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Interdisciplinarity in a Poly/Centric World: the case of Canadian Studies

Abstract:

Thirty years ago, the Canadian State, at the request of many Canadian scholars, launched several initiatives in order to promote the study of Canada. Canadian Studies became over the last three decades a 'field' of research aimed first at forging networks of specialists of different disciplines working on Canada. Today, there are more than 40 institutions in Canada with Canadian Studies programs and 230 around the world. In 1996, a report on the state of Canadian Studies published by Professor David Cameron stressed out the importance of not only multidisciplinary work on Canada, but also interdisciplinary work defined as a conceptual integration of several disciplines. Ten years later, was this plea answered? Professor Cameron also raised a simple question: did the State, inadvertently, create the potential for critical subversive thinking in Canada? Looking at work produced in the last ten years in Canada in social sciences, history and literary theory, this communication will propose a critical look at several attempts to create an interdisciplinary approach using Canada as a starting point.