

Valediction for Tod

John Kaye

SUMMARY: In 1998, Tod Sloan and John Kaye discussed cultural visionaries who search for meaning, purpose and new transcendent understandings of human affairs. In 2019 John positions Tod as just such a visionary who defied the policing of psy by the Guardians of the Realm.

KEY WORDS: cultural heroes; critical theory.

During the International Multicultural Conference *Postmodernism in Practice* that I convened in 1998, Tod Sloan and I were discussing the continued (r)evolution of thought in the Social Sciences. He was particularly enthused by breakthroughs in understanding of social phenomena enabled by the perspectives offered by Critical Theory, Poststructuralism, Social Constructionism, Discourse Analysis and Deconstruction.

Our conversation turned to the role of intellectual innovation brought about by thinking laterally or ‘outside the square’ in throwing fresh light on matters physical as well as on human concerns and the socio-cultural forces in which people are enmeshed. In this regard Tod posited the notion of Cultural Heroes – those profound thinkers who altered, fundamentally and forever, our conceptions of the physical world, the socio-cultural world and our understanding of human affairs, human strivings, motivations, struggles and searches for meaning, purpose and transcendence. He pointed out that the three great Cultural Heroes of the 20th Century were Einstein, Marx and Freud all of whom transcended established paradigmatic thinking in their fields thereby revealing or bringing to light the previously unseen – Einstein the Physical, Marx the politico-sociocultural and Freud the unconscious psychodynamics of experience.

John Kaye convened the International Multicultural Conference *Postmodernism in Practice* in 1998, co-convened the *Millennium World Conference in Critical Psychology* in 1999 with Valerie Walkerdine and contributed to Tod Sloan's seminal *Critical Psychology: Voices for Change* in 2000

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