The return of the native: postcolonial smoke screen and the French postcolonial politics of identity.
What is at issue in the three essays is the reception of postcolonial studies in France, denoting for Jean-François Bayart an “academic carnival,” revealing for Ann Laura Stoler France's “colonial aphasia,” and representing for Achille Mbembe, the way out of its “imperial winter.” While all three authors agree on the view that postcolonial studies have eventually taken root in France, allusive or absent are references to anglophone postcolonial studies in French scholarship credited to carrying the postcolonial torch, and the boundaries of postcolonial studies remain elusive.