

Selectively Forgetting Baudrillard: Rescuing Praxis from the Wreckage

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I argue that Jean Baudrillard's post-1970s work makes numerous wrong turns from the point of view of a philosophy of praxis. While Baudrillard's work is indispensable for the evolution of a critical theory of capitalism and its culture, his attack on the viability of political projects and normative philosophy must be refuted. I argue for a theory that retains a commitment to counteracting tendencies toward acquiescence and reconciliation—for theory in the service of rethinking revolution. *[Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2010 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]*

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I. A CRITIQUE IN BROAD STROKES

I would not want to say “forget Baudrillard” in the spirit of Baudrillard's 1977 essay *Forget Foucault*, unless I could command selective memory. Much of what Baudrillard has done is worth remembering, and against his own advice, some of it is even worth using as the Autonomia Move-

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