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Abstract

This article explores Hannah Arendt's concept of thoughtlessness. Thoughtlessness was a central theme in her work, which she described it as the failure to think for oneself. She described it as the failure to think for oneself, which she described it as the failure to think for oneself. While the concept of thoughtlessness is often ignored, Arendt identifies the cultivation of everyday thoughtfulness as a remedy for failures of conscience, but this provides no defence against ideological and everyday thoughtlessness, which can actually reinforce failures of conscience. To address them Arendt turns to storytelling. But narratives can combat *and* reinforce thoughtlessness. To confront thoughtlessness we need to attend to narrative production and reception. Drawing on Paul Ricoeur I call for deeper engagement between political theorists, literary critics and philosophers of literature on the roles of narrative in promoting or undermining thinking in contemporary politics.



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