The Perils of Academic Freedom
Special Issue Editors Malini Johar Schueller and Ashley Dawson

Introduction Malini Johar Schueller and Ashley Dawson 1


Area Studies and Multicultural Imperialism: The Project of Decolonizing Knowledge Malini Johar Schueller 41

The Crisis at Columbia: Academic Freedom, Area Studies, and Contingent Labor in the Contemporary Academy Ashley Dawson 63

Blacklist Redux: W. E. B. Du Bois and the Price of Academic Freedom Bill V. Mullen 85

Teaching by Candlelight Vijay Prashad 105

Academic Labor at the Crossroads? An Interview with Andrew Ross Malini Johar Schueller and Ashley Dawson 117

Tributes to Ellen Willis

An Incomplete Exchange Laura Kipnis 133

Pleasure and Freedom: Remembering Ellen Willis Alisa Solomon 135
Ward Churchill (Keetoowah Band Cherokee) is professor of American Indian studies and former chair of the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Five of his more than twenty books have received human rights writing awards, while a sixth was runner-up for the Colorado Book Award for nonfiction writing in 1996. Among the many honors he has received at the University of Colorado are the President’s University Service Award (1987), Robert L. Stearns Alumni Award for Service (1988), the Thomas Jefferson Award (1990), the College of Arts and Sciences Award for Best Writing in the Social Sciences (1992), Boulder Faculty Assembly Award for Excellence in Teaching (1994), and the Herd Award for Best Undergraduate Teacher (2005). The university administration is currently (as of fall 2006) attempting to revoke his tenure, although we are assured that this has nothing to do with his observations on 9/11.

Ashley Dawson is associate professor of English at the College of Staten Island/CUNY. His book *Mongrel Nation: Diasporic Culture and the Making of Postcolonial Britain* (University of Michigan Press) is forthcoming in spring 2007, as is the collection *Exceptional State: Contemporary U.S. Culture and the New Imperialism* (Duke University Press), coedited with Malini Johar Schueller.

Laura Kipnis is the author of *The Female Thing: Dirt, Sex, Envy, Vulnerability* (Pantheon). Her previous book was *Against Love: A Polemic* (Pantheon). She teaches at Northwestern University.

Bill V. Mullen is professor of English and director of American studies at Purdue University. He is the author of *Popular Fronts: Chicago and African American Cultural Politics, 1935–1946* (University of Illinois Press) and *Afro-Orientalism* (University of Minnesota Press). He is the editor, with Cathryn Watson, of *W. E. B. Du Bois on Asia: Crossing the World Color Line* (University Press of Mississippi). He is at work on a political biography of W. E. B. Du Bois.
Vijay Prashad is the George and Martha Kellner Professor of South Asian history and director of international studies at Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut. His most recent books are *The Darker Nations: A People’s History of the Third World* (New Press) and, edited with Teo Ballvé, *Dispatches from Latin America: Experiments against Neoliberalism* (South End). He lives in Northampton, Massachusetts, where he is on the collective of the *Diggers’ Post*.

Andrew Ross is professor of American studies in the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis at New York University. He is the author, most recently, of *Fast Boat to China: Corporate Flight and the Consequences of Free Trade; Lessons from Shanghai* (Pantheon) and *Low Pay, High Profile: The Global Push for Fair Labor* (New Press). He is the editor of several volumes, including, with Kristin Ross, *Anti-Americanism* (New York University Press).

Malini Johar Schueller is professor of English at the University of Florida, where she teaches courses on race, empire, American culture, and Asian American studies. She is the author, most recently, of *U.S. Orientalisms: Race, Nation and Gender in Literature, 1790–1890* (University of Michigan Press) and is coeditor, with Edward Watts, of *Messy Beginnings: Postcoloniality and Early American Studies* (Rutgers University Press) and, with Ashley Dawson, of *Exceptional State: Contemporary U.S. Culture and the New Imperialism* (Duke University Press). She is currently working on a book titled *Racial Politics and Postcolonial Citizenship*.

Alisa Solomon directs the arts and culture concentration in the MA program at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and is a longtime theater scholar, critic, and journalist.