

**Becoming Light: Releasing Woolf from the Modernists Through  
the Theories of Giles Deleuze and Félix Guattari**

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**Abstract**

Critics of Virginia Woolf's fiction have tended to focus their arguments on one of the following five cruxes: Woolf's personal biography, the role of art, the nature of reality, the structure of her novels, or they focus their arguments on gender-based criticism. Often, when critics attempt to explain Woolf through any of these categories, they succeed in constructing borders around her writing that minimize the multiplicities outside them.

Post-structuralist theory helps to open up difference in Woolf's writing, specifically, the theories of Giles Deleuze and Félix Guattari. Their book, *A Thousand Plateaus*, allows readers of Woolf's novel, *To the Lighthouse*, outside the confines some past critics have put around it. I apply select Deleuze and Guattarian metaphors to Woolf's *To the Lighthouse* in order that multiplicities of the novel stand out. The Deleuze and Guattarian metaphors that are most successful in opening up difference in *To the Lighthouse* are strata; the Body without Organs; becoming; milieu and rhythm; and smooth and striated spaces.

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