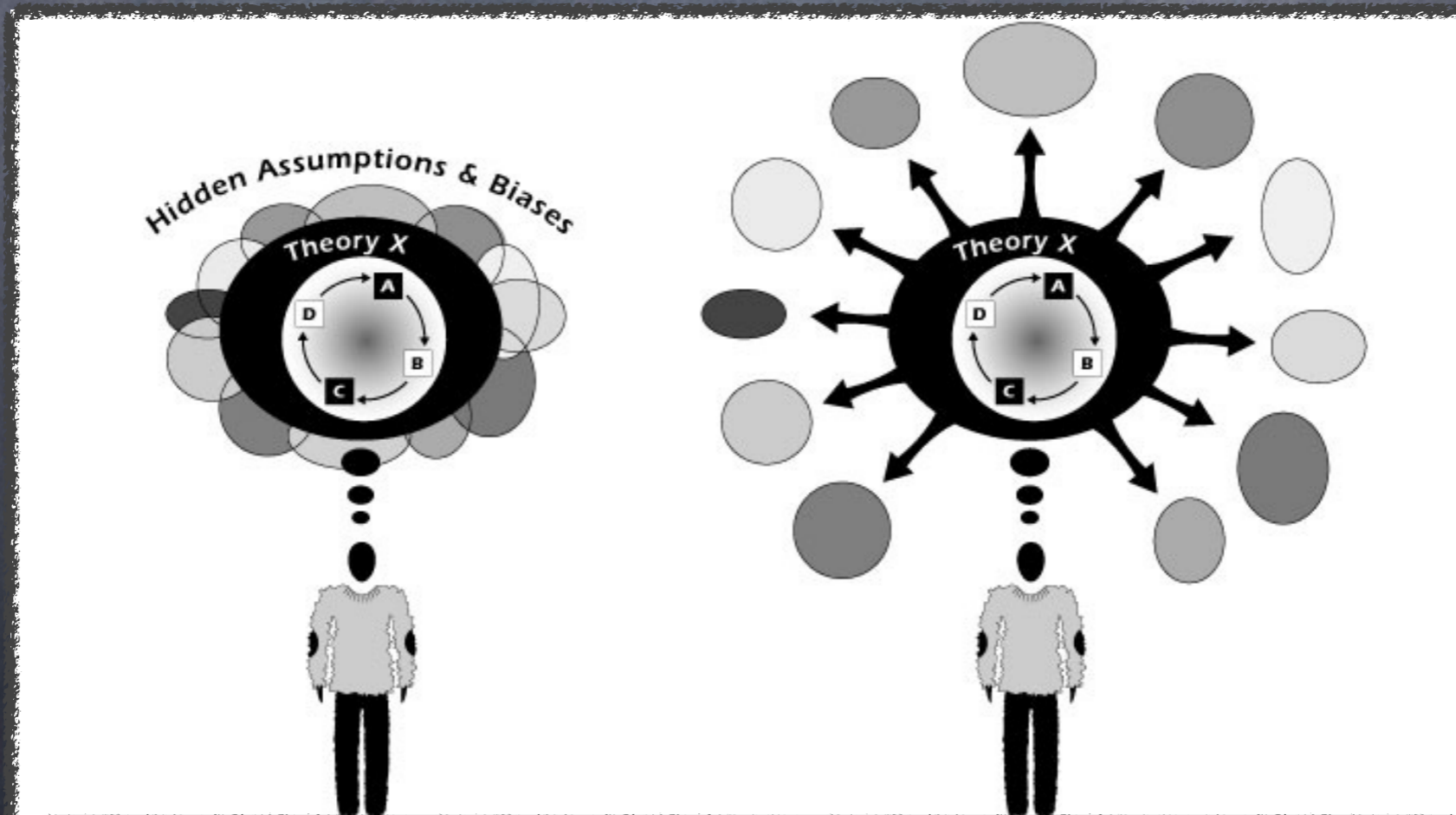


Why Theory?

Theory Does Something

- ▶ unless we can ask theoretical questions – larger questions about the origins of knowledge, who holds them, and how such knowledges were formed and might be changed – we're stuck in a go-nowhere exchange of 'he said, she said' opinions
- ▶ theory is productive and useful for asking reflexive questions about how things work and how they might work differently
- ▶ theory helps us uncover how opinions get translated into 'natural fact'
 - ▶ theory as a tool to view the problematic social world and interlocking systems of control
 - ▶ what we think/changes how we act



Everything is Suspect

- ▶ although theoretical questions may be difficult or seemingly abstract and may even create blockage to simply getting things done, such blockages are often necessary and indeed valuable
- ▶ nothing should be accepted at face value; everything is suspect



Theory as Approach

- ▶ a wider toolbox for intervening in contemporary culture
 - ▶ for our purposes its not about names or movements or modeling readings of texts
 - ▶ not just frivolous self-indulgent ventures of mental masturbation
- ▶ theory offers angles of intervention that you wouldn't otherwise have
- ▶ theory offers access and participation in intervening in otherwise inaccessible debates

Deleuze

▶ we are interested in theory as a toolbox of questions and concepts to be built and experimentally deployed rather than as a menu of methods to be chosen and mechanically applied

