

## **Žižek and Political Subjectivity**

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Slavoj Žižek's philosophical writings have brought a distinctive new vocabulary and energy to bear on the theorization of political and ethical subjectivity. Drawing creatively on both philosophical and psychoanalytic resources, Žižek's work not only instigates a direct challenge to the rhetoric of post-structuralist, textual, deconstructionist approaches to (or gliding over of) subjectivity. Rather, Žižek's work actively endorses a series of problematics which are effectively foreclosed by the bulk of post-structuralist thinking. Instead of shying away from the notion of universality, Žižek champions its progressive potential. Similarly, he points to the properly revolutionary potential of what he terms the 'act', problematises in a productive, if also disturbing, way our conception of enjoyment, and so on with a series of categories or concept too easily taken for granted. In short, Žižek presents a new way of thinking our social world and our *being* in our social world. He presents, that is, a new way of thinking subjectivity.

This special issue features papers written by established scholars in the field of Žižek studies followed by Žižek's own response to these papers and an interview with him conducted in 2008.

### **Papers:**

Subject of the Event, Subject of the Act: The Difference Between Badiou's and Žižek's Systems of Philosophy - Todd McGowan

From Subject to Politics: the Žižekian Field Today - Fabio Vighi and Heiko Feldner

When the Logics of the World Collapse— Žižek With, and After, Arendt on 'Totalitarianism' – Matthew Sharpe

The Misfeeling of What Happens: Slavoj Žižek, Antonio Damasio, and a Materialist Account of Affects – Adrian Johnston

Commentary – Slavoj Žižek

### **Interview:**

Unbehagen and the subject - Slavoj Žižek interviewed by Maria Aristodemou and Stephen Frosh

### **Review articles:**

That obscured object of violence – Paul Kirby

Into God with Žižek and (Almost) Out Again – Ian Parker