

THE TOWNSEND PAPERS IN THE HUMANITIES *No. 2*

**Is Critique Secular?
Blasphemy, Injury,
and Free Speech**

**Talal Asad
Wendy Brown
Judith Butler
Saba Mahmood**

Published by
The Townsend Center for the Humanities
University of California | Berkeley

Distributed by
University of California Press
Berkeley, Los Angeles, London | 2009

Table of Contents

Introduction

Wendy Brown

7

**Free Speech, Blasphemy,
and Secular Criticism**

Talal Asad

20

**Religious Reason and Secular Affect:
An Incommensurable Divide?**

Saba Mahmood

64

**The Sensibility of Critique:
Response to Asad and Mahmood**

Judith Butler

101

Reply to Judith Butler

Talal Asad

137

Reply to Judith Butler

Saba Mahmood

146