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# شبكة المعلومات الجامعية التوثيق الالكتروني والميكروفيلم





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التوثيق الالكتروني والميكرو فيلم

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**Michel Foucault:  
A Reading of his Legacy  
in Light of Critical  
Theory**

by

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A dissertation submitted for the  
degree of Ph.D.

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2010

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## Acknowledgments

The idea for this thesis came to me originally from Professor Sahar Hamouda who suggested Michel Foucault; to her, first of all, go my thanks and acknowledgments. More than she probably realises, she has been an outstanding supervisor for the past five years. She gave the project her enthusiastic support from its inception, and throughout its various twists and turns. Her continual faith in my ability, gentle prodding and intellectual generosity have replenished me throughout and her meticulous and perceptive reading of the final draft kept me from gaffes in content and form.

As a visiting scholar at the University of Oregon during the academic year 2007/08, I was overwhelmed by the support of many people in various ways. First and foremost, had it not been for Professor Nathaniel Teich, going to the United States would not have materialized with all the new complications of student admission into American Universities. He initiated response on the American side and on my arrival gave me invaluable assistance, support and encouragement. Professor Henry Wonham, the head of the English department, steered all the paperwork and provided unconditional support and advice. Professor Tress Pyle's course on contemporary critical theory was extremely illuminating and the

intellectual discussions we had together will remain imprinted in my mind forever.

I have been fortunate over the years to belong to the English Department, whose community of dedicated staff members feeds my intellectual appetite and supports my cultural and political inclinations; it is a privilege to be a part of a group of teachers who recognize the connection between knowledge and practice and are committed to work for the welfare of their students and society at large. If anything, the English Department has been my alma mater in the truest sense of the word, a nurturing mother who has gently shaped my outlook and perspective.

I am more grateful to Professor Amira Nowaira than I can say for what she has come to represent in my life: a true scholar and dedicated teacher. Over the years, my discussions with her have been both a challenge and an inspiration. I am almost inexpressibly grateful to Professor Nazek Fahmy from whom I have benefited immeasurably. Professor Azza El-Kholy holds a special place in my heart for she has always been exceptionally generous both on an intellectual and personal level. Sincere thanks are due to Professor Essam Fatouh whose enlightening forays into literary theory have been extremely illuminating. I would also like to express my gratitude to Dr. Susan Mashaal whose poetic approach to life has taught me a great deal. A last great debt is to the late



Dr. Mahmoud Hassan. He was the first to introduce me to the world of literary criticism, a topic that was later to become my field of specialization. Over the years, he has helped me, by example and constant advice, to improve the quality of my work.

I am enormously grateful to Professor Nadia El-Kholy, from Cairo University, who was my M.A. examiner and fortunately my Ph.D. examiner too. I take this opportunity to disclose her image in my mind: a true embodiment of what a university professor should be like: broad-minded, well-read, active, punctual and extremely generous with information, time and books.

This project might still be on my desk if not for the encouragement of those closest to me. I would like to thank my father who gave me courage when interest waned and provided the final push that enabled me to finish. My mother provided unconditional love and constant companionship and offered crucial emotional support during the composition of this thesis. I am enormously grateful to my husband for his continual faith in my ability to complete this project and for his understanding, patience and support while I did so. I am also indebted to my precocious daughter who reminded me to laugh, play and read fairy tales after long hours of studying and research. Sincere thanks are due to all the members of my beloved family, Ahmed, Mai and Doaa, for their

unwavering assistance, support, and encouragement during the writing of this thesis. Last but not least, I want to express my gratitude to my colleagues in the English Department for sharing the journey and being there when needed.

## Introduction

This introduction has three objectives. First, it will shed light on the life, education and philosophical project of Michel Foucault and situate him within the context of the philosophical trends of France at his time. Second, it will offer an explanation of why Foucault has been singled out for further research and exploration by stating the objective of the dissertation. Finally, it will give a brief outline of the divisions of the chapters and their main contents.

Foucault was born on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1926, in Poitiers, a provincial city three hundred kilometers to the southwest of Paris, to Paul Foucault and Anne Malapert. In 1930, he was enrolled in the elementary class at the Lycée Henri-IV. He spent two years in the elementary class, moving into the primary class of the Lycée in 1932 and remaining there until 1936. In 1940, he transferred to the Jesuit Collège Saint-Stanislaus and received his *baccalauréat* in 1943. After the War, Foucault gained entry to the École Normale Supérieure d'Ulm in Paris, which has such a high status that it is the conventional route to an academic career in France. For instance, Henri Bergson, Jean-Paul Sartre, Jacques Derrida, Georges



Dumézil, Georges Canguilhem and Jean Hypolite are all graduates of this institution. In addition to his degree in philosophy (1948), he also earned a degree in psychology in 1949. In 1951, he obtained an *agrégation* and in 1952 a diploma in psychopathology from the Institute of Psychology in Paris.

Due to the encouragement of his teacher Louis Althusser, Foucault joined the French Communist Party from 1950 to 1953. However, he withdrew due to his disillusionment with the Soviet Union under the rule of Stalin.

After a brief career at the École Normale, he taught psychology to philosophy students at the University of Lille from 1953 to 1954. In 1954, he published his first book, Maladie Mentale et Personnalité. In the same year, he left France for Sweden to hold the position of the cultural delegate of France to the University of Uppsala. He left Uppsala in 1958 and moved to Poland to become the head of the French Centre of the University in Warsaw. He then moved to Germany to be in charge of the French Cultural Institute in Hamburg.

After these diplomatic French cultural jobs around Europe, Foucault returned to France in 1960 to complete his doctorate and hold a post in philosophy at the University of Clermont-Ferrand. In 1961, he