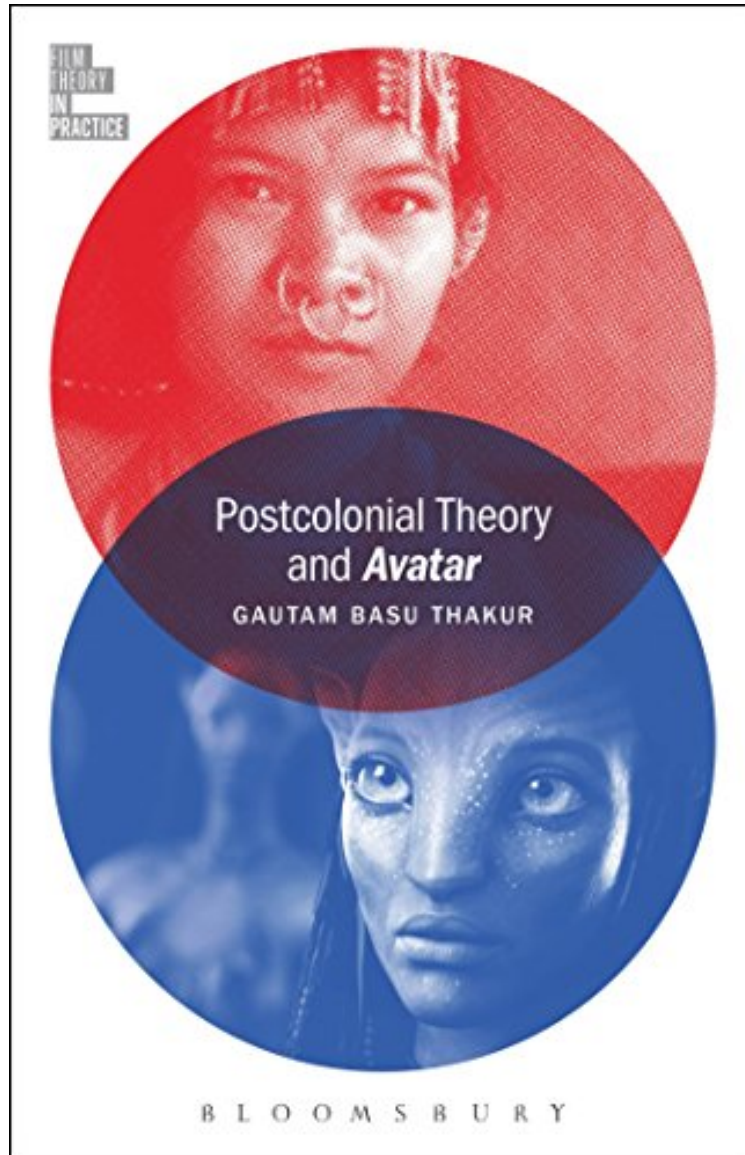


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## Postcolonial Theory and Avatar (Film Theory in Practice)

*Gautam Basu Thakur*

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**Gautam Basu Thakur : Postcolonial Theory and Avatar (Film Theory in Practice)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Postcolonial Theory and Avatar (Film Theory in Practice):

The Film Theory in Practice series fills a gaping hole in the world of film theory. By marrying the explanation of a film theory with the interpretation of a film, the volumes provide discrete examples of how film theory can serve as the basis for textual analysis. The second book in the series, *Postcolonial Theory and Avatar* offers a concise introduction to postcolonial theory in jargon-free language and shows how this theory can be deployed to interpret James Cameron's high-grossing, immensely popular, and critically acclaimed 2009 film. *Avatar* is widely celebrated for its politically and culturally sensitive critique of the West's neocolonial wars and exploitation of the global south an allegory for (neo)colonialism and for highlighting the plight of tribal communities throughout the world (for instance, the case of the Dongriah Kondh tribe of India). At the same time, it has been also criticized for repeating the colonialist fantasy of saving natives doomed by imperialist aggression. Intervening in this debate over how to read the film, Basu Thakur focuses on issues of representations, discourse, subalternity, and subjectivity, all of which have been central to postcolonial theory and postcolonial analyses of culture. This history will help students and scholars who are eager to learn more about this important area of theory and bring the concepts of postcolonial theory into practice through a detailed interpretation of the film.

This erudite and brilliantly provocative book takes us on a familiar journey through the history of post-colonial theory in order to end up in a new place: a critique not of colonialism but instead of the new Eurocentric neo-liberal, globalized subject. Basu Thakur teases us by juxtaposing James Cameron's *Avatar* with Michael Haneke's *Caché*. Of these two, it is *Caché* that surprisingly ends up with the post-colonial laurels for expressing what it is to be 'truly imagined by other worlds,' whereas *Avatar* is dismissed for re-presenting the fantasy of otherness that supplements the West's on-going performance of its own politically correct, neo-liberal subjectivity. This book will outrage even as it informs, adding new fire to the criticism of what Basu Thakur calls 'the West's unending imaginative vacuity about otherness.' Henry Krips, Professor of Cultural Studies and Andrew W. Mellon All-Claremont Chair of Humanities, Claremont Graduate University, USA  
About the Author  
Gautam Basu Thakur is Assistant Professor of English at Boise State University, USA. His teaching and research interests include postcolonial literature and theory, transnational/world literature, critical theory with a particular focus on Freudian-Lacanian psychoanalysis, and nineteenth- and twentieth-century British literature of the Empire.