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Ghassan Hage

University of Melbourne

On the Production and Circulation of Anthropological Theory

One can take this paper to be a glorified whinge. In my recent work *The Diasporic Condition* (2021) I worked hard to show that one does not need to break with the classical "primitivist" anthropological tradition to study things like "mobility" and "migration" as people often do. That this tradition still offers us generalized theoretical and empirical insights that we can usefully deploy analytically no matter how "modern" or "post-modern" our field of research is. In doing so, however, my hope was that this goes both ways: to argue that classical anthropological theory works for diasporic studies is to also argue that diasporic studies can be the space for the generation of classical anthropological theory. Nonetheless and even though it is still early days — and here comes my whinge — it seems, that my work has been treated so far not so much as a contribution to "anthropology in general" as I hoped it would but precisely as something that can be only of interest to people concerned with "Diaspora" and "migration". In this paper, I will reflect on the dialectic between specific and transposable theorizing present in the book, particularly in relations to issues of ontology and perspectivism. I will use this to raise what I hope will be interesting questions to discuss about the politics of the production and circulation of anthropological knowledge, questions that are similar and yet different from those raised by the "decolonial" turn.

Ghassan Hage is professor of anthropology at the University of Melbourne and a senior research fellow at the Max Planck Institute of Social Anthropology in Halle. He has produced influential works on questions of racism, nationalism, multiculturalism, migration and environmental crisis as well as books concerned with anthropological theory. His most recent works include *Alter-Politics: Critical Anthropology and the Radical Imagination* (2015), *Is Racism an Environmental Threat* (2017), *The Diasporic Condition* (2021), *Decay* (2021) and most recently *The Racial Politics of Australian Multiculturalism* (2023).

Weitere Informationen: www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de

THE
DIASPORIC
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OF THE LEBANESE
IN THE WORLD
GHASSAN HAGE

Book Cover:
*The Diasporic
Condition*,
University of
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2021