

AI-generated response to “what is the difference between Historicism and New Historicism?”

Historicism and New Historicism are both schools of thought that consider the relationship between literature and historical and social contexts. Historicism is a general idea that reality is shaped by historical events, while New Historicism is a literary criticism movement that began in the 1980s. New Historicism builds on historicism, but with some key differences:

- Historicism

This school of thought believes that scholars can use research to reconstruct the past, and that historians should try to remain objective. Early 20th century critics like John Livingston Lowes used historicism to de-mythologize the creative process by studying the lives of canonical writers.

- New Historicism

New Historicists believe that literature is the product of its author's time and cultural context, and that its themes and meaning are not universal. They also believe that people's interpretations of history are subjective and influenced by many factors, including socio-political ones. New Historicists emphasize emotion and emotional responses, and they consider all cultural activities to be important texts for historical analysis. For example, they might consider contemporary trials or map-making to be as relevant to a Shakespeare play as Shakespeare's literary predecessors. New Historicism also emphasizes the "textual" nature of history, and how history is an intersection of discourses that establish a dominant ideology.

New Historicism was developed in the 1980s by critics like Michel Foucault and Stephen Greenblatt. It's similar to Marxism and a response to earlier historicisms, and it moved away from text-centered schools of criticism like New Criticism.