



DR. PREETHI

**ABOUT THE BOOK**

Theory Vs Thesis is a valuable guide designed for students, researchers, and new scholars. This book brings together important theories from different fields with short and clear descriptions, making complex ideas easy to understand. A practical and inspiring resource for every beginner stepping into the world of academic study and research.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Dr. P. Preethi is a distinguished academician with a Ph.D. in English Language Teaching (ELT). With several years of experience as a Professor of English, she has demonstrated a strong commitment to academic excellence and student development.

Her contributions to the field are reflected in numerous scholarly publications and recognitions. Driven by a passion for teaching and research, Dr. Preethi continues to inspire learners by simplifying complex academic concepts and promoting clarity in scholarly writing.

Her work reflects a deep dedication to empowering students and researchers, making learning both meaningful and impactful.



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THEORY VS. THESIS Dr. Preethi

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# THEORY Vs. THESIS



A Scholar's Essential Handbook

**Dr. Preethi**

**Theory  
vs.  
Thesis**

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# **Theory vs. Thesis**

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## **DEDICATION**

This book, “Theory vs. Thesis,” is dedicated to clarifying the complex journey of academic research



**Message from the Editorial Desk**  
**Dr P. Jeyappriya**  
**Registrar i/c ,**  
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**Department of English & Foreign**  
**Language , Mother Teresa Women's University , Kodaikanal**

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There are moments in the long continuum of intellectual history when a work appears not merely as a book, but as an **illumination**—a confluence of scholarship, imagination, and vision. *Theory vs. Thesis: A Scholar's Essential Handbook* is one such rare and radiant creation. It stands at the confluence of thought and practice, of reflection and research, bringing to life the dialogue between ideas and their infinite manifestations in academic inquiry.

To read this work is to walk through a **cathedral of ideas**—each theory a pillar, each concept a window through which light refracts into new colours of meaning. Dr. P. Preethi's intellectual labour, meticulous and inspired, translates the abstract intricacies of theoretical frameworks into a living, breathing discourse. The result is a text that does not merely inform the scholar; it transforms the very consciousness of scholarship.

In its architecture, this book embodies both **breadth and precision**. It is encyclopedic in scope, yet lyrical in articulation; it distills centuries of human reflection—from classical antiquity to posthuman modernity—into an elegant framework that speaks across disciplines. Each entry is sculpted with lucidity, offering not only the lineage of a theory but also the pulse of its continuing relevance. Here, critical thought is not treated as a relic of academic tradition but as a **living current**—a dynamic force shaping the moral and intellectual fabric of our age.

For the emerging researcher, this volume is a compass—guiding the mind through the labyrinth of ideas with clarity and courage. For the seasoned academic, it is a mirror—reflecting the evolution of our intellectual pursuits and reminding us of the humility that underlies all true learning. What distinguishes this book is its **rare balance of rigour**

**and resonance:** it speaks in the language of precision but with the cadence of poetry. Each page is an invitation to think, to question, to rediscover the wonder of knowledge.

In *Theory vs. Thesis*, theory ceases to be an abstraction; it becomes an **aesthetic act of discovery**. It affirms that research, when grounded in strong theoretical consciousness, is not mere documentation but a creative gesture—an art of intellectual cartography that maps the unknown terrains of thought. Through this lens, the book transforms the conventional boundaries of academic writing into a realm of **philosophical exploration**, where clarity is luminous, and inquiry is reverent.

The pages that follow will serve generations of thinkers who seek not only to construct theses but to cultivate wisdom—to engage in that ancient conversation between the known and the unknown, between the intellect and the imagination.

As we present this work to the global fraternity of scholars, we do so with a profound sense of pride and gratitude. *Theory vs. Thesis* is a gift to academia—a manuscript that breathes sophistication, purpose, and luminosity into the often arid corridors of research. It invites every reader to rediscover the elegance of thought, the discipline of structure, and the joy of understanding.

With deep admiration for the author’s erudition and luminous clarity, we offer this volume to the world of letters as a **testament to the beauty of the scholarly mind**—a mind that dreams in ideas, labours in language, and leaves behind legacies of light.

- Dr P. Jeyappriya

## **Preface & Acknowledgement**

Theory is not merely a component of research; it is the essential foundation upon which all credible scholarly inquiry rests. Without it, research is akin to a ship adrift without a compass—lacking direction, coherence, and vulnerable to uncertainty. Theoretical frameworks guide researchers through the complexities of investigation, offering the clarity and focus necessary to navigate the intricate landscape of knowledge.

By grounding research in established theories, scholars ensure their findings contribute meaningfully to the broader academic discourse. This theoretical foundation not only strengthens the credibility of a study but also facilitates the crucial task of identifying research gaps, helping to frame relevant questions and design appropriate methodologies. Theories serve as the interpretative lens through which data is analyzed, allowing for the development of nuanced insights and the achievement of depth required for substantial scholarly contribution.

This book, "Theory vs. Thesis: A Scholar's Essential Handbook," is intended to serve as that essential compass for every budding scholar. By providing a comprehensive and concise understanding of 240 key theories, it aims to instill the confidence and precision needed to successfully guide, structure, and enhance the research process and the creation of this comprehensive reference has been a collaborative effort, made possible by the unwavering guidance, support, and contributions of many individuals and institutions.

I offer my deepest gratitude to Dr. P. JEYAPRIYA , Registrar i/c , Dean Research Professor & Head , Department of English & Foreign Language , Mother Teresa Women's University , Kodaikanal . Her wisdom and continuous encouragement were instrumental in shaping the structure and rigor of this work. I also thank Aurora Scroll Press for their patience throughout the demanding process of compilation.

It is my hope this book will serve as a useful and inspiring tool for every scholar seeking clarity and direction in the study of literary theories.

With Heartfelt Appreciation and Courage

**Dr. P.Preethi**

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# Theory vs. Thesis

## 1. ACTIVIST LITERARY CRITICISM

**Focus:** The application of literary criticism for social and political activism.

**Core Aspects:** Examination of the ways in which literature can be used to bring about social change, power structure critique through literary analysis, and investigation of the role of literature in advocating and promoting activism.

**Key Contributors:** Angela Davis, Audre Lorde, bell hooks.

## 2. ADAPTATION THEORY

**Focus:** The scholarly pursuit of the adaptation of literary works into various media, including film, theatre, and television.

**Core Aspects:** The discussion of the fidelity between source and adaptation, the discussion of how various media reshape narrative and meaning, and the discussion of the cultural influence of adaptations.

**Key Contributors:** Linda Hutcheon, Robert Stam, Julie Sanders.

## 3. AESTHETIC PHILOSOPHY

**Focus:** The examination of philosophical concepts surrounding aesthetics and artistic expression in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of the ideas surrounding beauty, taste, and artistic merit, and the critique of the impact of aesthetic theories on literary critique.

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**Key Contributors:** Immanuel Kant, Arthur Schopenhauer, Theodor Adorno.

### 4. AESTHETIC THEORY

**Focus:** The investigation of the nature and role of aesthetic experience in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of beauty, taste, and aesthetics' role in determining literary worth, and the critique of literary aesthetics' impact on reader reception and interpretation.

**Key Contributors:** Theodor Adorno, Immanuel Kant, Arthur Danto.

### 5. AESTHETICIZATION OF POLITICS

**Focus:** The investigation of how politics and ideologies are represented and aestheticized in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The critique of the merging of aesthetics and politics, the criticism of the presentation of political content via artistic mediums, and the analysis of political representation in literature.

**Key Contributors:** Walter Benjamin, Theodor Adorno, Giorgio Agamben.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 6. AFFECTIVE NARRATOLOGY

**Focus:** The investigation of how narratives work to produce and regulate affects and emotions.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of emotional investment in narrative, the interpretation of affective reading, and the critique of emotion's impact on narrative structure and meaning.

**Key Contributors:** Brian Massumi, Sara Ahmed, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick.

### 7. AFFECTIVE THEORY

**Focus:** The examination of emotions and their effects on literature and the reading experience.

**Core Aspects:** Investigating how texts elicit emotional reactions, the place of affect in composing reader meaning, and analysis of the ways emotions move through cultural and literary environments.

**Key Contributors:** Sara Ahmed, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, Lauren Berlant.

### 8. AFROFUTURISM

**Focus:** The exploration of African and diasporic futures through speculative and science fiction literature.

**Core Aspects:** Examination of how Afrofuturist fiction imagines worlds to come, examination of themes of identity

## Theory vs. Thesis

and technology, and a critique of how Afrofuturism reimagines African histories and experiences.

**Key Contributors:** Octavia Butler, Nnedi Okorafor, Kodwo Eshun.

### 9. ALGORITHMIC CRITICISM

**Focus:** The study of how algorithms shape literary production, dissemination, and interpretation.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of algorithmic procedures in literary creation and curation, criticism of algorithmic bias, and research on how algorithms affect reader engagement and literary trends.

**Key Contributors:** Stephen Ramsay, Matthew Jockers, Lev Manovich.

### 10. ALGORITHMIC LITERARY STUDIES

**Focus:** The investigation of the application of algorithms and computational techniques to analyze and construct literature.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of digital methods and tools of literary analysis, algorithms used in interpretation and generation of texts, and the criticism of computational literary analysis.

**Key Contributors:** Matthew Jockers, Franco Moretti, Johanna Drucker.

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### 11. ALGORITHMIC NARRATOLOGY

**Focus:** The investigation of narrative processes and structures as impacted by algorithms and computational processes.

**Core Aspects:** Inquiry into the construction of narrative forms by algorithms, the examination of computational narrative methods, and the critique of algorithmic constructs in narrative building and reception.

**Key Contributors:** Andrew Bourelle, Ryan Heuser, Matthew Jockers.

### 12. ANIMAL STUDIES

**Focus:** The portrayal of animals in literature and the relationship between humans and animals.

**Core Aspects:** Anthropocentrism, animal agency, speciesism, and the ethical significance of the way animals are represented in literature.

**Key Contributors:** Donna Haraway, Cary Wolfe, Jacques Derrida (in his later works).

### 13. ANTICOLONIAL CRITICISM

**Focus:** The criticism of literature against colonial domination, commonly linked to postcolonial criticism but more directly Focused on literature developed during colonial opposition.

**Core Aspects:** Anti-imperialism, struggle for independence, cultural renaissance, and the colonized voices opposing domination.

## Theory vs. Thesis

**Key Contributors:** Frantz Fanon, Aimé Césaire, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o.

### 14. AUTO THEORY

**Focus:** The fusion of autobiography and theory to examine personal experience with theoretical lenses.

**Core Aspects:** The blending of personal narrative and theoretical critique, the construction of self and identity using theoretical frameworks, and the critique of the intersection between personal experience and theory.

**Key Contributors:** Lauren Berlant, Maggie Nelson, Heather Love.

### 15. AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL CRITICISM

**Focus:** Research on autobiographical features in literature, such as the manner in which writers introduce their lives into their writings.

**Core Aspects:** Author-text relationship, construction of the self in texts, and boundaries between reality and fiction collapsing in autobiographies.

**Key Contributors:** Philippe Lejeune, James Olney, Paul de Man.

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### 16. BIOETHICAL LITERARY STUDIES

**Focus:** The analysis of moral problems of biology and biotechnology in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of themes like genetic engineering, bioethics, and the human-non-human divide, and a critique of how literature engages with these themes.

**Key Contributors:** Donna Haraway, N. Katherine Hayles, Roberto Esposito.

### 17. BIOETHICS IN LITERATURE

**Focus:** The study of bioethical problems as portrayed in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of ethical issues in medical and biological circumstances, the criticism of literature's approach to bioethical questions, and the investigation into the ethical outcomes of scientific progress.

**Key Contributors:** Martha Nussbaum, Peter Singer, Raymond Tallis.

### 18. BIOFICTION

**Focus:** The fiction genre that combines biographical content with imaginative storytelling.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of how fictionalized biographies treat historic and recent figures, the criticism of the veracity and creative freedom exercised in biofiction, and the inquiry into the interconnection between fact and fiction.

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**Key Contributors:** Jeanette Winterson, Hilary Mantel, Michael Cunningham.

### 19. BIOPOLITICS

**Focus:** The examination of how political power controls life and biological processes, especially in texts.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of life as a political phenomenon, the examination of how literature displays and comments upon biopolitical mechanisms, and the investigation of how power relations affect the body and life.

**Key Contributors:** Michel Foucault, Giorgio Agamben, Roberto Esposito.

### 20. BIOSEMIOTICS

**Focus:** Research into communication and sign processes in living beings and how such are reflected in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The view that life itself is communication, the cross between biology and semiotics, and investigating other-than-human ways of thinking in literature.

**Key Contributors:** Jakob von Uexküll, Thomas Sebeok.

### 21. BODY THEORY

**Focus:** Representation and meaning of the body in literature and culture.

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**Core Aspects:** The body as a location of cultural significance, the examination of bodily experiences in literature, and the critique of regulation and representation of bodies in various historical and cultural contexts.

**Key Contributors:** Elizabeth Grosz, Susan Bordo, Michel Foucault.

### **22. BORDER STUDIES**

**Focus:** The study of borders - geographical, cultural, and metaphorical - through literature.

**Core Aspects:** The permeability and fluidity of borders, border-crossers' experiences, and the cultural meanings of borderlands.

**Key Contributors:** Chicana/o Studies scholars, Gloria Anzaldúa, José David Saldívar.

### **23. CLIMATE FICTION (CLI-FI)**

**Focus:** The literary analysis of climate change and environmental concerns.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of the way literature portrays and deals with climate crises, environmental themes analysis, and ecocritique of environmental narratives.

**Key Contributors:** Amitav Ghosh, Margaret Atwood, Kim Stanley Robinson.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 24. COGNITIVE LITERARY THEORY

**Focus:** The interface between literature and the cognitive functions of the mind.

**Core Aspects:** How literature deals with and mirrors cognitive structures like memory, perception, and emotion, and the contribution of literature to cognitive processes.

**Key Contributors:** Lisa Zunshine, Mark Turner.

### 25. COMPARATIVE CULTURAL STUDIES

**Focus:** Study of literature within comparative cultural and global contexts.

**Core Aspects:** A critical examination of cultural exchanges and interactions, the investigation of literary traditions between cultures, and the critique of global influences on literature from other cultures.

**Key Contributors:** Edward Said, Franco Moretti, Pascale Casanova.

### 26. COMPARATIVE LITERATURE AND TRANSLATION STUDIES

**Focus:** The examination of literature in cross-cultural terms and the significance of translation in literary communication.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of how literature is translated and adapted from one language to another, cross-cultural literary influence analysis, and the critique of how translation affects literary meaning.

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**Key Contributors:** Lawrence Venuti, Susan Bassnett, Edwin Gentzler.

### 27. COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

**Focus:** Literary study across cultures, languages, and disciplines.

**Core Aspects:** Cross-cultural analysis, translation studies, and the discovery of literary themes and forms across traditions.

**Key Contributors:** Erich Auerbach, René Wellek, Edward Said.

### 28. CRIP THEORY

**Focus:** The convergence of queer theory and disability studies, on how queer and disabled bodies are portrayed in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The problematization of the normative body standard, the festivity of non-normative identity, and the intersectionality of queerness and disability.

**Key Contributors:** Robert McRuer, Alison Kafer.

### 29. CRISIS LITERATURE

**Focus:** The examination of literature produced in response to crises and catastrophes.

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**Core Aspects:** The analysis of how literature reflects and responds to various forms of crisis, including political, social, and environmental emergencies.

**Key Contributors:** Rebecca Solnit, Jean-Luc Nancy, Susan Sontag.

### 30. CRITICAL AFFECT THEORY

**Focus:** The examination of affect and emotion in literary work from a critical approach.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of how literature portrays and elicits emotional life, and the critique of how affect shapes narrative and interpretation.

**Key Contributors:** Brian Massumi, Sara Ahmed, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick.

### 31. CRITICAL ARCHIVAL STUDIES

**Focus:** The examination of archives and their impact on the creation, conservation, and interpretation of literature.

**Core Aspects:** The critique of archival methodology, the examination of literary history shaping through archives, and the examination of power differentials in what is retained and what is lost.

**Key Contributors:** Jacques Derrida (in "Archive Fever"), Ann Cvetkovich, Michelle Caswell.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 32. CRITICAL COSMOPOLITANISM

**Focus:** The application of cosmopolitanism to the study of literature and a consideration of global interconnectedness and diversity.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of the ways in which literature represents and responds to global issues, criticism of nationalism and parochialism, and an examination of how cosmopolitanism informs narrative and meaning.

**Key Contributors:** Ulrich Beck, Saskia Sassen, Seyla Benhabib.

### 33. CRITICAL DISABILITY STUDIES

**Focus:** The study of disability representations and experiences in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The critique of ableism, the examination of how disability is represented in literary works, and the investigation of disability as a component of identity and social commentary.

**Key Contributors:** Lennard J. Davis, Rosemarie Garland-Thomson, Tobin Siebers.

### 34. CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE STUDIES

**Focus:** The investigation into how infrastructure systems (physical and digital) influence literature and culture.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of the ways in which infrastructure influences the production and reception of literature, the analysis of the critique of the effects of

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infrastructure upon forms of narrative, and the examination of how literature mirrors infrastructural issues.

**Key Contributors :** Shannon Mattern, Tarleton Gillespie, James C. Scott.

### 35. CRITICAL PEDAGOGY

**Focus:** The convergence of education and literature, Focusing on the use of literature as an instrument of social change.

**Core Aspects:** The function of literature in the construction of critical consciousness, the empowerment of silenced voices via the study of literature, and the deconstruction of conventional school practices.

**Key Contributors:** Paulo Freire, Henry Giroux, bell hooks.

### 36. CRITICAL PLAY THEORY

**Focus:** Analysis of play and game mechanics in literary and cultural texts.

**Core Aspects:** The study of how play and game forms are modeled and used in literature, and the critique of how they affect story and meaning.

**Key Contributors:** Roger Caillois, Brian Sutton-Smith, Jesper Juul.

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### 37. CRITICAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

**Focus:** The study of literature in terms of political economy and economic organization.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of how economic systems and conditions affect literary content and production, the investigation of class and labor relations in literature, and the critique of economic and capitalist ideologies.

**Key Contributors:** David Harvey, Frederic Jameson, Raymond Williams.

### 38. CRITICAL POSTHUMANISM

**Focus:** Analysis of human identity and subjectivity from the context of posthumanist theories.

**Core Aspects:** The critical examination of classical humanism, the investigation of non-human and posthuman subjectivities, and the study of the way literature imagines posthuman potentialities.

**Key Contributors:** Rosi Braidotti, N. Katherine Hayles, Cary Wolfe.

### 39. CRITICAL RACE FEMINISM

**Focus:** The confluence of critical race theory and feminist theory, the study of how race and gender intersect in books and social structures.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of racial and gendered power dynamics, the critique of intersectional oppression, and the

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examination of how literature reflects and subverts these intersections.

**Key Contributors:** Kimberlé Crenshaw, Patricia Hill Collins, Angela Davis.

### 40. CRITICAL RACE THEORY (CRT)

**Focus:** The investigation of race and racism in society and literature, highlighting the systemic basis of racism.

**Core Aspects:** The deconstruction of racial power dynamics, the examination of how literature represents and reinforces racism, and the advocacy of social justice through literary critique.

**Key Contributors:** Kimberlé Crenshaw, Derrick Bell, Richard Delgado.

### 41. CRITICAL REALISM

**Focus:** The investigation of realism in literature, emphasizing how literature can represent social realities and bring about social change.

**Core Aspects:** The representation of mundane life, the criticism of idealism, and the function of literature in revealing and opposing social injustices.

**Key Contributors:** Georg Lukács, Raymond Williams, Terry Eagleton.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 42. CRITICAL SPATIAL THEORY

**Focus:** The investigation of spatial ideas and their effects on literary analysis.

**Core Aspects:** The development of how spatial arrangements and ideas impact narrative structure and meaning, and the criticism of spatial aspects in literature.

**Key Contributors:** Henri Lefebvre, Michel Foucault, David Harvey.

### 43. CRITICAL TRAUMA STUDIES

**Focus:** The study of the representation and treatment of trauma in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of traumatic history, the analysis of narrative strategies for representing trauma, and the deconstruction of the manner in which literature addresses problems of suffering and recuperation.

**Key Contributors:** Cathy Caruth, Dominick LaCapra, Judith Herman.

### 44. CRITICAL VISUAL STUDIES

**Focus:** The examination of how visual information and imagery impact literature and interpretation.

**Core Aspects:** The critique of visual representation in literature, the investigation of how literature interacts with visual culture, and the analysis of visual influences on literary meaning.

## **Theory vs. Thesis**

**Key Contributors:** W.J.T. Mitchell, Laura Mulvey, Nicholas Mirzoeff.

### **45. CULTURAL EVOLUTIONARY THEORY**

**Focus:** The investigation of the development of cultural products, such as literature, over time.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of literary evolution and development, the discussion of cultural transmission and adaptation, and the examination of criticism regarding how evolutionary theory illuminates cultural analysis.

**Key Contributors:** Joseph Carroll, David Sloan Wilson, Steve Stewart-Williams.

### **46. CULTURAL MEMORY STUDIES**

**Focus:** The study of how literature intervenes with and constructs collective memory and cultural stories.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of memory as cultural and social construct, the investigation of the ways literature produces collective memory, and the critique of memory's function in constituting cultural identity.

**Key Contributors:** Pierre Nora, Maurice Halbwachs, Paul Ricoeur.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 47. CULTURAL POETICS

**Focus:** The examination of the ways in which literature engages with and mirrors cultural practice and norm.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of literary modes as manifestations of culture, the examination of cultural codes and conventions, and the critical analysis of how literature is shaped and shapes cultural contexts.

**Key Contributors:** Clifford Geertz, Mikhail Bakhtin, Victor Turner.

### 48. CULTURAL STUDIES

**Focus:** Interdisciplinary research in culture, encompassing literature, media, and social practices, with a Focus on power relations and ideology.

**Core Aspects:** The critique of cultural hegemony, the examination of how literature reflects and informs cultural identities, and the search for subcultures and popular culture in literary texts.

**Key Contributors:** Stuart Hall, Raymond Williams, Richard Hoggart.

### 49. CYBERFEMINISM

**Focus:** The convergence of feminism and technology, especially in the context of digital media and the internet.

**Core Aspects:** Investigating how technology affects gender identity and relations, deconstructing patriarchal power in

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virtual environments, and fighting for gender equity in the technology sector.

**Key Contributors:** Donna Haraway, Sadie Plant, Rosi Braidotti.

### 50. CYBORG FEMINISM

**Focus:** The application of cyborg theory and technology to feminist concerns.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of gender, identity, and technology as interrelated, and the examination of how cyborg feminism disrupts conventional gender and embodiment thinking.

**Key Contributors:** Donna Haraway, Sherry Turkle, N. Katherine Hayles.

### 51. CYBORG THEORY

**Focus:** The analysis of the fusion of humans and machines, specifically how cyborgs (human-machine constructs) are figured in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of hybrid identities, the deconstruction of human-machine boundaries, and the examination of the impact of technology on human experience and narrative.

**Key Contributors:** Donna Haraway, N. Katherine Hayles, Katherine Hayles.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 52. DECOLONIAL AESTHETICS

**Focus:** Study of aesthetics and artistic practices from decolonial viewpoints.

**Core Aspects:** The analysis of how decolonial thought affects aesthetic values and practices, and how literature criticizes its engagement with colonial and postcolonial aesthetics.

**Key Contributors:** Walter D. Mignolo, Anibal Quijano, María Lugones.

### 53. DECOLONIAL LITERARY THEORY

**Focus:** Critique of colonialism and investigation of postcolonial and decolonial thought in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The critique of the representation of colonial histories and structures in literature, the critique of Eurocentric discourses, and the examination of how literature supports decolonization and cultural reclamation.

**Key Contributors:** Walter D. Mignolo, Anibal Quijano, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o.

### 54. DECOLONIAL NARRATIVE THEORY

**Focus:** The investigation of narrative theories and practice from a decolonial approach.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of the ways in which decolonial thinking affects narrative modes, the critical examination of colonial narratives, and the investigation of other forms of storytelling.

## Theory vs. Thesis

**Key Contributors:** Walter D. Mignolo, Aníbal Quijano, María Lugones.

### 55. DELUZIAN CRITICISM

**Focus:** The extension of Gilles Deleuze's theory to literature, most notably his theories of desire, difference, and becoming.

**Core Aspects:** Rhizomatic form, the deconstruction of identity and representation, the instability of meaning, and the investigation of literature as a process of becoming.

**Key Contributors:** Gilles Deleuze, Félix Guattari.

### 56. DIASPORA STUDIES

**Focus:** The investigation of diasporic communities and their representation in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The exploration of displacement, identity, and cultural memory in diasporic literature, the critique of the concept of "home," and the analysis of how diasporic writers negotiate multiple identities.

**Key Contributors:** James Clifford, Paul Gilroy, Avtar Brah.

### 57. DIGITAL ETHNOGRAPHY

**Focus:** The use of ethnographic techniques in the research on digital cultures and literatures.

## Theory vs. Thesis

**Core Aspects:** Critical examination of online spaces and engagement, the study of web communities, and the critique of digital contexts as they affect literary work and experience.

**Key Contributors:** Bruce Etling, danah boyd, Miriam Posner.

### 58. DIGITAL HUMANITIES CRITICISM

**Focus:** Examining how digital tools and methods are transforming literary studies.

**Core Aspects:** Text mining, digital archives, algorithmic analysis, and the effect of the digital age on literature production and reception.

**Key Contributors:** Franco Moretti, Alan Liu.

### 59. DIGITAL HUMANITIES

**Focus:** The use of digital methods and techniques in literary study.

**Core Aspects:** The application of computational analysis, digital text encoding, and data visualization in literary research, and the investigation of the ways digital technologies reshape literary analysis and scholarship.

**Key Contributors:** Franco Moretti, Matthew Jockers, Johanna Drucker

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### 60. DIGITAL MINIMALISM

**Focus:** The study of simplicity and minimalism in digital literature and media.

**Core Aspects:** The deconstruction of information overload, the development of minimalist aesthetics in virtual spaces, and the highlighting of clarity, Emphasis, and intentionality in electronic communication.

**Key Contributors:** Cal Newport (in popular cultural debate), Marie Kondo (in parallel minimalism research).

### 61. DIGITAL NARRATOLOGY

**Focus:** Investigation into the narrative structures employed in digital spheres, such as interactive and hypertext narratives.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of the ways in which digital media reshape narrative structures, interactive storytelling strategies analysis, and critique of how digital space influences narrative engagement.

**Key Contributors:** Espen Aarseth, Marie-Laure Ryan, Janet Murray.

### 62. DIGITAL POETICS

**Focus:** Production and interpretation of literature in digital spaces.

**Core Aspects:** How digital technology affects poetic form, the use of interactivity in digital literature, and the development of new methods of storytelling for the digital era.

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**Key Contributors:** N. Katherine Hayles, Lev Manovich.

### **63. DIGITAL RHETORIC**

**Focus:** The examination of how digital platforms and tools influence rhetorical practice and communication.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of electronic forms of persuasion, the effects of electronic media on rhetorical modes, and the critique of how electronic spaces affect rhetoric.

**Key Contributors:** Doug Eyman, James Porter, Richard Lanham.

### **64. DIGITAL TEXTUALITY**

**Focus:** Research on the impact of digital technologies on textual forms and practices.

**Core Aspects:** The study of digital texts and literature, the examination of the impact of digital environments on reading and writing, and the critique of digital textual developments.

**Key Contributors:** Franco Moretti, J. David Bolter, Katherine Hayles.

### **65. DISABILITY CULTURAL STUDIES**

**Focus:** Research on disability in cultural settings and representation in literature.

## Theory vs. Thesis

**Core Aspects:** Discussion of how disability is presented in cultural artifacts, the investigation of disability culture, and the critique of ableism in literary presentation.

**Key Contributors:** Lennard J. Davis, Rosemarie Garland-Thomson, Tobin Siebers.

### 66. DISABILITY STUDIES

**Focus:** The representation of disability in literature and the cultural construction of disability.

**Core Aspects:** The critique of ableism, the exploration of how literature portrays disabled bodies and minds, and the analysis of disability as a social and cultural phenomenon rather than a purely medical one.

**Key Contributors:** Lennard J. Davis, Rosemarie Garland-Thomson, Tobin Siebers.

### 67. DISASTER STUDIES IN LITERATURE

**Focus:** Study of literary accounts of disasters and crises.

**Core Aspects:** Study of how literature portrays disasters, research on disaster narrative, and critique of how literary works address the aftermath and effects of crises.

**Key Contributors:** Susan Sontag, Rebecca Solnit, Jean-Luc Nancy.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 68. DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

**Focus:** The analysis of language use and its function in meaning-making, especially in literary works.

**Core Aspects:** The exploration of how discourse shapes and reflects power relations, identity, and ideology, and the analysis of language patterns in literature.

**Key Contributors:** Michel Foucault, Mikhail Bakhtin, Norman Fairclough.

### 69. ECOCRITICAL POSTHUMANISM

**Focus:** The convergence of ecocriticism and posthumanist thought.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of environmental and ecological issues from a posthumanist viewpoint, and the discussion of the ways literature redefines human-nonhuman relations.

**Key Contributors:** Rosi Braidotti, Ursula K. Le Guin, Timothy Morton.

### 70. ECOCRITICISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

**Focus:** The study of literature in the framework of environmental justice and ecological issues.

**Core Aspects:** The study of environmental themes, justice, and activism in literature, and the critique of literary texts' response and representation of environmental issues.

## Theory vs. Thesis

**Key Contributors:** Lawrence Buell, Ursula K. Le Guin, Rob Nixon.

### 71. ECOCRITICISM

**Focus:** The examination of literature and its connection to the natural environment.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of how literature portrays environmental concerns, the exploration of ecologic themes, and the critique of human-environment dynamics.

**Key Contributors:** Lawrence Buell, Cheryll Glotfelty, Jonathan Bate.

### 72. ECOFEMINISM

**Focus:** The meeting of ecological issues and feminist theory, examining how literature engages with both environmental and gender problems.

**Core Aspects:** The critique of the influence of patriarchy on the environment, the link between women's exploitation and the exploitation of nature, and calling for a more integral and sustainable relationship with the Earth.

**Key Contributors:** Vandana Shiva, Carolyn Merchant, Val Plumwood.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 73. ECOFEMINIST SCIENCE FICTION

**Focus:** The examination of ecological and feminist elements within science fiction literature.

**Core Aspects:** Examination of the way science fiction tackles environmental and gender concerns, the critique of techno-scientific actions from an ecofeminist point of view, and the exploration of speculative fiction breaking traditional gender roles and ecological issues.

**Key Contributors:** Ursula K. Le Guin, Octavia Butler, Donna Haraway.

### 74. ECOLINGUISTICS

**Focus:** Examination of the interconnection between language and the natural world.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of how language constructs environmental knowledge, the critique of environmentally harmful language use, and the encouragement of environmentally sustainable discourse.

**Key Contributors:** Michael Halliday, Arran Stubbe.

### 75. ECOMATERIALISM

**Focus:** Research into the representation and perception in literature of material objects and the natural world.

**Core Aspects:** An investigation of materiality and its connection to environmental issues, an examination of how literature represents and engages with environmental topics

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through material things, and an investigation of the dynamics between material and environmental systems.

**Key Contributors:** Jane Bennett, Timothy Morton, Stacy Alaimo.

### 76. ECOPHILOSOPHY

**Focus:** The philosophical basis of environmental literature and philosophy.

**Core Aspects:** Deep ecology, biocentrism, intrinsic value of nature, and the moral obligations of human beings toward nature.

**Key Contributors:** Arne Naess, Aldo Leopold.

### 77. ECOSEMIOTIC

**Focus:** The convergence of semiotics (the theory of signs) and ecology, studying how signs operate in natural and cultural worlds.

**Core Aspects:** The relationship between humans and their environment as mediated by signs, the analysis of ecological symbols in literature, and the study of environmental communication.

**Key Contributors:** Kalevi Kull, Timo Maran.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 78. KEY SCHOLARS:

**Focus:** The investigation of how cognitive processes are shaped by body experience and representation in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of how literature informs and constrains embodied cognition, the examination of the relation between body experience and mental processes, and the criticism of how embodiment constrains narrative and meaning.

**Key Contributors:** Mark Johnson, George Lakoff, Lawrence A. Hirschfeld.

### 79. ETHICAL LITERARY CRITICISM

**Focus:** Intersections of ethics and literature, with a Focus on moral philosophy and the ethics of reading and interpretation.

**Core Aspects:** The function of literature in moral education, ethical conflicts in literature, and how literature can encourage moral consideration.

**Key Contributors:** Wayne Booth, Martha Nussbaum, Adam Zachary Newton.

### 80. ETHICS OF CARE THEORY

**Focus:** The study of the way literature depicts postures towards and engagements with ethical dilemmas of care and responsibility.

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**Core Areas:** Caregiving relationships analysis, moral and ethical aspects discussion in narratives, and criticism of literature's treatment of care ethics.

**Key Contributors:** Carol Gilligan, Nel Noddings, Joan Tronto.

### 81. ETHICS OF READING

**Focus:** The study of the ethical consequences of reading and interpretation processes.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of ethical issues relating to literary criticism, the examination of the influence of reading practice on moral comprehension, and inquiry into the duties of readers and critics.

**Key Contributors:** Wayne C. Booth, Martha Nussbaum, J.M. Coetzee.

### 82. ETHICS OF REPRESENTATION

**Focus:** The investigation of ethical concerns regarding the representation of subjects and experiences in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of representational practice, examination of ethical issues in representing diverse subjects, and critique of literature's handling of moral and ethical issues.

**Key Contributors:** Emmanuel Levinas, Judith Butler, Gayatri Spivak.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 83. ETHNOGRAPHIC CRITICISM

**Focus:** The analysis of literature as cultural documentation, frequently utilizing ethnographic technique.

**Core Aspects:** Examination of the ways literature represents and builds up cultural identities, the function of literature to maintain cultural memory, and the linkage of literary studies with anthropology.

**Key Contributors:** Clifford Geertz, James Clifford.

### 84. ETHNOGRAPHIC LITERARY CRITICISM

**Focus:** The use of ethnographic approaches in literary criticism, exploring the ways in which literature represents and creates cultural norms and social action.

**Core Aspects:** Critical examination of the role of cultural context and practices within literary texts, investigation of how literature accounts for social rituals and customs, and cultural narrative critique.

**Key Contributors:** Clifford Geertz, Michel de Certeau, James Clifford.

### 85. ETHNOGRAPHIC LITERARY STUDIES

**Focus:** The use of ethnographic approaches to literary studies.

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**Core Aspects:** The examination of cultural practice and social contexts in literary texts, and the study of how ethnographic methods shed light on literary knowledge.

**Key Contributors:** Clifford Geertz, James Clifford, Michael Taussig.

### 86. EXOPHONIC LITERATURE

**Focus:** The examination of literature that is composed in a language other than that of the author's native language.

**Core Aspects:** The study of language and identity, the examination of linguistic difficulties and innovations, and the critique of the way exophonic literature confronts cultural and linguistic frontiers.

**Key Contributors:** Amin Maalouf, Jhumpa Lahiri, Vladimir Nabokov.

### 87. FEMINIST SCIENCE FICTION

**Focus:** The examination of science fiction using a feminist perspective, investigating the relationship between gender and science within speculative fiction.

**Core Aspects:** The critique of gender norms within science fiction, the study of feminist utopian and dystopian worlds, and the examination of ways in which science fiction undermines and reconfigures gender roles.

**Key Contributors:** Joanna Russ, Octavia Butler, Ursula K. Le Guin.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 88. GAME STUDIES AND LUDOLOGY

**Focus:** Analysis of video games and their narrative styles as literature.

**Core Aspects:** The theory of "play" in literature, narrative theory in game studies, and player agency and narrative.

**Key Contributors:** Jesper Juul, Espen Aarseth.

### 89. GAMIFICATION IN LITERATURE

**Focus:** The examination of how aspects of game design and gamification are applied within literary works.

**Core Aspects:** The study of the integration of game mechanics in literary work, the examination of interactive and participatory components in a text, and the criticism of how gamification impacts storytelling and reader involvement.

**Key Contributors:** Jane McGonigal, Jesper Juul, Ian Bogost.

### 90. GENDER STUDIES

**Focus:** The examination of gender identity, roles, and relations as depicted in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The formation of gender as a social and cultural construction, criticism of the classical gender dualities, and understanding gender fluidity and performativity.

**Key Contributors:** Judith Butler, bell hooks.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 91. GEOCRITICISM

**Focus:** The analysis of geographical space in literature, the way places are constructed and represented in narrative.

**Core Aspects:** Spatial representation, literary cartography, and the ties between literature and actual geography.

**Key Contributors:** Bertrand Westphal, Robert Tally.

### 92. GLOBAL GOTHIC STUDIES

**Focus:** The study of Gothic literature and its global variations and influences.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of the ways in which Gothic themes and forms are adopted and reconfigured within other cultures, and the analysis of global Gothic traditions.

**Key Contributors:** David Punter, Niall Lucy, Lesley Pratt.

### 93. GLOBAL SOUTH LITERARY THEORY

**Focus:** The investigation of literature from the Global South and its distinctive perspectives and concerns.

**Core Aspects:** Postcolonial and decolonial themes analysis, cultural and political context of the Global South, critique of global power relations in literature.

**Key Contributors:** Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Salman Rushdie.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 94. GLOBALIZATION STUDIES

**Focus:** The exploration of literature in relation to globalization and global cultural flows.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of the effects of global interactions and transnational movements on literary production and reception, and the critical analysis of global cultural flows and their effects on literature.

**Key Contributors:** Arjun Appadurai, Saskia Sassen, David Held.

### 95. GOTHIC CRITICISM

**Focus:** The Focus of Gothic literature on horror, the sublime, and the uncanny.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of fear, transgression, the supernatural, and the psychological depth of characters in Gothic fiction.

**Key Contributors:** Ann Radcliffe, Horace Walpole, Sigmund Freud (in terms of the uncanny).

### 96. GOTHIC STUDIES

**Focus:** The investigation of Gothic literature and its historical and cultural contexts.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of themes like horror, the supernatural, and the uncanny, and the critique of Gothic conventions and influences.

## Theory vs. Thesis

**Key Contributors:** David Punter, Fred Botting, Anne Williams.

### 97. HAPTIC LITERARY THEORY

**Focus:** The investigation of how tactile sensations and touch are depicted in literature.

**Core Aspects:** A consideration of tactile imagery, a consideration of how literature provokes bodily sensations, and the critique of how touch works to form narrative and meaning.

**Key Contributors:** Jennifer M. Hayward, Laura E. Wright, George Haggerty.

### 98. HAPTIC THEORY

**Focus:** The investigation of how haptic sensations and tactile experiences are presented in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The study of how literature engages with the sense of touch, the analysis of tactile imagery and metaphors, and the critique of how physical sensation influences narrative.

**Key Contributors:** Laura U. Marks, George Haggerty, Jonathan Crary.

### 99. HAUNTOLOGY

**Focus:** The investigation of ghosts and spectres in literature, frequently deployed to question unresolved historical traumas and the endurance of the past into the present.

## Theory vs. Thesis

**Core Aspects:** The deconstruction of linear history, the examination of the ways in which literature invokes the spectral, and the analysis of how the past haunts modern texts.

**Key Contributors:** Jacques Derrida, Mark Fisher, Colin Davis.

### 100. HETEROGLOSSIA

**Focus:** The analysis of multiplicity of voices and languages within a literary work.

**Core Aspects:** The study of how multiple voices and discourses intersect in a text, and the examination of the way heteroglossia represents social and linguistic diversity.

**Key Contributors:** Mikhail Bakhtin, Julia Kristeva, Michael Holquist.

### 101. HISTORICAL POETICS

**Focus:** Investigating the development of poetic forms and conventions over time.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of changes in poetic practice over time, the examination of the impact of literary history on poetry, and the criticism of changing poetic forms and styles.

**Key Contributors:** Martin Heidegger, Paul de Man, Jahan Ramazani.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 102. HISTORIOGRAPHIC METAFICTION

**Focus:** The analysis of novels dealing with historical events and representations through self-reflexive and metafictional methods.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of the representation and reconstruction of historical narratives in fiction, the critique of fictionality and historical accuracy, and the investigation of the mutual interaction between history and narrative.

**Key Contributors:** Linda Hutcheon, Salman Rushdie, Thomas Pynchon.

### 103. HISTORIOGRAPHIC THEORIES

**Core Aspects:** The critique of historical representation in literature, critique of historical accuracy and narrative formation, and examination of how literature shapes and represents historical knowledge.

**Key Contributors:** Hayden White, Michel Foucault, Carlo Ginzburg.

### 104. HOLOGRAPHIC THEORY

**Focus:** The examination of how holographic ideas and representations are utilized in literature.

**Core Aspects:** An examination of holographic metaphors and structures in texts, an investigation of the ways in which literature responds to notions of several perspectives and layers

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of meaning, and a critique of the way holography informs literary modes.

**Key Contributors:** David Bohm, Michel Foucault, Marshall McLuhan.

### 105. HUMAN-ANIMAL STUDIES

**Focus:** The study of how literature depicts the relationships between humans and animals.

**Core Aspects:** The critique of anthropocentric perspectives, the study of animal agency and ethics, and the analysis of the ways in which literature challenges and reworks human-animal boundaries.

**Key Contributors:** Donna Haraway, Jacques Derrida, Cary Wolfe.

### 106. HYPERREALITY AND SIMULACRA

**Focus:** The examination of hyperreality, whereby the difference between reality and simulation dissolves.

**Core Aspects:** Simulacra (reproductions without originals), the impact of media on reality perceptions, and the notion that contemporary society is a simulation of itself.

**Key Contributors:** Jean Baudrillard.

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### 107. IMAGINARY WORLDS THEORY

**Focus:** The examination of the ways literature imagines and navigates fictional worlds.

**Core Aspects:** The analysis of world-building in literature, the exploration of how fictional worlds reflect and challenge real-world issues, and the study of the impact of imaginary worlds on reader engagement.

**Key Contributors:** Ursula K. Le Guin, J.R.R. Tolkien, Michel Foucault.

### 108. INDIGENOUS LITERARY CRITICISM

**Focus:** The examination of literature by Indigenous authors and the critique of the representation of Indigenous cultures in literature.

**Core Aspects:** Sovereignty, resistance, the centrality of oral traditions, and the decolonization of literary critique.

**Main Contributors:** Gerald Vizenor, Linda Tuhiwai Smith, Leanne Betasamosake Simpson.

### 109. INDIGENOUS LITERARY THEORY

**Focus:** The study of literature using Indigenous views and approaches.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of Indigenous narratives tradition, the criticism of colonial imagery, and the examination of how Indigenous literature reflects upon cultural and historical concerns.

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**Key Contributors:** Gerald Vizenor, Louise Erdrich, Lee Maracle.

### 110. INTERCULTURAL LITERARY STUDIES

**Focus:** Examination of the way literature handles and represents intercultural encounters and exchanges.

**Core Aspects:** The critique of cross-cultural influences and interactions, the examination of literary descriptions of cultural encounters, and the criticism of intercultural dynamics in literature.

**Key Contributors:** Homi K. Bhabha, Edward Said, Stuart Hall.

### 111. INTERMEDIALITY

**Focus:** Research on the interaction of literature with other media forms, e.g., film, television, digital media.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of the way literary works appropriate and negotiate other media forms, the examination of cross-media storytelling, and the deconstruction of the impact of media convergence on literary representation.

**Key Contributors:** Jay David Bolter, Richard Grusin, Christiane Paul.

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### 112. INTERSECTIONAL LITERARY STUDIES

**Focus:** The examination of literature through the framework of intersectional analysis, taking into account various axes of identity and power.

**Core Aspects:** The discussion of how literature depicts and responds to intersecting identities and social categories, and the critique of how intersectionality influences literary themes and narratives.

**Key Contributors:** Kimberlé Crenshaw, Patricia Hill Collins, bell hooks.

### 113. INTERTEXTUALITY

**Focus:** The connection between texts and the way they refer, relate to, and resonate with one another.

**Core Aspects:** The concept that there is no text in itself, literary allusion analysis, citations, and references, and the investigation of how texts assign meaning through their relation to other texts.

**Key Contributors:** Julia Kristeva, Roland Barthes, Mikhail Bakhtin.

### 114. LACANIAN CRITICISM

**Focus:** The use of Jacques Lacan's psychoanalytic theory on literature.

**Core Aspects:** The imaginary, the real, and the symbolic; the mirror stage; desire and lack; and literary subjectivity analysis.

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**Key Contributors:** Jacques Lacan, Slavoj Žižek.

### 115. LINGUISTIC ANTHROPOLOGY

**Focus:** The investigation of how language and culture interrelate, especially in literature that is representative of cultural practice and belief.

**Core Aspects:** The study of language as a cultural instrument, the examination of how literature represents and creates cultural identities, and the research of linguistic diversity in literary work.

**Key Contributors:** Dell Hymes, Edward Sapir, Bronisław Malinowski.

### 116. LINGUISTIC TURN

**Focus:** The philosophical and literary theory turn that prioritizes language as the basic organization of human life and meaning.

**Core Aspects:** The notion that language determines our conception of reality, the dissection of language as an instrument of power, and linguistic analysis in literature.

**Key Contributors:** Ludwig Wittgenstein, Jacques Derrida, Richard Rorty.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 117. LITERARY ANIMAL STUDIES

**Focus:** Examination of how animals and animality are represented and examined in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The study of animal characters and themes, the investigation of human-animal relationships, and the criticism of how literature reflects upon issues of animal ethics and rights.

**Key Contributors:** Jacques Derrida, Donna Haraway, Cary Wolfe

### 118. LITERARY GEOGRAPHY

**Focus:** The examination of the interconnection between literature and geographical space.

**Core Aspects:** The consideration of how literary texts depict and interact with spatial and geographical environments, and the critique of spatial processes in narrative.

**Key Contributors:** Yi-Fu Tuan, Edward Soja, Robert T. Tally Jr.

### 119. LITERARY NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

**Focus:** The use of neuropsychological theory in literary study.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of the impact of neurological and cognitive processes on literary production and reception and literary text analysis from the perspective of brain science.

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**Key Contributors:** Lisa Zunshine, Steven Pinker, Mark Turner.

### 120. LITERARY PRAGMATICS

**Focus:** The investigation of the ways in which language is employed in literature to obtain specific effects, especially through the perspective of speech act theory and conversational analysis.

**Core Aspects:** The study of how narrative and discourse strategies operate as communicative acts, the critique of literary uses of language, and an investigation of how meaning is negotiated among author, text, and reader.

**Key Contributors:** J.L. Austin, H.P. Grice, Dan Sperber, Deirdre Wilson.

### 121. LITERATURE AND PHILOSOPHY OF TECHNOLOGY

**Focus:** The investigation of how literature intersects with technological ideas and philosophies.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of technological issues, the critique of the effects of technology on human life, and the exploration of how technology shapes literary form and content.

**Key Contributors:** Bernard Stiegler, Sherry Turkle, Don Ihde.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 122. MARXIST FEMINISM

**Focus:** The combination of Marxist theory and feminism, examining how capitalism and patriarchy intersect.

**Core Aspects:** The participation of women in the workforce, the oppression of women in capitalism, and the critique of patriarchal systems within economic structures.

**Key Contributors:** Silvia Federici, Nancy Fraser, Alexandra Kollontai.

### 123. MATERIAL CULTURE STUDIES

**Focus:** The study of how material items and artifacts are represented and interpreted in texts.

**Core Aspects:** The deconstruction of the meaning of objects in literary works, the examination of material culture's influence on narratives, and the criticism of how literature represents and criticizes material realities.

**Key Contributors:** Daniel Miller, Arjun Appadurai, Bill Brown.

### 124. MATERIAL ECOCRITICISM

**Focus:** The materialist analysis of nature and the environment in literature, with an emphasis on the agency of non-human matter.

**Core Aspects:** The concept of matter itself having agency, the deconstruction of human exceptionalism, and the analysis of how literature interacts with the physical world.

## Theory vs. Thesis

**Key Contributors:** Serenella Iovino, Serpil Oppermann, Jane Bennett.

### 125. MATERIAL FEMINISM

**Focus:** Intersections between feminist theory, materialist, and ecological issues.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of the intersection of material and environmental conditions with gender and feminist concerns, and the examination of feminist thought on materiality and ecology.

**Key Contributors:** Rosi Braidotti, Karen Barad, Stacy Alaimo.

### 126. MATERIAL TEXTUAL STUDIES

**Focus:** The investigation of texts' material qualities, such as their physical creation and transmission.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of the physical nature of texts and their impact on meaning, and examination of material components like print, manuscript, and digital formats.

**Key Contributors:** D.F. McKenzie, Roger Chartier, Andrew Piper.

### 127. MEDIA ARCHAEOLOGY

**Focus:** Research into historical media technologies and the impact they have had on literature and culture.

## Theory vs. Thesis

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of vintage media, the critique of the ways in which old technologies influence modern literature, and the critique of the linear development of media history.

**Key Contributors:** Siegfried Zielinski, Erkki Huhtamo, Wolfgang Ernst.

### 128. MEDIA STUDIES

**Focus:** The interrelation of literature with other types of media, such as film, television, and new media.

**Core Aspects:** The influence of media on literature, the transmutation of literary works into other media, and the dynamic between text and technology.

**Key Contributors:** Marshall McLuhan, Friedrich Kittler.

### 129. MEDIA THEORY

**Focus:** The investigation of media forms and their influence on literature and culture.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of how various media (print, digital, audio-visual) condition literary forms and content, and the study of media's impact on narrative forms and readers' reception.

**Key Contributors:** Marshall McLuhan, Walter Benjamin, Friedrich Kittler.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 130. MELTING POT THEORY (CULTURAL ASSIMILATION)

**Focus:** The concept that immigrant and minority cultures should fuse with the majority or dominant culture, creating a single, new, and homogeneous national identity.

**Core Aspects:** Assimilation, cultural homogenization, the idea of America (or another host nation) as a crucible where differences are dissolved, and the loss of original cultural traits over generations.

**Key Contributors:** J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur (whose writings popularized the metaphor), Israel Zangwill (through his play *The Melting-Pot*), and classical sociology scholars focused on integration models.

### 131. MEMORY STUDIES

**Focus:** The investigation of how individual and collective memory is represented and constructed in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The relationship between memory and identity, the role of literature in shaping cultural memory, and the exploration of how memory is preserved, transmitted, and transformed through narrative.

**Key Contributors:** Pierre Nora, Aleida Assmann, Maurice Halbwachs.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 132. METAFICTION AND POSTMODERNISM

**Focus:** Fiction that self-reflexively acknowledges its own constructedness and the nature of narrative.

**Core Aspects:** The disruption of the "fourth wall," intertextuality, irony, and collapsing boundaries between reality and fiction.

**Key Contributors:** John Barth, Jorge Luis Borges, Thomas Pynchon.

### 133. METAFICTIONAL THEORY

**Focus:** The examination of fiction that knowingly discusses its own nature as a work of fiction.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of self-referential fictions, the probing of fictionality boundaries, and the criticism of the ways in which metafiction dissolves conventional storytelling norms.

**Key Contributors:** Linda Hutcheon, John Barth, Italo Calvino.

### 134. METAHISTORY

**Focus:** The study of how history is written and the narratives that shape historical understanding, often applied to historical fiction and historiography in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The critical examination of narratives in history, an examination of how literature constructs and deconstructs history, and an examination of the interaction between fiction and history.

## Theory vs. Thesis

**Key Contributors:** Hayden White, Michel Foucault (in his examination of historical discourse).

### 135. METAMODERNISM

**Focus:** A cultural model that swings between modernism and postmodernism, combining sincerity and irony.

**Core Aspects:** The intersection of optimism and suspicion, the return of grand narratives with a sense of their limits, and the investigating of new modes of meaning-making within a fractured world.

**Key Contributors:** Timotheus Vermeulen, Robin van den Akker.

### 136. MIGRANT AND DIASPORIC STUDIES

**Focus:** The study of literature written by and about migrants and diasporic groups.

**Core Aspects:** The discussion of themes of displacement, identity, and belonging, the examination of cultural hybridity and transnational experience, and the criticism of literature's treatment of issues of migration and diaspora.

**Key Contributors:** Homi K. Bhabha, Arjun Appadurai, Salman Rushdie.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 137. MIMETIC THEORY

**Focus:** The notion that life imitates literature, or that literature imitates life.

**Core Aspects:** The interrelation between literature and reality, the notion of mimesis, and the notion that literature reflects and constructs human behavior.

**Key Contributors:** Plato, Aristotle, René Girard.

### 138. MOLECULAR LITERARY STUDIES

**Focus:** The use of concepts in molecular biology in the examination of literary texts.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of how molecular forms and biological processes shape literary styles and themes, and the analysis of literature based on molecular biology and genetics.

**Key Contributors:** Sarah Franklin, Donna Haraway, N. Katherine Hayles.

### 139. MULTIMODAL LITERARY ANALYSIS

**Focus:** The study of literature across various modes of communication, such as text, picture, sound, and new media.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of how various modes interact within literature texts, and the development of how multimodal elements make meaning and interpretation.

**Key Contributors:** Gunther Kress, Theo van Leeuwen, Carey Jewitt.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 140. NARRATIVE ECOLOGY

**Focus:** The examination of how narratives interoperate with and affect ecological systems and environmental concerns.

**Core Aspects:** The study of how narrative relates to ecology, the critique of environmental issues and themes in literary work, and the evaluation of how narratives deal with ecological challenges.

**Key Contributors:** Serenella Iovino, Serpil Oppermann, Ursula K. Le Guin.

### 141. NARRATIVE ETHICS

**Focus:** The examination of how narratives handle ethical concerns and construct moral knowledge.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of the way narratives frame ethical issues, the critical reading of narrative techniques for addressing moral issues, and the examination of the impact of literature on ethical thought.

**Key Contributors:** Wayne C. Booth, Martha Nussbaum, Adam Zachary Newton.

### 142. NARRATIVE IDENTITY THEORY

**Focus:** The examination of how narratives construct and shape individual and collective identities.

**Core Aspects:** The study of identity construction through narrative, the examination of personal and communal

## Theory vs. Thesis

storytelling, and the critique of narrative shaping and being shaped by identity.

**Key Contributors:** Paul Ricoeur, Jerome Bruner, Dan P. McAdams.

### 143. NARRATIVE MEDICINE

**Focus:** Application of narrative and storytelling in medicine, Focusing on how literature and narrative help us understand and treat health and illness.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of patient stories, the application of narrative as a therapeutic agent, and the discussion of how literature can educate and enhance medical practice.

**Key Contributors:** Rita Charon, Arthur Frank, Kathryn Montgomery.

### 144. NARRATIVE NEUROSCIENCE

**Focus:** The investigation into how narrative organizations and storytelling influence cognitive processes and brain functions.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of how narratives shape memory, empathy, and cognitive development, and the examination of the neurological effects of literary experience.

**Key Contributors:** Lisa Zunshine, Raymond Mar, Dan P. McAdams.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 145. NARRATIVE PSYCHOLOGY

**Focus:** The investigation of how narratives influence and are influenced by psychological processes.

**Core Aspects:** An investigation of narrative identity, an examination of how individual and collective stories shape psychological states, and a critique of the way literature portrays psychological experiences.

**Key Contributors:** Jerome Bruner, Dan P. McAdams, Donald E. Polkinghorne.

### 146. NARRATOLOGY

**Focus:** The examination of narrative structure and how narratives are presented.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of narrative devices, the difference between story and plot, and the investigation of narrative points of view.

**Key Contributors:** Gérard Genette, Tzvetan Todorov, Vladimir Propp.

### 147. NEOFORMALISM

**Focus:** A return to formalist criticism, but incorporating the latest critical theories.

**Core Aspects:** Exposition of literary form, structure, and genre in recognizing the cultural and historical contexts.

**Key Contributors:** Joseph North, Marjorie Levinson.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 148. NETWORK THEORY IN LITERATURE

**Focus:** The examination of literature in relation to network theory, examining how texts and concepts relate within greater systems.

**Core Aspects:** Literary network analysis, the investigation of how texts impact and are impacted by other texts, and the critique of hierarchical literary systems.

**Key Contributors:** Franco Moretti, Matthew Jockers, Albert-László Barabási.

### 149. NEUROAESTHETICS

**Focus:** The analysis of how neuroscience illuminates our comprehension of aesthetic experiences in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of the influence of literary aesthetics on brain processes, cognitive analysis of literary responses, and research into aesthetic experience as mediated by the brain.

**Key Contributors:** Semir Zeki, Anjan Chatterjee, Mark Turner.

### 150. NEURODIVERSITY STUDIES

**Focus:** The study of neurodiversity (e.g., autism, ADHD, dyslexia) in literature and how such experiences are represented and comprehended.

**Core Aspects:** The deconstruction of neurotypical assumptions, the examination of neurodivergent lives and

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views, and the critique of the ways in which literature portrays and reacts to various neurological disorders.

**Key Contributors:** Nick Walker, Simon Baron-Cohen, Mel Baggs.

### 151. NEW FORMALISM

**Focus:** The renewal and application of formalist approaches to the analysis of literature.

**Core Aspects:** Analysis of literary form, structure, and technique, and the critique of the role formalist methods play in the understanding of literary meaning and aesthetics.

**Key Contributors:** Marjorie Perloff, J. Hillis Miller, Rita Felski.

### 152. NEW HISTORICISM

**Focus:** The study of literature within its historical context, with a Focus on the relationship between literature and history.

**Core Aspects:** The criticism of objectivity in history, the examination of how literature portrays and influences historical events, and the analysis of power dynamics within historical accounts.

**Key Contributors:** Stephen Greenblatt, Louis Montrose, Catherine Gallagher.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 153. NEW MATERIALISM

**Focus:** The investigation of the impact of materiality and physicality on literary texts and practices.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of how literature intersects with material objects and bodily realities, and the critique of how materialism informs literary meaning and interpretation.

**Key Contributors:** Jane Bennett, Manuel DeLanda, Karen Barad.

### 154. NON-HUMAN AGENCY IN LITERATURE

**Focus:** The investigation of non-human characters and forces in literature, and specifically how non-human forces impact narrative and meaning.

**Core Aspects:** The literary critique of anthropocentrism, the investigation of non-human animal, plant, and other views, and the examination of how non-human agency is actually represented in works.

**Key Contributors:** Donna Haraway, Timothy Morton, Jane Bennett.

### 155. OBJECT-ORIENTED ONTOLOGY (OOO) IN LITERATURE

**Focus:** The use of OOO, a species of speculative realism, to literary studies, investigating the autonomy of objects from human minds.

## Theory vs. Thesis

**Core Aspects:** The independence of objects, the decentering of anthropocentrism, and the investigation of non-human views in literature.

**Key Contributors:** Graham Harman, Timothy Morton, Ian Bogost.

### 156. PARATEXTUAL STUDIES

**Focus:** The examination of the paratextual elements that flank the central text, including prefaces, introductions, and footnotes.

**Core Aspects:** The discussion of the impact of paratexts on reading and interpretation of the central text, the examination of the interplay between text and its related components, and the criticism of the way that paratextual structures create literary meaning.

**Key Contributors:** Gérard Genette, Mikhail Bakhtin, Hans-Robert Jauss.

### 157. PATRIARCHY AND MASCULINITY STUDIES

**Focus:** The study of masculinity and the influence of patriarchy on men in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The construction of masculinity, pressures and privileges of patriarchal systems, and the search for alternative masculinities.

## **Theory vs. Thesis**

**Key Contributors:** R.W. Connell, Michael Kimmel, Robert Bly.

### **158. PERFORMANCE STUDIES**

**Focus:** Performance in literature and how texts are performed in different forms.

**Core Aspects:** Concept of literature as performance, the body and voice in textual interpretation, and text and live performance.

**Key Contributors:** Richard Schechner, Peggy Phelan.

### **159. PERFORMANCE THEORY**

**Focus:** The analysis of literature as a performative activity, where in meaning is produced by the act of performance.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of how literature acts as performance, the investigation of language's performative functions, and the active creation of meaning by the reader or audience.

**Key Contributors:** Judith Butler, J.L. Austin, Richard Schechner.

### **160. PHENOMENOLOGICAL CRITICISM**

**Focus:** The experience of reading and how consciousness engages with literature.

## Theory vs. Thesis

**Core Aspects:** The reader-text relationship, the everyday experience of reading, and how literature represents and influences consciousness.

**Key Contributors:** Edmund Husserl, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Wolfgang Iser.

### 161. PHENOMENOLOGICAL LITERARY THEORY

**Focus:** The discussion of literary experience in terms of phenomenology.

**Core Aspects:** Investigation of the way literary texts bring about and shape subjective experiences, and examination of literary phenomena such as perception, consciousness, and meaning.

**Key Contributors:** Edmund Husserl, Martin Heidegger, Maurice Merleau-Ponty.

### 162. PHILOSOPHICAL HERMENEUTICS

**Focus:** The theory of interpretation, specifically the way meaning is understood to be derived from texts.

**Core Aspects:** The interpreter's preconceptions, the horizon of convergence between text and reader, and the circularity of understanding.

**Key Contributors:** Hans-Georg Gadamer, Paul Ricoeur.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 163. PHILOSOPHICAL LITERARY THEORY

**Focus:** The use of philosophical theories and techniques in literary criticism.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of philosophical issues in literature, the examination of the representation of philosophical thought in texts, and the critique of literature's influence on philosophical work.

**Key Contributors:** Friedrich Nietzsche, Martin Heidegger, Emmanuel Levinas.

### 164. PHILOSOPHY OF LITERATURE

**Focus:** The investigation of philosophical issues concerning literature and literary theory.

**Core Aspects:** The analysis of concepts such as truth, beauty, and meaning in literature, and the critique of how philosophical ideas inform literary analysis and interpretation.

**Key Contributors:** Arthur Danto, Stanley Cavell, Theodor Adorno.

### 165. POST-ANTHROPOCENTRIC CRITICISM

**Focus:** The study of literature from a perspective that critiques anthropocentric viewpoints and explores non-human agency.

**Core Aspects:** The exploration of post-anthropocentric themes, the analysis of non-human perspectives and agencies, and the critique of human-centered narratives.

## Theory vs. Thesis

**Key Contributors:** Jane Bennett, Bruno Latour, Rosi Braidotti.

### 166. POST-CAPITALIST LITERARY STUDIES

**Focus:** The examination of literature based on post-capitalist theory, and the examination of alternatives to capitalist models.

**Core Aspects:** The critical analysis of capitalist ideologies and structures in literature, the investigation of different economic models, and the critique of how literature imagines post-capitalist futures.

**Key Contributors:** David Harvey, Graeber, C.A. Smith.

### 167. POSTCOLONIAL ECOCRITICISM

**Focus:** The convergence of postcolonial studies and ecocriticism, looking at how colonialism has influenced environmental discourse and literature.

**Core Aspects:** The critical analysis of environmental exploitation as a colonial legacy, the investigation of indigenous ecological knowledge, and the examination of how literature represents the environmental consequences of colonialism.

**Key Contributors:** Rob Nixon, Graham Huggan, Elizabeth DeLoughrey.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 168. POST-COLONIAL FEMINISM

**Focus:** The combination of feminist and post-colonial theories to study literature.

**Core Aspects:** The analysis of colonial and patriarchal frameworks, the examination of gender and race in post-colonial situations, and the critique of feminist readings of post-colonial works.

**Key Contributors:** Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Gayatri Spivak, bell hooks.

### 169. POST-DEVELOPMENT THEORY

**Focus:** The analysis of conventional development narratives and their portrayal in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of other models for development, the evaluation of ways literature meets and challenges challenges of development, and the examination of post-development views of economic and social advance.

**Key Contributors:** Arturo Escobar, Wolfgang Sachs, David Harvey.

### 170. POST-DRAMATIC THEATRE THEORY

**Focus:** The study of theatre that transcends conventional dramatic forms and conventions.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of non-narrative forms, experimental performances, and examination of how post-

## Theory vs. Thesis

dramatic theatre subverts conventional ideas about plot, character, and dialogue.

**Key Contributors:** Hans-Thies Lehmann, Peter Brook, Jerzy Grotowski.

### 171. POSTHUMANIST

**Focus:** The examination of affect and emotion in literary works through a posthumanist lens.

**Core Aspects:** Investigation of how affective experience is framed by posthumanist and non-human viewpoints, and the critique of how emotional reaction is framed by technological and ecological environments.

**Key Contributors:** Brian Massumi, Rosi Braidotti, N. Katherine Hayles.

### 172. POSTHUMAN NARRATIVES

**Focus:** The analysis of narratives that problematize or go beyond human-centric views.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of how literature portrays non-human viewpoints and posthuman identity, and how these narratives question issues of agency and subjectivity.

**Key Contributors:** Rosi Braidotti, N. Katherine Hayles, Cary Wolfe.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 173. POSTHUMANISM

**Focus:** Examining what it means to be human in the era of high-tech technology, artificial intelligence, and biotechnology.

**Core Aspects:** The divergence of the human, animal, and machine, the critique of humanism, and technology's impact on identity and society.

**Key Contributors:** Donna Haraway, N. Katherine Hayles, Rosi Braidotti.

### 174. POST HUMANIST FEMINISM

**Focus:** The intersection of feminist theory with post humanist thought.

**Core Aspects:** The deconstruction of classical gender norms, the investigation of feminist views on technology and non-human agency, and the examination of how feminist theory is made richer by post humanist thinking.

**Key Contributors:** Rosi Braidotti, Donna Haraway, N. Katherine Hayles.

### 175. POST-IDENTITY THEORY

**Focus:** Exploration of how literature deals with notions of identity outside of the older systems of race, gender, and sexuality.

**Core Aspects:** The analysis of fluid, fractured, and intersectional identities, the deconstruction of fixed identity

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categories, and the examination of how literature represents and influences post-identity thought.

**Key Contributors:** Judith Butler, N. Katherine Hayles, Rosi Braidotti.

### 176. POST-LITERARY THEORY

**Focus:** The analysis of the limits and prospects of literary theory outside of conventional frameworks.

**Core Aspects:** The criticism of current literary theory, the investigation of novel methodological orientations, and the investigation of how literature changes under pressure from modern challenges.

**Key Contributors:** Rita Felski, Franco Moretti, Bruno Latour.

### 177. POST-POSTMODERNISM

**Focus:** The study of literature and culture following the postmodernist phase, investigating new styles and methodologies.

**Core Aspects:** The critical evaluation of postmodernist skepticism and irony, the investigation of new narrative strategies and forms of culture, and the examination of how literature engages with issues of the present beyond postmodernist considerations.

**Key Contributors:** Jean-François Lyotard, Fredric Jameson, Zygmunt Bauman.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 178. POST-SECULAR LITERARY STUDIES

**Focus:** The investigation of how literature engages with religious and secular themes in a post-secular world.

**Core Aspects:** Examination of the interaction between religious and secular discourses, and the critique of post-secularism's impact on literary narratives and themes.

**Key Contributors:** Jürgen Habermas, Gianni Vattimo, Talal Asad.

### 179. POST-SECULAR STUDIES

**Focus:** The study of how literature deals with religion and spirituality within a post-secular environment.

**Core Aspects:** The criticism of secularism and how it affects literary representation, the examination of the manner in which literature addresses religious and spiritual matters in modern contexts, and post-secular thinking.

**Key Contributors:** Jürgen Habermas, Charles Taylor, Talal Asad.

### 180. POST-TRUTH THEORY

**Focus:** Discussion on how literature engages with the issue of truth in an age when objective facts are being dissolved.

**Core Aspects:** Discussion on how literature depicts and satirizes post-truth politics, examination of narrative techniques that deal with misinformation, and discussion on the power of fiction to influence the way the public sees truth.

## Theory vs. Thesis

**Key Contributors:** Lee McIntyre, David Aaronovitch, Hannah Arendt.

### 181. PSYCHOANALYTIC FEMINISM

**Focus:** The use of psychoanalytic theory within feminist analysis, specifically the treatment of gender and sexuality in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of unconscious gendered assumptions, the criticism of phallogentrism, and the study of how literature represents and reinforces gendered identities.

**Key Contributors:** Julia Kristeva, Luce Irigaray, Juliet Mitchell.

### 182. PSYCHOANALYTIC FILM THEORY

**Focus:** The extension of psychoanalytic theory to the study of film, as frequently applied to the study of literature in the context of visual fiction.

**Core Aspects:** The study of the unconscious in film and literature, the study of film and literary technique that generates psychological states, and the study of desire, fantasy, and identity.

**Key Contributors:** Christian Metz, Laura Mulvey, Slavoj Žižek.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 183. PSYCHOGEOGRAPHY

**Focus:** The connection between physical space and the emotional or psychological lives of characters and readers.

**Core Aspects:** The mapping of urban realms, the effect of geography on consciousness, and the interaction between mind and environment.

**Key Contributors:** Guy Debord, Iain Sinclair, Will Self.

### 184. QUANTUM LITERARY THEORY

**Focus:** The application of principles from quantum physics to literary analysis.

**Core Aspects:** The exploration of concepts such as uncertainty, entanglement, and superposition in literature, and the analysis of how these principles inform narrative structures and themes.

**Key Contributors:** Karen Barad, N. Katherine Hayles, Slavoj Žižek.

### 185. QUANTUM NARRATOLOGY

**Focus:** The investigation of how concepts of quantum mechanics are transmuted into narrative structure and storytelling.

**Core Aspects:** Discussion of non-linear and probabilistic narrative structures, examination of uncertainty and indeterminacy in texts, and critique of the effects quantum theory has on narrative theory.

## Theory vs. Thesis

**Key Contributors:** Karen Barad, N. Katherine Hayles, Graham Harman.

### 186. QUEER ECOLOGY

**Focus:** Ecological concerns examined by queer theory and thought.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of the ways in which queer theory is used in environmental and ecological study, and the deconstruction of heteronormative and ecological assumptions in texts.

**Key Contributors:** Catriona Sandilands, Kevin Yelvington, José Esteban Muñoz.

### 187. QUEER OF COLOR CRITIQUE

**Focus:** The intersection of gender, sexuality, and race in literature, with a Focus on marginalized groups.

**Core Aspects:** The criticism of the failure of mainstream queer theory to address race, the examination of the lived experience of queer people of color, and the intersectionality of identities.

**Key Contributors:** Roderick Ferguson, José Esteban Muñoz, Audre Lorde.

### 188. QUEER TEMPORALITIES

**Focus:** An exploration of non-normative concepts of time and temporality in literature.

## Theory vs. Thesis

**Core Aspects:** The examination of queer experiences that complicate traditional conceptions of time, the examination of other temporalities in narratives, and the deconstruction of heteronormative time regimes.

**Key Contributors:** Elizabeth Freeman, Jack Halberstam, Heather Love.

### 189. QUEER THEORY AND QUEER TEMPORALITIES

**Focus:** The investigation of how queer experiences and identities engage with theories of time and temporality.

**Core Aspects:** The deconstruction of non-normative temporalities, the examination of queer temporal experiences, and the deconstruction of heteronormative structures of time in texts.

**Key Contributors:** Jack Halberstam, Elizabeth Freeman, José Esteban Muñoz.

### 190. RADICAL LITERATURE STUDIES

**Focus:** The analysis of literature that resists and criticizes existing social and political arrangements.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of radical political and social thought in literature, the reading of texts that call for system change, and the critique of radicalism's representation and engagement in literature.

## Theory vs. Thesis

**Key Contributors:** Michel Foucault, Antonio Gramsci, Herbert Marcuse.

### 191. RECEPTION THEORY

**Focus:** The reception and interpretation of literature by various audiences through time.

**Core Aspects:** The notion that the meaning of a text is not stable but is constructed by the readers' cultural and historical environment.

**Key Contributors:** Hans Robert Jauss, Wolfgang Iser.

### 192. RELATIONAL AESTHETICS

**Focus:** The study of art and literature that focuses on social interaction and community-based experience.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of literature as social practice, the analysis of the reader-text relationship, and the examination of how literature establishes or portrays social relations.

**Key Contributors:** Stuart Hall, James Clifford

### 193. RHETORICAL CRITICISM

**Focus:** The exploration of rhetoric and persuasive tactics in literature, focusing on the way texts seek to affect readers.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of rhetorical devices, the investigation of the ways in which literature operates as

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persuasion, and the criticism of the ethical effects of rhetorical tactics in texts.

**Key Contributors:** Kenneth Burke, Wayne Booth, Chaim Perelman.

### 194. RHETORICAL ECOLOGIES

**Focus:** The study of how rhetorical practices interact with and are shaped by their environmental contexts.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of rhetorical strategies in environmental and ecological contexts, and the discussion of how rhetoric intersects with environmental concerns.

**Key Contributors:** Gérard Genette, Peter J. Schwartz.

### 195. RHIZOMATIC CRITICISM

**Focus:** Application of the theory of the rhizome by Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari to literature.

**Core Aspects:** Non-hierarchical interconnection of ideas, decentralization, multiplicity, and negation of linear narrative form.

**Key Contributors:** Gilles Deleuze, Félix Guattari.

### 196. RITUAL THEORY

**Focus:** The study of ritual practices and representation in literature.

## Theory vs. Thesis

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of how literary works interact with ritualistic features, the examination of ritual's function in narrative form and meaning, and the critique of literature's representation and criticism of ritual practices.

**Key Contributors:** Victor Turner, Arnold van Gennep, Clifford Geertz.

### 197. SALAD BOWL THEORY (CULTURAL PLURALISM)

**Focus:** The examination of how diverse cultures within a society retain their unique identities while existing harmoniously alongside one another.

**Core Aspects:** Multiculturalism, cultural retention and preservation, maintaining ethnic distinctiveness within a unified nation, and critiques of assimilationist models.

**Key Contributors:** Horace Kallen (whose early concepts influenced cultural pluralism), and contemporary sociology and political science proponents of multiculturalism

### 198. SEMIOTIC LITERARY CRITICISM

**Focus:** The examination of signs and symbols in literature based on semiotic theory to see how meaning is made.

**Core Aspects:** Investigating the sign systems of literature, examining how symbols represent meaning, and deconstructing the signifier-signified relationship in literary works.

## Theory vs. Thesis

**Key Contributors:** Ferdinand de Saussure, Roland Barthes, Umberto Eco.

### 199. SENSORY LITERARY CRITICISM

**Focus:** The examination of the ways literature engages with and represents sensory experiences.

**Core Aspects:** The critique of sensory descriptions and perceptions in literary work, the examination of how literature generates sensory experiences, and the critique of sensory involvement in the narrative.

**Key Contributors:** David Howes, Jonathan Crary, Mark M. Smith.

### 200. SENSORY LITERARY STUDIES

**Focus:** The analysis of sensory experience as portrayed and consumed in literature.

**Core Aspects:** Critique of literary texts' sensory perceptions (sight, hearing, touch, taste, smell), examination of the ways in which literature makes use of sensory experiences, and critique of the way sensory descriptions add meaning to narratives.

**Key Contributors:** David Howes, Mark M. Smith, Jonathan Crary.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 201. SENSORY STUDIES

**Focus:** The study of the senses in literature, specifically how sensory experiences are represented and evoked.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of multisensory representation in texts, the criticism of literature's appeal to the senses, and research into the sensory aspect of reading experiences.

**Key Contributors:** David Howes, Constance Classen, Steven Connor.

### 202. SOCIAL MEDIA THEORY

**Focus:** The study of the ways in which social media websites affect culture and literature.

**Core Aspects:** Inquiry into how social media constructs literary production, distribution, and reception, as well as the critique of social media's influence on narrative forms and identity formation.

**Key Contributors:** Manuel Castells, José van Dijck, Axel Bruns.

### 203. SOCIOLOGICAL CRITICISM

**Focus:** The study of literature in the context of social institutions and structures.

**Core Aspects:** The image of social reality in literature, the impact of class, gender, and race on literary work, and the social change role of literature.

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**Key Contributors:** Pierre Bourdieu, Georg Lukács, Lucien Goldmann.

### 204. SONIC NARRATOLOGY

**Focus:** The study of how sound and aural components are central to narrative frameworks and storytelling.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of sonic aspects of narrative, the investigation of the role of sound in constructing narrative experience, and the critique of the role of the auditory in literary interpretation.

**Key Contributors:** Jonathan Sterne, Emily Thompson, R. Murray Schafer.

### 205. SOUND STUDIES IN LITERATURE

**Focus:** The examination of how sound and auditory experiences are represented and analyzed in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of how literature encounters soundscapes, the interpretation of auditory imagery and symbolism, and the investigation of sound's role in narrative construction and meaning.

**Key Contributors:** Jonathan Sterne, Michael Bull, Emily Thompson.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 206. SOUND STUDIES

**Focus:** The study of sound in literature, such as how texts generate auditory experience and the function of sound in narrative.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of literary representation of soundscapes, the analysis of the sound aspects of poetry and prose, and the criticism of sound's role in the ambiance and meaning of a text.

**Key Contributors:** Jonathan Sterne, Emily Thompson, John Mowitt.

### 207. SPATIAL THEORY

**Focus:** The literary examination of space and place, how spatial relations impact story and meaning.

**Core Aspects:** The literary depiction of space, the deconstruction of how space is gendered, racialized, or otherwise inscribed, and the deconstruction of how spaces are built and demolished by literature.

**Key Contributors:** Henri Lefebvre, Michel Foucault, Edward Soja.

### 208. SPECTRAL THEORY

**Focus:** The examination of ghosts, the supernatural, and spectrality in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of the way spectral figures and themes disrupt traditional narratives, the investigation of

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haunting and presence, and the critique of the way the spectral is entwined with historical and cultural contexts.

**Key Contributors:** Jacques Derrida, Avery Gordon, Mark Fisher.

### 209. SPECULATIVE FICTION STUDIES

**Focus:** Examination of speculative fiction genres like science fiction, fantasy, and alternate history.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of how speculative fiction conceives of other worlds, the study of world-making and genre conventions, and the critique of the way speculative fiction addresses issues of the present.

**Key Contributors:** Ursula K. Le Guin, Octavia Butler, Darko Suvin.

### 210. SPECULATIVE REALISM

**Focus:** The examination of speculative and realist elements in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The critique of how speculative fiction incorporates realist themes, and the criticism of the dynamic interaction between speculative and realist literary forms.

**Key Contributors:** Quentin Meillassoux, Graham Harman, Ray Brassier.

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### 211. SPECULATIVE REALISM

**Focus:** The investigation of speculative philosophies which undermine common metaphysical assumptions in relation to literature.

**Core Aspects:** The critique of anthropocentrism and human exceptionalism, examination of alternative metaphysical schemes, and exploration of how speculative realism affects literary narrative and meaning.

**Key Contributors:** Quentin Meillassoux, Graham Harman, Ray Brassier.

### 212. STUDIES IN LITERATURE AND MEMORY

**Focus:** The examination of the way literature represents and interacts with memory and remembering.

**Core Aspects:** The study of memory's contribution to the construction of narrative, analysis of how literary works portray individual and collective memory, and critique of the influence of memory on identity and historical knowledge.

**Key Contributors:** Paul Ricoeur, Maurice Halbwachs, Pierre Nora.

### 213. SURREALIST CRITICISM

**Focus:** The study of surrealism in literature, where the lines between reality and imagination blur.

**Core Aspects:** The unconscious, dream logic, automatism, and the freedom of the mind with surrealist methods.

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**Key Contributors:** André Breton, Salvador Dalí, Luis Buñuel.

### 214. TACTILE LITERARY THEORY

**Focus:** Research on the representation and treatment of touch and tactility in literature.

**Core Aspects:** Examining the materiality of reading and writing, tactile imagery, and metaphor analysis, and the criticism of how literature evokes and represents sensory touch experiences.

**Key Contributors:** Laura U. Marks, Mark M. Smith, George Haggerty.

### 215. TECHNOCULTURE STUDIES

**Focus:** Analysis of the intersection of technology and culture in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of the way technological developments inform cultural stories, the examination of technological issues within literature, and the critique of technology's influence on literary style and material.

**Key Contributors:** Sherry Turkle, N. Katherine Hayles, Marshall McLuhan.

### 216. TECHNO-ORIENTALISM

**Focus:** The portrayal of Asia and Asians in science fiction and futurist literature.

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**Core Aspects:** The representation of the "East" as technologically advanced but backwards or mystifying culturally, and the critique of such stereotypes in literature.

**Key Contributors:** David Morley, Kevin Robins, Stephen Hong Sohn.

### 217. TEMPORAL THEORY

**Focus:** The literary study of time, how narratives play with and represent time.

**Core Aspects:** Chronology, flashbacks, temporal distortion, and the representation of memory and history in narrative.

**Key Contributors:** Paul Ricoeur, Mikhail Bakhtin.

### 218. TEXTUAL CRITICISM

**Focus:** An examination of manuscripts, texts, and the editing and transmission process, with specific Focus on the accuracy and authenticity of works of literature.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of textual variation, the restoration of authorial intention, and the analysis of the way texts are edited and published.

**Key Contributors:** Paul Maas, A.E. Housman, Fredson Bowers.

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### 219. THEATRICALITY THEORY

**Focus:** The study of the ways in which theatricality and performance have an impact on literary texts and narrative forms.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of performative dimensions in literature, analysis of how books interact with theatrical conventions, and critique of the effects of theatricality on literary meaning.

**Key Contributors:** Erving Goffman, Richard Schechner, Antonin Artaud.

### 220. THEOLOGY AND LITERATURE

**Focus:** The investigation of religious motifs and theological doctrines in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of the ways literature engages and represents religious beliefs, the critique of religious and spiritual narrative, and the examination of literature's interaction with theological conceptions.

**Key Contributors:** Paul Ricoeur, Geoffrey H. Hartman, Harold Bloom.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 221. THEORETICAL APPROACHES TO MULTIMODAL TEXTS

**Focus:** An examination of texts with more than one mode of communication, including visual, textual, and digital components.

**Core Aspects:** The study of how various modes interact to make meaning, multimodal storytelling practices, and the critique of multimodal texts' challenge to conventional literary analysis.

**Key Contributors:** Gunther Kress, Theo van Leeuwen, Jay David Bolter.

### 222. THEORETICAL POSTHUMANISM

**Focus:** The examination of how literature reflects and challenges conventional conceptions of humanism from posthumanist positions.

**Core Aspects:** The critique of anthropocentric conceptions, the examination of non-human and artificial actors, and the examination of how literature imagines posthuman futures.

**Key Contributors:** N. Katherine Hayles, Rosi Braidotti, Cary Wolfe.

### 223. THING THEORY

**Focus:** The consideration of things in literature, specifically how non-human things affect narrative and meaning.

## Theory vs. Thesis

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of the materiality of objects, human and thing relations, and the critique of the way literature anthropomorphizes or brings to life immaterial objects.

**Key Contributors:** Bill Brown, Bruno Latour, Arjun Appadurai.

### 224. TOXIC MASCULINITY STUDIES

**Focus:** The study of masculinity in literature in terms of toxic masculinity and its social implications.

**Core Aspects:** Critique of toxic gender norms and stereotypes, discussion of how literature portrays and problematizes toxic masculine attitudes, and examination of masculinities as they relate to power and identity.

**Key Contributors:** Michael Kimmel, R.W. Connell, bell hooks.

### 225. TRANSATLANTIC LITERARY STUDIES

**Focus:** The literary relationship and exchange between the Americas and Europe.

**Core Aspects:** The study of cross-continental literary influences, the examination of transatlantic cultural and political contexts, and the critique of the ways in which transatlantic interactions construct literary traditions.

**Key Contributors:** Edward Said, Franco Moretti, Pascale Casanova.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 226. TRANSCENDENTALISM

**Focus:** A philosophical school of thought that celebrates the inherent goodness of humans and nature, commonly represented in literature.

**Core Aspects:** Belief in a higher spiritual state beyond the physical and empirical, value placed on an individual's intuition and nature.

**Key Contributors:** Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau.

### 227. TRANSCULTURAL CRITICISM

**Focus:** The critique of how cultural exchanges and hybrid identities are represented in literature.

**Core Aspects:** Cultural hybridity, migration, diaspora, and the effects of globalization on literature and identity.

**Key Contributors:** Homi K. Bhabha, Mary Louise Pratt, Kwame Anthony Appiah.

### 228. TRANSCULTURAL STUDIES

**Focus:** The examination of how cultures engage with and impact each other through literature.

**Core Aspects:** The exploration of transcultural exchanges and hybrid identities, and the critique of how literature reflects and shapes intercultural interactions.

## Theory vs. Thesis

**Key Contributors:** Michael Cronin, Ulf Hannerz, Arjun Appadurai.

### 229. TRANSGENDER STUDIES IN LITERATURE

**Focus:** The analysis of transgender identity and experience in literary works.

**Core Aspects:** The critique of cisnormativity, the discussion of transgender representation, and the examination of the ways literature engages and subverts gender norms.

**Key Contributors:** Susan Stryker, Jack Halberstam, Talia Mae Bettcher.

### 230. TRANSLATIONAL AESTHETICS

**Focus:** The research into the impact of translation processes on aesthetic values and literary forms.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of translation as artistic and aesthetic transfiguration, and the examination of the impact of translation on literary reception and understanding.

**Key Contributors:** Lawrence Venuti, Susan Bassnett, Edwin Gentzler.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 231. TRANSMEDIAL NARRATOLOGY

**Focus:** Research into those narratives that permeate across various media modes, ranging from text to film, video games, and beyond.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of how narratives are expanded and remixed across various media, cross-media storytelling strategies analysis, and the critique of transmedial narrative impacts on audience engagement.

**Key Contributors:** Henry Jenkins, Marie-Laure Ryan, Espen Aarseth.

### 232. TRANSNATIONAL FEMINISM

**Focus:** The examination of feminist concerns and gender relations beyond national borders and cultural settings.

**Core Aspects:** The study of how issues of global feminism overlap with local contexts, the deconstruction of Western-oriented feminist theory, and the investigation of transnational activism and solidarity in literature.

**Key Contributors:** Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Inderpal Grewal.

### 233. TRANSNATIONALISM

**Focus:** The analysis of literature that transgresses boundaries of nations, investigating the instability of cultural and national identities.

## Theory vs. Thesis

**Core Areas:** The critique of nationalism, the examination of literary depictions of migration and diaspora, and the discussion of global networks and cultural exchange in literature.

**Key Contributors:** Paul Gilroy, Homi K. Bhabha, Wai Chee Dimock.

### 234. TRANSVERSAL THEORY

**Focus:** Research on the intersection and interaction of multiple theoretical approaches within multiple disciplines.

**Core Aspects:** The investigation of cross-disciplinary linkages, the examination of how alternative theories signal and contradict each other, and the critique of how transversal methods enhance literary interpretation.

**Key Contributors:** Félix Guattari, Gilles Deleuze, Michel Foucault.

### 235. TRAUMA THEORY

**Focus:** Investigating how trauma is represented and processed in literature.

**Core Aspects:** Research of narrative forms which illustrate the fragmentation of traumatic memory, the function of literature in witnessing trauma, and investigation of collective and cultural trauma.

**Key Contributors:** Cathy Caruth, Shoshana Felman, Dominick LaCapra.

## Theory vs. Thesis

### 236. URBAN LITERARY STUDIES

**Focus:** The investigation of how city life and environments are portrayed in literature.

**Core Aspects:** The examination of cityscapes, urban existence, and the influence of urbanization on literary modes and themes, and the critique of how literature describes and critiques urban space.

**Key Contributors:** Edward W. Soja, Michel de Certeau, Jane Jacobs.

### 237. VIRTUAL REALITY (VR) NARRATOLOGY

**Focus:** The analysis of narrative structures and patterns in virtual reality worlds.

**Core Aspects:** The analysis of how VR remodels narrative experience, the study of interactive and immersive storytelling methods, and the critique of how virtual spaces impact narrative engagement and meaning.

**Key Contributors:** Janet Murray, Marie-Laure Ryan, David Casacuberta.

### 238. VISUAL CULTURE STUDIES

**Focus:** The examination of visual representation in literature and other media.

**Core Aspects:** The interplay between text and image, the place of visuality in narrative, and the ways that literature interacts with visual culture.

## Theory vs. Thesis

**Key Contributors:** W.J.T. Mitchell, Nicholas Mirzoeff.

### 239. VISUAL RHETORIC

**Focus:** The examination of how visual elements within texts (e.g., illustrations, typography, layout) contribute to meaning.

**Core Aspects:** Text-image interactions, visual rhetoric as persuasive force, and visual persuasion studies.

**Key Contributors:** W.J.T. Mitchell, Roland Barthes (on image analysis).

### 240. ZIZEKIAN CRITICISM

**Focus:** The use of Slavoj Žižek's combination of Lacanian psychoanalysis, Marxism, and critical theory to literary analysis.

**Core Aspects:** Ideology, the real versus the symbolic, enjoyment (jouissance), and the critique of modern culture as expressed through literature.

**Key Contributors:** Slavoj Žižek.