

How “Woke-ism” Threatens Academic Freedom



Public Lecture with Frances Widdowson

ZOOM!

Wednesday, February 1, 2023, ~~4:30-6:00 p.m.~~

~~University of Lethbridge
Anderson Hall, Room 175~~

Lecture Overview

- What is academic freedom?
- What is “woke-ism”?
- “Woke” controversies at MRU
- University of Lethbridge case study
- What is to be done?

The Woke Academy



How Advocacy Studies Murder Scholarship and
Effective Policy Development

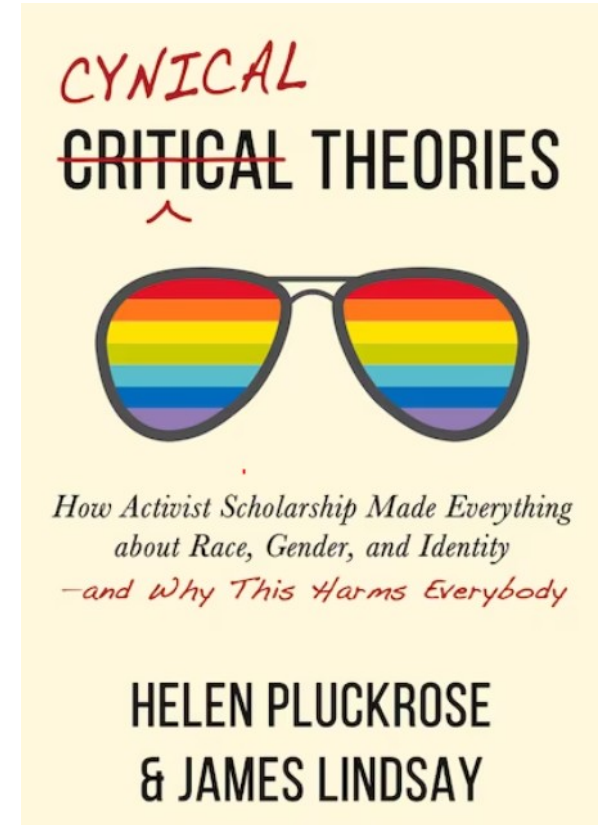
Frances Widdowson

What is Academic Freedom?

- “the right, without constriction by prescribed doctrine, to freedom of teaching and discussion, freedom in carrying out research and disseminating and publishing the results thereof, freedom to express freely their opinion about the institution or system in which they work, freedom from institutional censorship and freedom to participate in professional or representative academic bodies” (UNESCO, 1997).

What is “Woke-ism”?

- “Reified postmodernism”
 - Replacing objectivity with subjectivity
 - Oppressed identities must be “made real”
- “A De-Enlightenment Project” (Albert Howard)



“Woke” Controversies at MRU

- Armin Navabi
- Meghan Murphy
- Mark Hecht
- Barbara Barnes
- Frances Widdowson



ONLY SOME
~~YOU~~
BELONG
HERE

University of Lethbridge Case Study

- Two Change.Org Petitions
- Education Undergraduate Society
- Indigenous Studies Department
- Caroline Hodes (Gender Studies Professor)
- Mike Mahon (University of Lethbridge President)



What Is To Be Done?

- Support for my case (reinstatement)
- Opposing official political statements
- Organizing the faculty
- Electing administrators
- Communicating with the public
- A principled defense is needed

