

FR218: Modern French Thinkers

Week 7: Jean-Luc Nancy

Jean-Luc Nancy (1940-)



Key influences



Martin Heidegger (1889-1976)



Jacques Derrida (1930-2004)

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Deconstruction

A critical approach to philosophical texts in which internal contradictions and tensions of both the text and the philosophical system are exposed. It was most influential among academics in the USA in the 1980s.

Important in the context of Nancy

Philosophical ideas are inseparable from the writing style in which they are expressed.

Martin Heidegger (1889-1976)



Seminal Book: *Sein und Zeit* [Being and Time] (1927)

Some key concepts in the context of Nancy

- ***Dasein*** [Da-sein = there-being
Standard translation: being-there]
- ***In-der-Welt-sein*** [=in-world-being
Standard trans: Being-in-the-world]
- ***Mitsein*** [mit-sein = with-being
Standard translation: being-with]

An Exercise in Text Analysis

Nancy's *Corpus*

Please read the provided extract at least three times before responding to the following questions:

1. Analyse Nancy's writing style and the rhythm of the text.
How would you characterize his way of writing?
2. How do you think his writing style connects to what he is trying to say in this passage?
3. What are some of the ideas that he considers in the passage?