## Contents

Preface Acknowledgements

	Introduction: the contemporary reconfiguring of social theory	1
Part I	Resisting difference: the malaise of the human sciences	
1	The political unconscious of the human sciences	21
2	The end of sociological theory	43
3	Relativizing sociology: the challenge of cultural studies	61
4	The refusal of sexual difference: queering sociology	81
5	Difference troubles: the flight of sociology from "otherness"	97
Part II	Engaging difference: from lesbian and gay studies to queer theory	
6 7	Identity and politics in a "postmodern" gay culture Deconstructing queer theory, or, some difficulties in a	109
	theory and politics of difference	139
Part II	Democratic prospects: the politics of knowledge and identity	
8	Transfiguring sexual identity: AIDS and the cultural politcs	
	of sexuality and homosexuality, 1981-1986	165
9	From gay ethnicity to queer politics: the renewal of gay	
	radicalism in the United States	185
10	Postmodern anxiety: the politics of epistemology	198
11	The politics of sexual difference in late twentieth-century	
	America	212

page ix xii

## viii Contents

12	Difference and democracy: group recognition and the political cultures of the US, Holland, and France	237
	Epilogue: pragmatism, difference and a culture of strong democracy	255
	Notes References	266 282
	References	
	Index	304