

Discussion + Book Presentation
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What Can Be Done about Semantic Perversion?

With Robert Harvey and Sverre Raffnsøe



Image credit: Flag Face, Circa 1890 American Flag (Infamous), 2019. Courtesy of Andres Serrano and Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Paris/Brussels

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Today's communication produces an incredible amount of what could be described as 'semantic perversion'. Moreover, it seems that the critical faculties of too many people have been dulled, dried up, and withered. These conditions make people particularly susceptible to demagoguery, to enslavement by perverse power. The discussion, based on the book *Rhetoric of Manipulation* by Robert Harvey, centres on a frank exposure of vicious discursive practices and the gullibility that accompanies them; it aims to address the damage already done, to help reverse the trend and improve the current situation in view of a far more ethical immediate future.