understood as a breakdown in the ability to represent reality, or (in Jameson's language, borrowed from Kevin Lynch), to create cognitive maps of capitalism. Nor can it be seen as the replacement of that reality by simulacra or the pseudo-real. For the capitalist economy was always a construction, a system of representation—an object constructed out of professional economics, the broader discourse of social science, monetary policy, national frontiers, and numerous other interrelated discursive practices. What has happened is that the multiplication and intensification of the processes of representation (such as the growth of the service sector, as commodified representations are called, and the globalization of finance), has made it increasingly difficult to sustain the effect that economic discourse refers to a real, self-contained space that one can identify and map as the economy.

Selected Bibliography


References Cited