

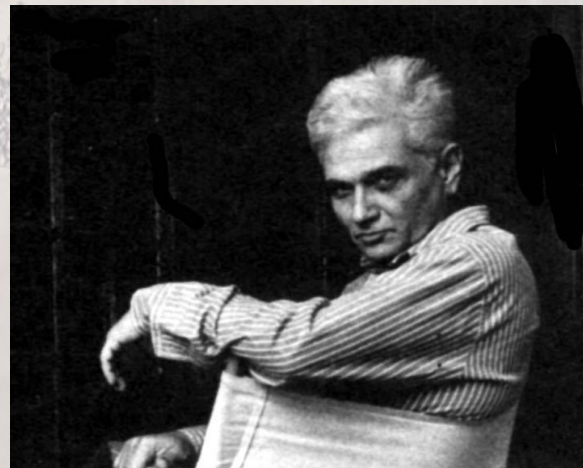


**Derrida.**

# Jacques Derrida

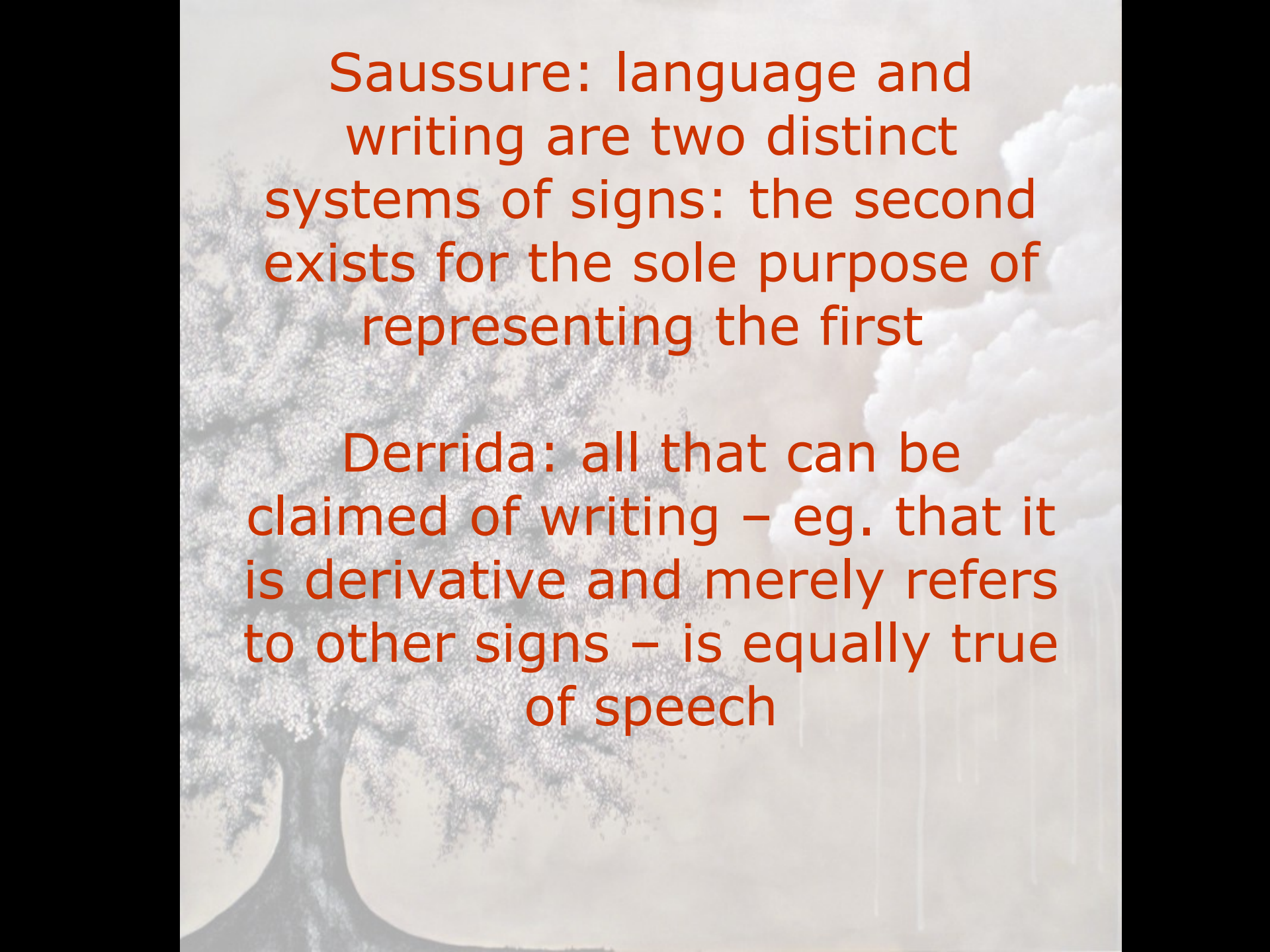
1930 – 2004

*Of Grammatology*  
*Writing & Difference*  
*Speech & Phenomena*  
*1967*



# Context

Structuralism  
to  
Poststructuralism,  
via Phenomenology and  
Existentialism

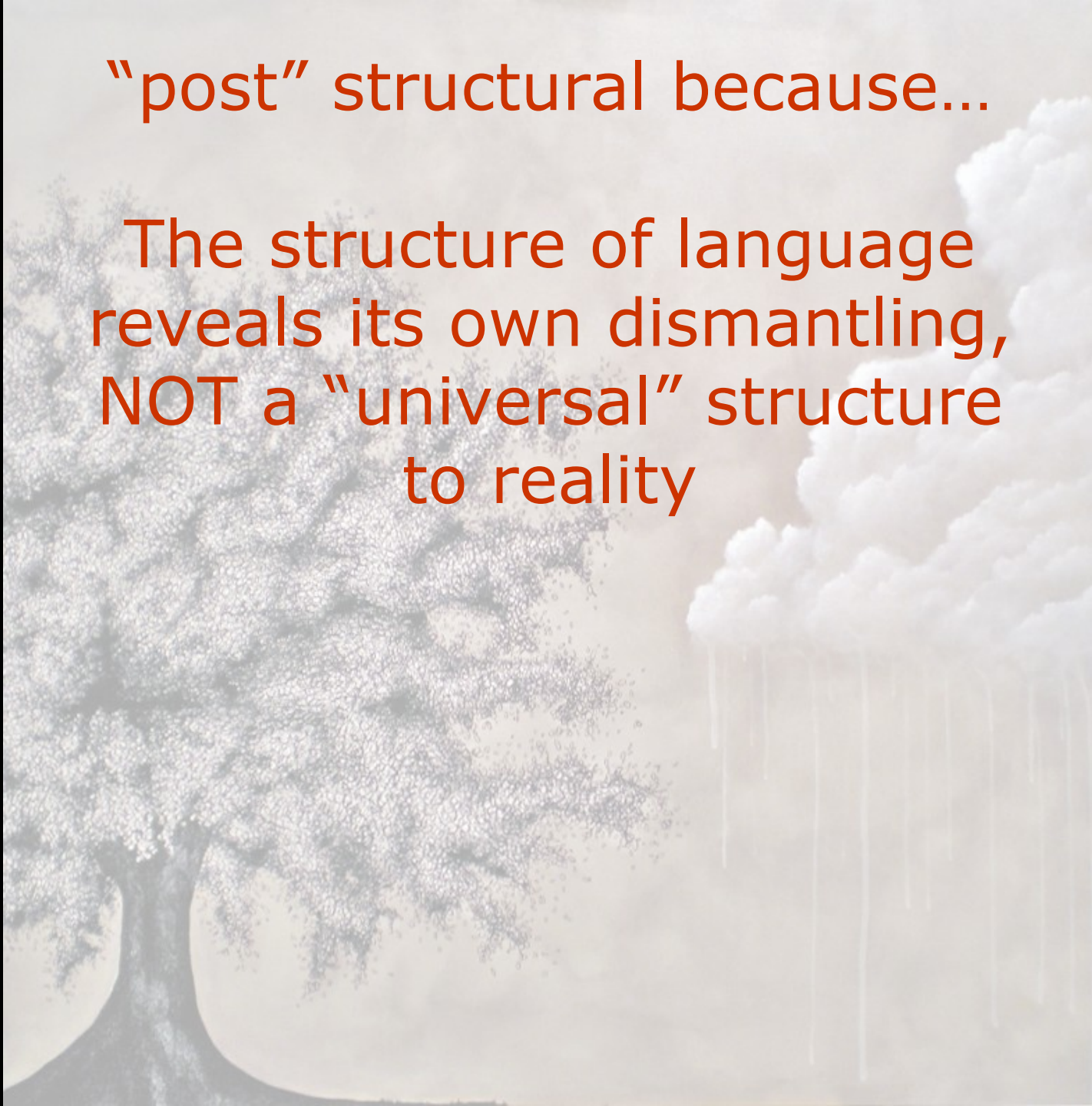


Saussure: language and writing are two distinct systems of signs: the second exists for the sole purpose of representing the first

Derrida: all that can be claimed of writing – eg. that it is derivative and merely refers to other signs – is equally true of speech

“post” structural because...

The structure of language  
reveals its own dismantling,  
NOT a “universal” structure  
to reality



# Deconstruction

- A Strategy-
- A Method-

A way of reading texts that reveals the slippery and elusive nature of “truth”, “meaning”, and “author”.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...>  
**38**

## **Derrida Interview**



# Deconstruction



Deconstruction only highlights what was already in the text itself.



# Différance

The “difference” is inaudible,  
so it must be written

Meaning is differed

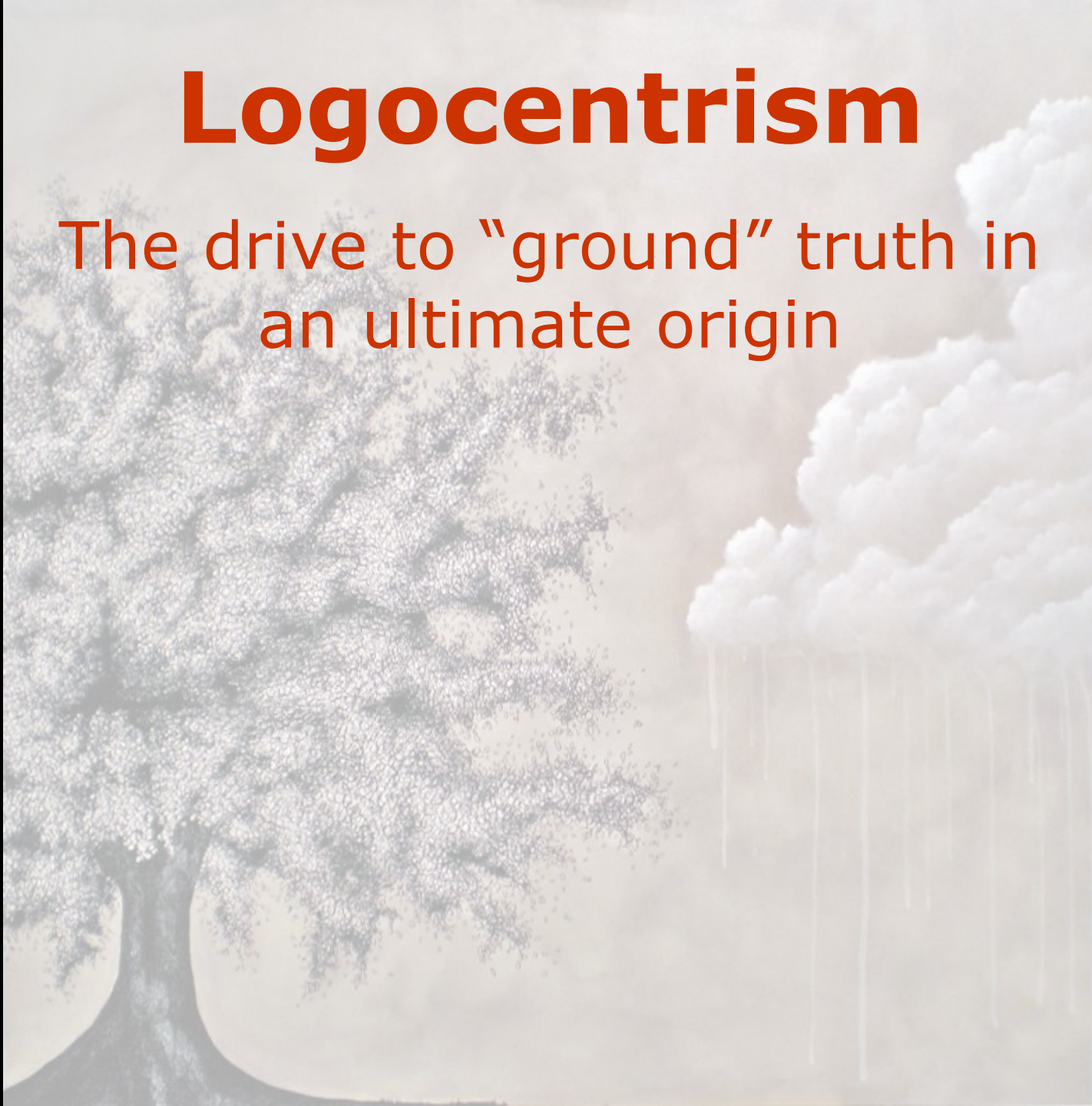
There is nothing that is  
being “referred” to

# Différance

One can never reach a sign that refers only to itself

# Logocentrism

The drive to “ground” truth in  
an ultimate origin



# Logocentrism

-metaphysics of presence-

"S is P"

~~"S is P"~~

# Logocentrism

*"All metaphysicians, from Plato to Rousseau, Descartes to Husserl, have proceeded in this way, conceiving good to be before evil, the positive before the negative, the pure before the impure, the simple before the complex, the essential before accidental, the imitated before the imitation, etc." - Derrida*

# Logocentrism

*An opposition of metaphysical concepts (speech/writing, presence/absence, etc.) is never the face-to-face of two terms, but a hierarchy and an order of subordination.*

# Logocentrism



*...the impossibility of an  
observer being absolutely  
exterior to the  
object/text/being  
examined...*

# Logocentrism



*"The privileging of speech  
over writing."*

*or*

*"The privileging of presence  
over absence"*



# Trace

The background of the slide features a large, dark tree on the left side, its branches spreading across the upper half. On the right side, there is a bright, cloudy sky with vertical lines representing rain falling. The overall color palette is muted, with greys, whites, and dark tones.

Deconstruction leaves a “trace”,  
exposes a rupture, an  
incongruity in the metaphysical  
illusion



So...what?

For Derrida:

\*"there is nothing outside the text"

\*it's all interpretation

\*there can be no "*this is here now*"

\*every text, every work of art at the same time reveals what it isn't and what it claims to be