

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910818774403321
Autore	Williams Jeffrey <1958->
Titolo	How to be an intellectual : essays on criticism, culture, and the university // Jeffrey J. Williams
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York : , : Fordham University Press, , 2014 ©2014
ISBN	0-8232-6381-9 0-8232-6643-5 0-8232-6383-5 0-8232-6384-3
Edizione	[First edition.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (viii, 216 pages)
Classificazione	LIT006000EDU015000EDU040000
Disciplina	801/.950973
Soggetti	Criticism - United States Intellectuals - United States Literature - Study and teaching (Higher) - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction Introduction -- 1. How to Be an Intellectual: Rorty v. Ross -- 2. The Retrospective Tenor of Recent Theory -- 3. The Rise of the Theory Journal -- 4. How Critics Became Smart -- 5. Publicist Intellectuals -- 6. The Ubiquity of Culture -- 7. Credibility and Criticism: On Walter Benn Michaels -- 8. The Statistical Turn in Literary Criticism -- 9. Prodigious Critics: Bloom, Fish, and Greenblatt -- 10. A Life in Criticism: M. H. Abrams -- 11. Bellwether: J. Hillis Miller -- 12. The Political Theory License: Michael Walzer -- 13. The Critic as Wanderer: Terry Eagleton -- 14. From Cyborgs to Animals: Donna Haraway -- 15. Intellectuals and Politics: Stefan Collini -- 16. The Editor as Broker: Gordon Hutner -- 17. Gaga Feminism: Judith "Jack" Halberstam -- 18. Book Angst -- 19. The Pedagogy of Debt -- 20. Student Debt and the Spirit of Indenture -- 21. The Academic Devolution -- 22. The Neoliberal Bias of Higher Education -- 23. The University on Film -- 24. The Thrill Is Gone -- 25. Unlucky Jim -- 26. Academic Opportunities Unlimited -- 27. The Pedagogy of Prison -- 28. Shelf Life -- 29.

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Sommario/riassunto

Over the past decade, Jeffrey J. Williams has been one of the most perceptive observers of contemporary literary and cultural studies. He has also been a shrewd analyst of the state of American higher education. *How to Be an Intellectual* brings together noted and new essays and exemplifies Williams's effort to bring criticism to a wider public. *How to Be an Intellectual* profiles a number of critics, drawing on a unique series of interviews that give an inside look at their work and careers. The book often looks at critical thought from surprising angles, examining, for instance, the history of modern American criticism in terms of its keywords as they morphed from sound to rigorous to smart. It also puts in plain language the political travesty of higher education policies that produce student debt, which, as Williams demonstrates, all too readily follow the model of colonial indenture, not just as a metaphor but in actual point of fact. *How to Be an Intellectual* tells a story of intellectual life since the culture wars. Shedding academic obscurity and calling for a better critical writing, it reflects on what makes the critic and intellectual—the accidents of careers, the trends in thought, the institutions that shape us, and politics. It also includes personal views of living and working with books.

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