin D. G. Kelley, author of *Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination*

"From its thought-provoking Introduction through its energizing accounts of the tensions underlying our most prized concepts, *Keywords for Radicals* will be indispensable to any scholar or activist who is serious about critique and change."—Stephen Duncombe, editor of *Cultural Resistance Reader*

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In *Keywords* (1976), Raymond Williams devised a "vocabulary" that reflected the vast social transformations of the post-war period. He revealed how these transformations could be grasped by investigating changes in word usage and meaning. *Keywords for Radicals*—part homage, part development—asks: What vocabulary might illuminate the social transformations marking our own contested present? How do these words define the imaginary of today's radical left?

With insights from dozens of scholars and troublemakers, *Keywords for Radicals*

explores the words that shape our political landscape. Each entry highlights a term's contested variations, traces its evolving usage, and speculates about what its historical mutations can tell us. More than a glossary, this is a crucial study of the power of language and the social contradictions hidden within it.

Contributors include Patrick Bond, Silvia Federici, John Bellamy Foster, Joy James, Ilan Pappé, Justin Podur, Nina Power, Mab Segrest, and over forty others.

Kelly Fritsch is a Banting Postdoctoral Fellow in Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Toronto.

Clare O'Connor is a doctoral student in Communication at the University of Southern California.

A.K. Thompson teaches social theory at Fordham University in New York.

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About the Author

Kelly Fritsch: Kelly Fritsch researches, writes, and teaches about biopolitics, disability, technoscience, feminist theory, and anti-capitalist struggles. She is a Banting Postdoctoral Fellow in Women and Gender Studies and the Technoscience Research Unit at the University of Toronto. Her work appears in *Briarpatch Magazine*; *Foucault Studies*; *Health, Culture, and Society*; and *Disability Studies Quarterly*. Between 2008 and 2012, she served on the Editorial Committee of *Upping The Anti: A Journal of Theory and Action*.

Clare O'Connor is a Los Angeles-based writer and activist. She is a doctoral student in Communication at the University of Southern California, and is former Coordinator of the Public Interest Research Group at the University of Toronto and co-founder of Toronto-based activist training program Tools for Change. Her publications include the chapter "What Moves Us Now? The Contradictions of 'Community'" in *Whose Streets? The Toronto G20 and the Challenges of Summit Protest* and contributions to *Briarpatch Magazine*. Between 2008 and 2012, she served on the Editorial Committee of *Upping The Anti: A Journal of Theory and Action*.

AK Thompson got kicked out of high school in 1992 for publishing an underground newspaper called *The Agitator* and has been an activist, writer, and social theorist ever since. Currently teaching social theory at Fordham University, his publications include *Black Bloc, White Riot: Anti-Globalization and the Genealogy of Dissent* (2010) and *Sociology for Changing the World: Social Movements/Social Research* (2006). Between 2005 and 2012, he served on the Editorial Committee of *Upping The Anti: A Journal of Theory and Action*.

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