

The Chomsky-Foucault Debate: On Human Nature, 2015, 402 pages, 9781595586575, Noam Chomsky, Michel Foucault, The New Press, 2015

Tonight's debaters are Mr. Michel Foucault, of the College de France, and Mr. Noam Chomsky, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Both philosophers have points in common and points of difference. Perhaps the best way to compare both philosophers would be to see them as tunnellers through a mountain working at opposite sides of the same mountain with different tools, without even knowing if they are working in each other's direction. So my first question is to you Mr. Chomsky, because you often employ the concept of human nature, in which connection you even use terms like "innate ideas" and "innate structures". Which arguments can you derive from linguistics to give such a central position to this concept of human nature? Their debate was one of the most provocative and original debates to have occurred between contemporary philosophers and serves as a concise introduction to their respective philosophical theories. While the debate began rooted in linguistics and theory of knowledge (the core interests of the two philosophers who are arguably the defining academic minds of the late twentieth-century) it became a much wider discussion, encompassing topics from history and behaviourism to creativity, freedom and the struggle for political justice. Noam Chomsky is a political activist, linguist, analytic philosopher and the author of over 150 books. Michel Foucault was a philosopher and historian of ideas who is now one of the most influential thinkers of the last 50 years. THE CHOMSKY-FOUCAULT DEBATE 1. Human Nature: Justice vs. Power A Debate Between Noam Chomsky and Michel Foucault FONS ELDERS: Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the third debate of the International Philosophers' Project. Tonight's debaters are Mr. Michel Foucault, of the Collège de France, and Mr. Noam Chomsky, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Read The Chomsky-Foucault Debate: On Human Nature. Related Content: Hear Michel Foucault's Lecture "The Culture of the Self," Presented in English at UC Berkeley (1983). Open Culture scours the web for the best educational media. We find the free courses and audio books you need, the language lessons & educational videos you want, and plenty of enlightenment in between. Advertise With Us. On Human Nature. Noam Chomsky. Michel Foucault. Two of the twentieth century's most influential thinkers debate a perennial question. "[Chomsky is] arguably the most important intellectual alive." The New York Times. "Foucault . . . leaves no reader untouched or unchanged." Edward Said. In addition to the debate itself, this volume features a newly written introduction by noted Foucault scholar John Rajchman and includes substantial additional texts by Chomsky and Foucault. Topics: Philosophy. Sociology. Books by these authors. The Essential Foucault. Selections from Essential Works of Foucault, 1954-1984. Michel Foucault, Paul Rabinow, Nikolas Rose. Ethics.