

CYNICAL THEORIES



*How Activist Scholarship Made Everything
about Race, Gender, and Identity
—and Why This Harms Everybody*

HELEN PLUCKROSE
& JAMES LINDSAY



CONTENTS



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

9

INTRODUCTION

11

1 POSTMODERNISM

A Revolution in Knowledge and Power

21

2 POSTMODERNISM'S APPLIED TURN

Making Oppression Real

45

3 POSTCOLONIAL THEORY

Deconstructing the West to Save the Other

67

4 QUEER THEORY

Freedom from the Normal

89

5 CRITICAL RACE THEORY AND INTERSECTIONALITY*Ending Racism by Seeing It Everywhere*

111

6 FEMINISMS AND GENDER STUDIES*Simplification as Sophistication*

135

7 DISABILITY AND FAT STUDIES*Support-Group Identity Theory*

159

8 SOCIAL JUSTICE SCHOLARSHIP AND THOUGHT*The Truth According to Social Justice*

181

9 SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION*Theory Always Looks Good on Paper*

213

10 AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE IDEOLOGY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE*Liberalism Without Identity Politics*

237

NOTES

271

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

323

INDEX

337

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

352