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Main content

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Claire Nouvet, Zrinka Stahuljak, and Kent Still, eds.
Minima Memoria: In the Wake of Jean-Francois Lyotard.
Pp. 280.
This volume is the most recent general collection of essays on the work of Jean-Francois Lyotard. In his introduction, Still suggests that the expression 'in the wake of' should be understood in the sense of tracing the passage of something through water, rather than in the sense of the literary genre of the 'wake' as memorial (xxiii). The essays collected here, he suggests, should be understood as retracing Lyotard's thought in a way which makes us 'wakeful', and which calls out for further tracings in thought. Nevertheless, there is also a sense in which this book offers itself in memorium to Lyotard, who passed away in 1998. A number of the essays here were first presented, by colleagues and friends, at a colloquium held a little over a year after his death (xviii). So, in addition to the deep engagements with Lyotard's texts and ideas which may be found in these pages, we also find anecdotes, memories, expressions of affection, and the mourning of his loss. Derrida, for example, admits that he does not feel up to making an homage to Lyotard's thought and oeuvre in the form of a philosophical contribution of his own, fit for one of the many conferences in which they took part together (10), and instead ruminates on the enigmatic phrase found in one of Lyotard's texts: 'There shall be no mourning'.

Minima...

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