

The background features a series of concentric circles in light gray, some solid and some dashed, creating a ripple effect. A large, solid red speech bubble is centered on the page, pointing downwards. The text is contained within this bubble.

What is a Minor Literature

An introduction for everyone

Roadmap

- Definition
- Authors/Background
- Method
- School of Thought
- What is “minor literature”
- Application

The background of the slide features several thin, curved lines in a light gray color, some solid and some dashed, creating a sense of movement and depth. On the left side, there is a large red speech bubble with a tail pointing towards the bottom left. Inside the speech bubble, the words "Minor Literature" are written in a white, sans-serif font, with "Minor" on the top line and "Literature" on the bottom line.

Minor Literature

- “Minor literature” is the politicization of literature from voices/perspectives that undoes and challenges aesthetic and ideological norms.

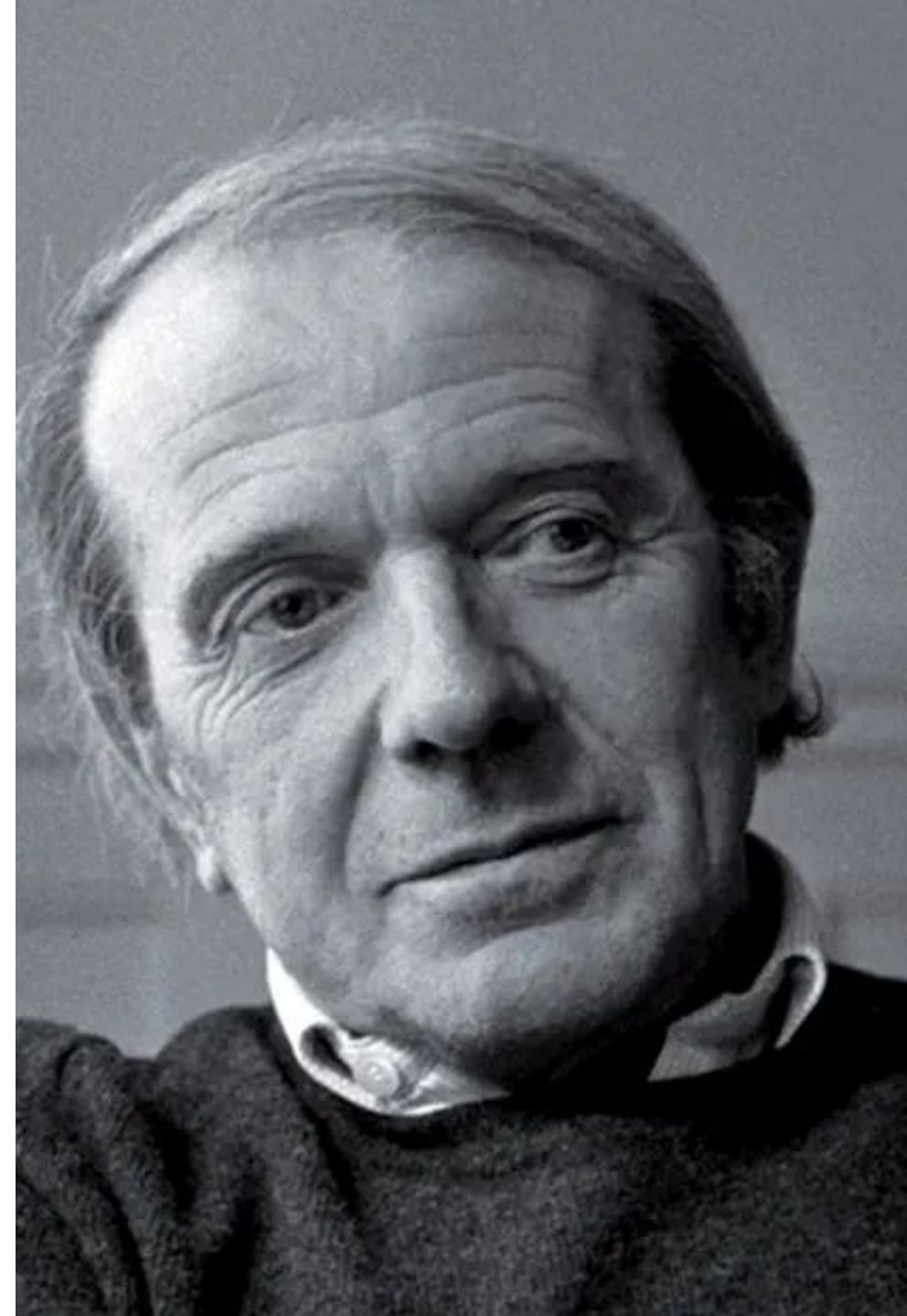
Gilles Deleuze

French philosopher (1925-1995)

Influences: Spinoza, Nietzsche, Bergson

Transcendental Empiricism (inverting Kant's transcendental idealism)

“experience exceeds our concepts by presenting novelty, and this raw experience of difference actualizes an idea, unfettered by our prior categories, forcing us to invent new ways of thinking”



Felix Guattari

French psychoanalyst (1930-1992)

Studied under and psychoanalyzed by Jacques Lacan

Who called for a “return to Freud” in the 1950s

Worked at an experimental psychiatric clinic (La Borde)

“Schizoanalysis”

Set of theories aims to allow for difference and individuality instead of reducing individuals to preexisting pathologies

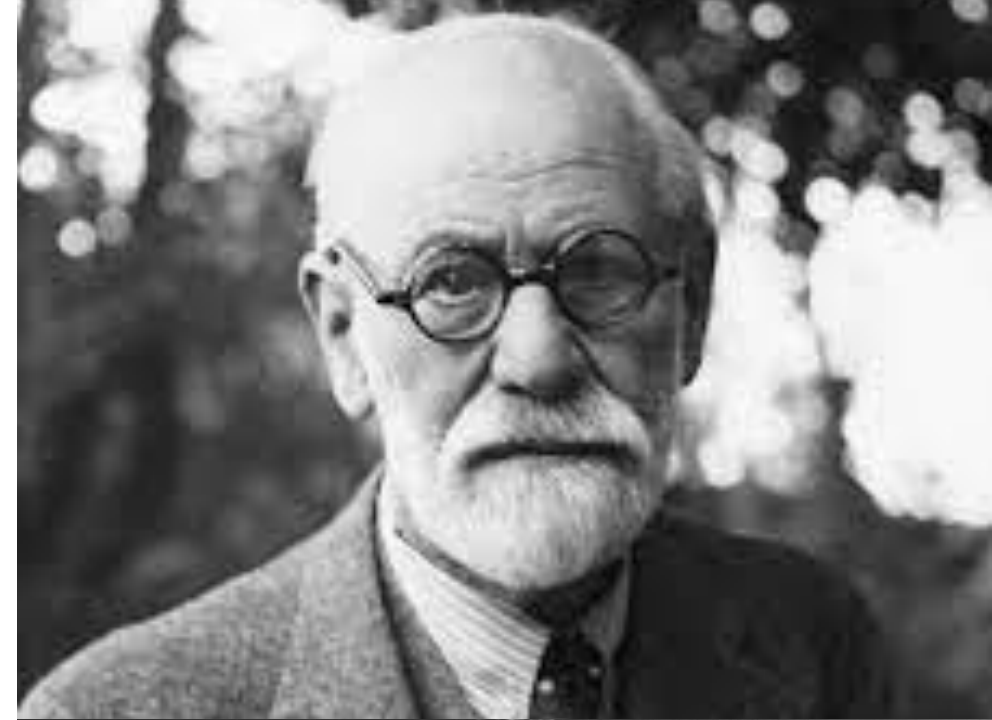


Deleuze and Guattari's Method

Synthesis of **Marx and Psychoanalysis**

How Desire and Political action meet

How the Oedipal Complex is a political concern.



Poststructuralism

- D&G's School of Thought
- Rejection of/response to Structuralism
 - Structuralism: general theory in Humanities/Social Sciences that aims to uncover human behavior by understanding that all human elements are interrelated in a broader system/structure
- Poststructuralists rejects the structuralist approach of understanding the world through preexisting, socially constructed structures (e.g. binary oppositions)

- From Deleuze and Guattari's *Kafka: Toward a Minor Literature* (1986)
- Franz Kafka
 - *Metamorphosis, The Trial, The Castle*
- As a theory, “minor literature” counters then established literary aesthetic norms



Minor
Literature

Minor Literature

The three characteristics of minor literature

1. The deterritorialization of the language

2. The connection of the individual and the political

3. The collective arrangement of utterance.

The background features a stylized illustration of two figures from the chest up, facing each other. Their hair is depicted as a dense, tangled mass of black lines. The figure on the left wears a shirt with vertical stripes in shades of yellow and white. The figure on the right wears a shirt with horizontal stripes in shades of green and white. A large, solid red rectangular area is superimposed over the center of the image, containing text.

Minor Literature

1. The deterritorialization of the language

- “minor literature is not the literature of a minor language but the literature a minority makes in a major language. But the primary characteristic of a minor literature involves all the ways in which the language is effected by a strong co-efficient of deterritorialization.”
- Consider how non-native and/or multilingual speakers play with language
- Not a negative/deficient quality



Minor Literature

2. The connection of the individual and the political

- “It is in this sense that the family triangle is connected to other commercial, economic, bureaucratic, and judicial triangles which determine its value.”

Consider how a novel about a divorce is equally about relationships (psychology), money (economic/capital), law (judicial), etc.



Minor Literature

3. The collective arrangement of utterance.

- “The third characteristic is that everything has a collective value”
- Speaks for communal action (i.e. never individual)
- One’s writing is always speaking for others/community



Application

- Literary theory

- Rethinks how a critic/scholar can/should read literature
- Reconsider literature that is considered apolitical as political
- Instead of assuming literary and aesthetic norms, understand a literary work “on its own terms”

- Education

- Provides a framework to understand how non-native (L2 students) and/or multilingual students and writers engage with the given “dominant” language
- How linguistic difference and multiplicity informs one’s perspective