

Collins, Sue Collins, Michigan Technological University, United States

Towards a Cultural Studies Historiography

The analysis of power has been paramount to the cultural studies project. While histories of cultural studies have been written, what has been neglected is the methodological issue of how cultural studies approaches the production of histories. In tracing the ways in which cultural theorists have generated histories as cultural studies itself has changed, I identify corresponding instances of historical methodologies with implications for relations of power with respect to the following questions: What counts as evidence in the production of historical knowledge and claims to truth? How is evidence rationalized in the construction of authorized memories? How do we locate and deal with those memories absent from the archive? What is place of cultural theory and interpretation in helping to tell hidden or excluded histories from below? This paper charts five overlapping moments in the development of cultural studies that constitute problematics toward a cultural studies historiography.