Michel Foucault  
(1926-1984)  
French thinker. Earlier work noted how social order is maintained as people learn to keep checks on themselves. Later work saw self-identity as an active project, influencing queer theory. In The History of Sexuality, Foucault suggests power is not a fixed property held by certain groups, but is fluid and present in all interactions. Where power is exercised, resistance develops; this is a productive relationship.

Selected Works:  
Power/knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings (Pantheon, 1980)  
The History of Sexuality, vols. 1—3 (Penguin, 1979—87)  
Ethics; Subjectivity and Truth (Essential Works Vol. 1, New Press, 1998)