

Riotous Epistemology: Open Referentiality and Reconfigured Temporalities in AK Thompson's *Black Bloc, White Riot*

Robert F. Carley¹

This paper suggests that AK Thompson's text be viewed through the twin lenses of what I describe as "open referentiality" and "reconfigured temporalities" in order to broadly understand the pedagogical and epistemological contributions of his work. I argue that Thompson's work, at the pedagogical level, provides several reference points through which readers are invited to consider how theories, concepts, and the traditions that they are embedded in can be reinterpreted in the context of contemporary forms of social struggle, protest, demonstrations, and direct action. I connect the pedagogical aspects of Thompson's work to their epistemological underpinnings arguing that Thompson's work produces a phenomenology of thought and action that, taken in consort with his pedagogical invitation to reconsider aspects of radical and critical traditions, provides a riot in the epistemological frameworks that settle or partition (radical and critical) traditions of thought. I explore this idea by discussing how *Black Bloc White Riot* provided a means for me to rethink the contributions of Antonio Gramsci to contemporary social movement studies. [Article copies available for a fee from *The Transformative Studies Institute*. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2021 by *The Transformative Studies Institute*. All rights reserved.]

KEYWORDS: AK Thompson, *Black Bloc White Riot*, Critical Theory, Radical Theory, Direct Action, Antonio Gramsci.

¹ **Robert F. Carley** is Associate Professor of International Studies at Texas A&M University, College Station. He is the author of *Culture and Tactics: Gramsci, Race, and The Politics of Practice* (State University of New York Press, 2019), *Autonomy, Refusal, and The Black Bloc: Positioning Class in Critical and Radical Theory* (Rowman & Littlefield International, 2019), and *Collectivities: Politics at the Intersections of Disciplines* (Rowman & Littlefield/Lexington Books 2016). He is in the process of publishing his next book: *Metaconjuncture: Cultural Studies Methodology and Political Strategy*. Address correspondence to: Robert Carley, Texas A&M University, Department of International Studies, College Station, Texas; e-mail: carley@tamu.edu.