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## Active Citizenship

Bernard Crick and Andrew Lockyer (eds)

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This book gathers a group of political actors and academics who believe that a radically more active citizenship is a worthy aim. They spell out how it can be achieved in their particular area of concern, looking at the obstacles and how they might be overcome. Together, they show us how we can realise the dream of a citizen culture and the benefits that it would bring for democracy in the United Kingdom. The first and final chapters set the tone, respectively, on civic republicanism today and political identity. Other chapters consider active citizenship in relation to: Labour government policy; Scottish devolution; public services; gender equality; schools; multiculturalism; integrating immigrants; lifelong learning; Europe and international understanding; young people and Scottish independence.

## Contemporary Political Movements and the Thought of Jacques Rancière

Todd May

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This book shows how democratic progressive politics can happen and how it is happening in very different arenas. The author takes an intensive look at a range of contemporary political movements and shows how, to one degree or another, they exemplify the political thought of Jacques Rancière. Following an overview of Rancière's thought, the author considers the following groups: the Algerian refugee movement in Montreal for citizenship, the first Palestinian intifada, the politics of equality and identity politics in relation to the Zapatista movement, a local food co-op in South Carolina and an anarchist press

in Oakland. Essentially, the book shows how political theory and practice can enlighten one another, and in an age of cynicism, fear and despair, the author suggests that there is hope for the possibility of progressive democratic action.

## The Politics of Postanarchism

Saul Newman

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What is the relevance of anarchist thought for politics and political theory today? While many have dismissed anarchism in the past, the author of this book contends that its heretical critique of authority, and its insistence on full equality and liberty, places it at the forefront of the radical political imagination today. With the unprecedented expansion of state power in the name of security, the current 'crisis of capitalism' and the terminal decline of Marxist and social democratic projects, it is time to reconsider anarchism as a form of politics. The book seeks to renew anarchist thought through the concept of postanarchism.

## Luck Egalitarianism

Carl Knight

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How far does our responsibility for one another's well-being extend? At what point, if ever, is each person be responsible for success or failure in running their own life? How should we decide which inequalities between people are justified, and which are unjustified? One answer is that such inequalities are only justified where there is a corresponding variation in responsible action or choice on the part of the persons concerned. This view, which has become known as 'luck egalitarianism', has come to occupy a central place in recent debates about distributive justice. This book is a full-length treatment of this development in contemporary political philosophy, providing a critical survey of debates about responsibility, equality and justice. Each of its three parts addresses a key question concerning the theory. Which version of luck egalitarian comes closest to realizing luck egalitarian objectives? Does luck egalitarianism succeed as a view of egalitarian justice? Is it sound as an account of distributive justice in general? The book provides a distinctive answer to each of these questions, engaging along the way

with the leading theorists identified in the literature as luck egalitarians, such as Richard Arneson, G. A. Cohen and Ronald Dworkin, as well as the most influential critics, including Elizabeth Anderson, Marc Fleurbaey, Susan Hurley, Samuel Scheffler and Jonathan Wolff.

## The Political Thought of Jacques Rancière

Todd May

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This book is devoted entirely to the thought of Jacques Rancière. It focuses on his central political idea that a democratic politics emerges from the presupposition of equality. The book examines and extends this presupposition, offering a framework for understanding it, placing it in the current political context, and showing how it challenges traditional political philosophy and opens up neglected political paths. The book aims to show that Rancière's view offers both hope and perspective for those who seek to think about and engage in progressive political action.

## Thomas Hardy's Legal Fictions

Trish Ferguson

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This book examines how Thomas Hardy's role as an acting magistrate and his lifelong interest in the law impacted on his prose fiction. Hardy's novels and short stories are examined in the context of debates surrounding some of the seismic legal reforms of the nineteenth century, namely the birth of adversarial trial procedure, the evolving definition of legal insanity, the campaign for legal equality for married women, and heightened discussion over land law reform. This book situates Hardy's treatment of these issues in the context of debate in Parliament, the press, periodicals and sensation fiction. While noting the influence of sensation fiction on his literary output, this study argues that Hardy rejects the conventional endings of realist and sensation fiction to provoke his readership to examine legal questions which he leaves unanswered in a modernist form of training in judicial reasoning.

# Muslims and the Politics of Difference

Peter Hopkins and Richard Gale

in Muslims in Britain: Race, Place and Identities

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This chapter addresses issues regarding multiculturalism. European anxieties and phobias in relation to immigration and cultural diversity focus on Muslims more than on any other group. The relation between Muslims and the wider British society and the British state has to be seen in terms of the developing agendas of racial equality and multiculturalism. A key indicator of racial discrimination and inequality has been numerical under-representation. It is shown that while Muslims raise distinctive concerns, the logic of their demands often mirrors those of other equality-seeking groups. The issue between 'equalising upwards' and 'equalising downwards' is about the legitimacy of religion as a public institutional presence. The emergence of Muslim political agency has thrown British multiculturalism into theoretical and practical disarray. The political integration or incorporation of Muslims has become the most important goal of egalitarian multiculturalism and is pivotal in shaping the security of many people across the globe.

# Adam Smith Today

Iain McLean

in Adam Smith, Radical and Egalitarian: An Interpretation for the 21st Century

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This chapter explains that Adam Smith was in favour of liberty, of equality and of fraternity. It evaluates the uncanny similarities between the ideas of Adam Smith and those of Gordon Brown. Smith's attitude to international trade was highly controversial. His economic and social liberalism are then discussed. His radical egalitarianism derives from his acceptance of half the heritage of Andrew Melvill combined with his contempt for the other half. He also acknowledged that fraternity has a down side. Unlike the Adam Smith Institute, the (John) Smith Institute does not fill its website with quotations from Adam Smith, since that is not its purpose. Smith was quite cynical about politics. There is a particular affinity between Smith's and Brown's views on international

trade and poverty. Taking Smith's work as a whole, it is thought that he can only be classed as an egalitarian and left-wing philosopher.

## President Bush and the Economy

Graham Wilson

in *Assessing the George W. Bush Presidency: A Tale of Two Terms*

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President George W. Bush left office with the United States and the world economies in a catastrophic condition. Millions of Americans lost their homes in mortgage foreclosures, the stock market fell by 40 per cent, unemployment rose rapidly and a full-scale recession threatened. In the largest extension of government ownership of business in American history, financial institutions, such as the mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the insurance giant AIG and nine major banks passed into total or majority government control. Bush's public reputation declined with the economy. By mid-2008, only 20 per cent of Americans approved of his performance on economic policy, and three-quarters thought that Bush's policies had made the United States worse off. This chapter discusses the Bush administration's economic policy, fiscal policy, and monetary policy and regulation. It also examines economic growth and equality, the stock market crash of 2008 and the Bush team's response to the financial crisis and Bush's economic legacy.

## The State and the Politics of Truth: Alain Badiou

Oliver Marchart

in *Post-Foundational Political Thought: Political Difference in Nancy, Lefort, Badiou and Laclau*

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This chapter traces Alain Badiou's attitude to and his role within current political philosophy. It argues that Badiou can legitimately be located within the group of post-foundational theorists whose work can be labelled the 'Heideggerian Left' in current political philosophy. Yet it also shows that the post-foundational effects of his theory are limited because of some foundationalist injunctions on Badiou's part, which find expression in a certain philosophism and a particular form of ethicism

— a side-effect of his deliberate denigration of political philosophy. In French post-war thought, the traces of Martin Heidegger's influence on Badiou remain visible even where they are openly disavowed. This chapter explores Badiou's views about the state and the politics of truth, focusing on equality and justice. After discussing the concept of post-foundationalism and real politics, it considers contingency and foundationalism as well as the danger of ethicism.