



## Gilles Deleuze & Félix Guattari: Intersecting Lives

*François Dosse (Translation) , Deborah Glassman (Translator)*

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In May 1968, Gilles Deleuze was an established philosopher teaching at the innovative Vincennes University, just outside of Paris. Félix Guattari was a political militant and the director of an unusual psychiatric clinic at La Borde. Their meeting was quite unlikely, yet the two were introduced in an arranged encounter of epic consequence. From that moment on, Deleuze and Guattari engaged in a surprising, productive partnership, collaborating on several groundbreaking works, including "Anti-Oedipus," "What Is Philosophy?" and "A Thousand Plateaus."

François Dosse, a prominent French intellectual known for his work on the Annales School, structuralism, and biographies of the pivotal intellectuals Paul Ricoeur, Pierre Chaunu, and Michel de Certeau, examines the prolific if improbable relationship between two men of distinct and differing sensibilities. Drawing on unpublished archives and hundreds of personal interviews, Dosse elucidates a collaboration that lasted more than two decades, underscoring the role that family and history--particularly the turbulent time of May 1968--play in their monumental work. He also takes the measure of Deleuze and Guattari's posthumous fortunes and the impact of their thought on intellectual, academic, and professional circles.

## Gilles Deleuze & Félix Guattari: Intersecting Lives Details

Date : Published 2010 by Columbia University Press (first published 2007)

ISBN : 9780231145602

Author : François Dosse (Translation) , Deborah Glassman (Translator)

Format : Hardcover 651 pages

Genre : Philosophy, Biography, Nonfiction, Cultural, France, History, Literature, 21st Century

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## From Reader Review Gilles Deleuze & Félix Guattari: Intersecting Lives for online ebook

### Mark says

I love Deleuze and Guattari! Love! So a biography is something I treasure. I don't think Dosse's discussion of their philosophy is the greatest I've ever read, but the opportunity to learn some of the details of their lives and loves was a sheer delight.

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### Alex Obrigewitsch says

How does one write a book when one is more than one, when one is a multiplicity? This is one of the questions that the assembled partnership of Deleuze and Guattari brings to the fore.

The answer, it would seem, is through letters.

Dosse's work sketches out the lives of these two thinkers, as well as providing general overviews of their works (both together and individually). What earns this work its encomiums is how it drags Guattari out from the oblivion that many thinkers and writers have lost him in by mentioning only Deleuze. Dosse does a wonderful job of unearthing how many of the conceptual whirlwinds that rage throughout Capitalism and Schizophrenia were brought forth by Félix and not Gilles. Guattari and his thinking profoundly affected Deleuze and set his already creative philosophy down a multiplicity of lines of flight.

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### Jacob says

Dosse's book on Deleuze and Guattari is both a biography and a primer, as he moves through the men's lives he takes time to explain their theoretical output and devotes plenty of effort to making some concepts clear for those not familiar with them.

The biggest gripe I have is with the translator, not Dosse. It makes absolutely no sense to use terms like arrangement or faceness when the Anglophone readership of DG's work will be familiar with these concepts as assemblage and faciality from having read the Capitalism and Schizophrenia volumes.

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### Gary Eddy says

Intersecting Lives is a double biography of a rhizomic friendship, so it emerges in startling colors from all the cracks in the edifice. Only double that. Dosse does a great job organizing the central ideas of Cap and Schiz and tracing them through their permutations at LeBorde Clinic or in Deleuze's most arcane searches and stunning arguments. It's a nice reading of the role of Guattari in May '68 and the stunning role of G's anti-psychiatry, his development of Micropolitics. It helps me to understand the way they think. I also have drafts of four poems in the endpapers.

## **HAMZA AL-AMEER says**

In May 1968, Gilles Deleuze was an established philosopher teaching at the innovative Vincennes University, just outside of Paris. Félix Guattari was a political militant and the director of an unusual psychiatric clinic at La Borde. Their meeting was quite unlikely, yet the two were introduced in an arranged encounter of epic consequence. From that moment on, Deleuze and Guattari engaged in a surprising, productive partnership, collaborating on several groundbreaking works, including "Anti-Oedipus," "What Is Philosophy?" and "A Thousand Plateaus."

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## **Jordan says**

A very well done bio with an informed author. As much a biography of their lives as their ideas, and I learned a fair amount, including why D&G took off so much in Italy and their influence on Italian Marxism.

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## **John says**

Fantastic behind the scenes look at the left in Europe in the 60s-70s. Chapter on the crackdown in Italy, in 1977...a revelation. Americans can see the ancestors of Homeland Security.

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## **Martin Ledstrup says**

I was hoping for an exiting contextualization of the philosophical encounter between Deleuze and Guattari, but after 200 pages, I had to stop: the English is horrible because it stays too close to the French syntax, and either the author or the translator (or both) are clearly struggling to even make sense of the philosophy. The translation, at times, is simply weird, for instance: why call Marcel Proust's great novel 'In Search of Things Past' when 1) there is no such title in English and 2) it doesn't even translate precisely the French title? Don't waste your money on this book.

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## **Niklas says**

The cruel truth is that both Deleuze and Guattari led pretty boring lives. And you can hardly hold it against

them, since they both acknowledged that. Interesting to see though how they took-off in Italy. The discussion of Deleuze's cinema-books is alright, but Logique and D&R were either too much for Dosse, or, for some odd reason, he found them moot and thus discussed only the more superficial tidbits.

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## Robinson says

I persisted with this one for a while but it's hamstrung by a translation that doesn't match with existing anglophone scholarship (e.g. 'arrangement' is used instead of 'assemblage'), Dosse's inability to give a clear account of some of the more complex works, and the fact that D&G aren't really interesting enough to sustain a biography of this length. There were enough little tidbits to keep me going for a while, especially in Dosse's account of their early years, but it falls far short of something like Roudinesco's excellent biography of Lacan in both intellectual and entertainment value.

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## Maxwell says

Deleuze was resistant to biographical accounts of his life, saying "academics' lives are seldom interesting"--well I disagree with Deleuze on several à la mode problematics, including this one. Dosse's biography is interesting.

You get to know Deleuze and Guattari very well over the 500+ pages of *Intersecting Lives*. Deleuze comes across especially well. He is patient, courteous, hard working--a loyal friend & an assiduous teacher--erudite, creative and brilliant. There may be a slight bias here, on my part or the author's, but I admired Deleuze immensely when I put this biography down. Guattari is more uneven; a disputatious womanizer who's personal life didn't always live up to his lofty revolutionary ideals, but none the less impressive, dynamic & indefatigable. We get to know Guattari as a flawed man but a tireless political militant and energetic & original thinker, finally illuminated from the pitch-black expanses of Deleuze's intellectual shadow--Dosse portrays Guattari as his co-author's equal. The bricolage of their influence too-often overlooks Guattari and is tabulated merely as 'Deleuzianism'.

More to the point there are long bibliographies of Deleuze & Guattari's influences--itineraries of the books they read and how they read them. The itemizations of intertextual encounters are the most interesting parts of the book. Further, this is a good companion not only to the Deleuze & Guattari oeuvre, but the entire 20th century French political / philosophical milieu. There are extended treatments of Lacan, Foucault, Badiou, the New Philosophers and many others. The last few chapters investigating the global legacy & influence of D&G provide many lines of flight for readers to follow.

But the biography itself has limitations. Dosse's long readings of Deleuze and Guattari's texts will not be for everyone--I was at odds with several of his interpretations. And I got impatient with the surplus of detail on the harlequin retinues of French communist cells surrounding Guattari; the back-and-forth of their snide in-fighting can become at times *violently* boring. I was also hoping for more information on the co-authorship of the *Capitalism & Schizophrenia* books and was disappointed by the scarcity of detail on their writing process.

But it's well researched and fun to read, if perhaps a little too long. Probably not essential but recommended to any reader of Deleuze & Guattari.

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### **Dylan Groves says**

full of interesting personal tidbits (lacan the charlatan, classroom wars of badiou and deleuze, foucault's competitive streak, institutional psychiatry at la borde).

otherwise, not a very clear introduction to D+G's thought, not very well written, and full of lots of uninteresting anecdotes. better to read a review that extracts the tidbits from the the tedium.

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### **David M says**

I've never been able to get much from reading Deleuze and/or Guattari. Nonetheless, I enjoyed this biography a great deal.

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### **Ken Sparling says**

this book is hard for me to read, stuff I haven't ever encountered. I'm maybe three quarters of the way through and taking a haitus. Definitely worth reading, though. When I manage to fall under its spell, it amazes me. I'll go back!

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