

[*21] Truth is a viable competitor *vis a vis* power in a text- or author-based economy of interpretation. It is not necessarily enfeebled in a reader-based economy. What ends up doing that, though, is a popularized perversion of the concept of “relativity.” Relativity, whether from Einstein or continental reading theorists in the 70s and 80s does not mean that anything anyone sees or says about something is equal. When the relativity of positionality gets transported into the moderately illiterate idiot boxes of politics and the media (how many politicians have read Jacques Derrida or Wolfgang Iser?), where language has no necessary connection to anything demonstrable, it warrants a kind of free-for-all in which if there is any truth left, it is the manque version of “truth” that gets created when you repeat something over and over and over, like “the steal,” or “the deep state” or “a witch hunt,” until it becomes “real” enough to serve as the inciter of fear and an engraved invitation to the nearest hole for the frightened rabbit to dart down.