This book provides an exhaustive reading of the significant yet understudied intellectual review Lignes, from 1987 to 2017, to demonstrate how it has managed to preserve and develop the legacy of French radical thought often referred to as ‘French Theory’ or ‘la pensée 68’. Whilst many studies on intellectual reviews from the 1930s to the 1980s exist, this book crucially illuminates the shifting intellectual and political culture of France since the 1980s, filling a major gap in contemporary debates on the continued relevance of French intellectuals. This book provides a strong counter-narrative to the received account that, after the anti-totalitarian ‘liberal moment’ of the late 1970s, Marxism and structuralism were completely banished from the French intellectual sphere. It provides the historical context behind the rise of such internationally renowned thinkers such as Alain Badiou, Jacques Rancière Jean-Luc Nancy, whilst placing them within an intellectual genealogy stretching back to Georges Bataille and Maurice Blanchot in the 1930s. The book also introduces the reader to lesser known but nonetheless significant thinkers, including Lignes editor Michel Surya, Dionys Mascolo, Daniel Bensaïd, Fethi Benslama, Anselm Jappe and Robert Kurz. Through the review’s pages, a novel cultural history of France emerges as intellectuals respond to pressing contemporary issues, such as the fall of Communism, the European migrant crisis and rising nationalist tensions, the globalisation of financial capitalism and the 2008 economic crisis, scandals surrounding paedophilia and the return of religious thought to France, as well as debates on literature and the political value of art.
Restaurant Republic examines the nascent restaurant landscape in Boston in its entirety, from the most plebian of eateries to the extremely elite and refined. Focusing on the rise of commercial dining in one specific city provides the opportunity to systematically explore the varied networks of public dining venues that catered to distinct groups of Americans. The story of why Americans embraced dining out and the wide variety of ways in which they began to do so is an important one. Restaurants were a major part of a growing trend in urban public venues dedicated to consumer leisure in the nineteenth century. Along with theatres, department stores, and hotels, restaurants provided a public stage at a time when, still fresh from their revolution, Americans were eager to enter into the public sphere and define themselves as a people. But perhaps more than these other public commercial spaces, restaurants were also sharply differentiated. Thus, the study of restaurant dining in this period provides an opportunity to cast new light on how Americans attempted to balance the revolutionary ideal of egalitarianism against a growing capitalist consumer culture that both reflected and contributed to social hierarchy.

Ice Cream at Howard Johnson’s
Kelly Erby
in Restaurant Republic: The Rise of Public Dining in Boston
Published in print: 2016 Published Online: May 2017
Publisher: University of Minnesota Press DOI: 10.5749/minnesota/9780816691302.003.0005
Item type: chapter

In the epilogue of Restaurant Republic, the author traces the story of commercial dining in Boston into the early twentieth century and reviews the major points of the previous chapters. The findings will be useful to those interested in exploring relationships between food, culture, and identity in other cities, as well as in our own time.

The London Restaurant, 1840-1914
Brenda Assael
Published in print: 2018 Published Online: August 2018
Publisher: Oxford University Press DOI: 10.1093/oso/9780198817604.001.0001
Item type: book

This book offers the first scholarly treatment of the history of public eating in London in the Victorian and Edwardian eras. The quotidian
nature of taking a meal in public during the working day or evening should not be allowed to obscure the significance of the restaurant (defined broadly, to encompass not merely the prestigious West End restaurant, but also the modest refreshment room, and even the street cart) as a critical component in the creation of modern metropolitan culture. The story of the London restaurant between the 1840s and the First World War serves as an exemplary site for mapping the expansion of commercial leisure, the increasing significance of the service sector, the introduction of technology, the democratization of the public sphere, changing gender roles, and the impact of immigration. The book incorporates what I term ‘gastro-cosmopolitanism’ to highlight the existence of an international, heterogeneous, and even hybrid, culture in London in this period that requires us to think, not merely beyond the nation, but beyond empire. The restaurant also had an important role in contemporary debates about public health and the (sometimes conflicting, but no less often complementary) prerogatives of commerce, moral improvement, and liberal governance. This book considers the restaurant as a business and a place of employment, as well as an important site for the emergence of new forms of metropolitan experience and identity. While focused on London, it illustrates the complex ways in which cultural and commercial forces were intertwined in modern Britain, and demonstrates the rewards of writing histories which recognize the interplay between broad, global forces and highly localized spaces.

**Combatting the Crisis**

Adrian May

in From Bataille to Badiou: Lignes, the Preservation of Radical French Thought, 1987-2017

Published in print: 2018 Published Online: May 2019


Item type: chapter

This chapter charts the political responses of Lignes in the new millennium, as securitisation methods, crises and states of exception replaced consensual liberalism as the dominant modes of governance after 9/11. Rather than the review’s normal pessimistic stance, a reshuffled editorial board instead emphasised the need to reconstruct active, political agency to resist the governments of Jacques Chirac and Nicolas Sarkozy. An issue devoted to the militant Trotskyist David Rousset set the tone at the start of the new millennium, as Rousset’s experience in combatting concentration camps prompted the review to investigate the controversial use of migrant retention centres on French
soil and theories of the State of Exception between Michel Foucault and Giorgio Agamben. New routes to active political agency are then produced, firstly via Jacques Ranciere’s account of the eruption of new political voices and sans papiers activism. Lastly, Alain Badiou’s emphasis on extra-parliamentary politics the Idea of Communism is contrasted to Daniel Bensaïd’s stress on the need for a new, militant political party in the run-up to the 2012 presidential elections.

Roast, Chop Suey, and Beer
Kelly Erby

in Restaurant Republic: The Rise of Public Dining in Boston
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The fourth chapter discusses how, in the last decades of the century, as shifting mealtimes successfully postponed the main meal until after the workday was complete, a wider range of mixed-gender cafés opened that specialized in providing more relaxed evening meals to working- and middle-class Bostonians eager to take advantage of new opportunities for commercialized leisure. Many establishments, owned by the city's now even more heterogeneous population of immigrants, specialized in “ethnic” or foreign foods, fostering ethnic-class enclaves within a larger urban environment. Indeed, opening a restaurant represented an entrée to entrepreneurship and an avenue of economic mobility for immigrant proprietors. The city's growing assortment of ethnic restaurants helped to expose Bostonians of all backgrounds to new tastes and dining rituals. Throughout the nineteenth century, Boston's restaurants thus contributed to a dynamic consumer-oriented public culture and shaped a new understanding of the role of difference in American society and culture.

And Justice for All?
Monika Gosin

in The Racial Politics of Division: Interethnic Struggles for Legitimacy in Multicultural Miami
Published in print: 2019 Published Online: January 2020
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Item type: chapter
Chapter 3 analyzes African-American responses to the Mariel boatlift in the Miami Times, a local black newspaper. The boatlift immediately followed the McDuffie Riot, an African-American uprising against the latest incident of police brutality. As the local government turned their attention to the large Cuban influx, some African-Americans feared Miami’s white dominant infrastructure would continue to ignore their concerns. The chapter reveals that the Times endorsed the idea that blacks and white Anglo were the “real Americans” and that Cubans, constructed as white, were receiving preferential treatment over black Haitian migrants. The chapter argues that the seeming disdain for Cuban immigration was a symptom of a pressing desire to challenge white supremacy and promote greater equality for all blacks in U.S. culture. However, the larger presence of Afro-Cubans among the new Cuban refugees forced African-Americans to reexamine modes of solidarity that decide group membership according to a black/white racial frame.

Framing the Balsero Crisis
Monika Gosin

in The Racial Politics of Division: Interethnic Struggles for Legitimacy in Multicultural Miami

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This chapter investigates El Nuevo Herald and Miami Times coverage of the 1994 Balsero crisis. In response to the crisis, the Clinton administration began closing the open-door welcome to Cuban refugees. The Herald conveyed Cuban-American anger and sense of betrayal, as they rallied to the Balseros’ cause. The chapter argues that the Herald capitalized on the white mainstream belief that immigrants can become “good immigrants” by demonstrating willingness to suffer for privileges rather than expect handouts. In the Times, African-Americans continued to critique the differential treatment of black Haitians and “white” Cubans, and voiced frustration that after more than a century as suffering “Americans,” blacks were still deemed unworthy citizens by white elites. Taken together, the chapter offer a critique to an unspoken rule of U.S. citizenship which requires suffering from racialized groups, and contends that interethnic conflict emerges as groups are coerced to compete over who has suffered most.
Conclusion
Monika Gosin

in The Racial Politics of Division: Interethnic Struggles for Legitimacy in Multicultural Miami

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The conclusion connects the historical analyses of previous chapters to the current Miami context, outlines the national implications of this book’s study, and offers insight into the future of scholarship on the dynamics of race in multicultural America. In regards to Miami, the chapter ponders what new demographic realities and political shifts means for the future of race relations there. In a national framework, the chapter discusses African-American and Latino conflict in light of more recent examples wherein “worthy citizenship” was invoked to pit Latino whiteness against African American blackness. Ultimately, the conclusion reminds us that as whites become the numerical minority, challenging lingering white dominant racial frames as well as structural inequities will be crucial for the forging of effective alliances between currently marginalized groups.