

pomo theory to practice

- Critical Sociology
- studying the new epoch of postmodernity
 - pomo methodology
 - critique admin. practices
 - critique cultural representations

- micro-politics:
- local tactics, not total strategies
 - politics of identity
 - critique of political representation
 - Anarchic tendencies

- politics as expressive:
- transgressive experimentation
 - radical cultural gestures
 - Situationalism

- politics as self-transgression:
- Foucault: reinvent body, desires
 - self as a work of art
 - mere individualism?
 - the personal element

Attempts by Marxists to bridge the gap between modernism and postmodernism

- Best & Kellner's dialectics
- Jameson's cultural logic
- Laclau & Mouffe's pomo preservation of liberal values
- Keane's institutional conditions for Lyotard's pluralism

- rejection of universals
- avoidance of oppressive critical power

TENSION between

- need for justification of some institutional forms
- some critical power

most clearly seen in Feminist interventions...

"In who's interest is it to abandon universals?"

rock: systematic oppression needs universals to critique

hard place: oppressive nature of universals

highlights problems with pomo

- λ Just convoluted cultural critique?
- λ Vagueness re politics
- λ Aestheticisation of politics
- λ Lack of critical power?
- λ Overstatement?

LECTURE 8:
Critical Theory and its Practices (iii)
R. Blaug

strong relation of this theory to actual political developments

DIY, identity, direct politics...