

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Fall 2020



We have to be very  
conscious of our  
survival. Safeguard  
our radical imagi  
We must not only  
the current space  
We must speculate  
actualize our fut  
existence as a ni  
revolutionary act

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In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, The Ohio State University Press has decided to open all of its scholarship and its linguistics textbook for free use throughout the world. Our monographs and textbook are available at The Ohio State Libraries' institutional repository, the Knowledge Bank, and can be found here: <https://kb.osu.edu/handle/1811/131>.

Our open journals on ProjectMUSE can be found here: [https://muse.jhu.edu/search?action=browse&limit=subscription:n&limit=publisher\\_id:30&limit=format:journal&min=1&max=10&t=publisher\\_facet\\_select](https://muse.jhu.edu/search?action=browse&limit=subscription:n&limit=publisher_id:30&limit=format:journal&min=1&max=10&t=publisher_facet_select).

And our open journals on JSTOR can be found here: <https://www.jstor.org/publisher/ohiosup>.

While this move is likely to result in a loss of revenue for the Press, we felt it was an important move to make so that no scholar or student needs to overcome any additional barriers to their education and continued research during this crisis.

If you've ever considered donating to the Press, now would be an excellent time. If you support our decision to open all of our scholarly content to students and scholars during this historic period, we ask that you demonstrate your support and help us remain sustainable with a donation to the Press. More information on supporting the Press can be found here: <https://ohiostatepress.org/about/support.html>.

## CATALOG COVER

“Radical Imagination” by Stacey Robinson as seen in  
*Literary Afrofuturism in the Twenty-First Century* p. 14.

## How to Make a Slave and Other Essays

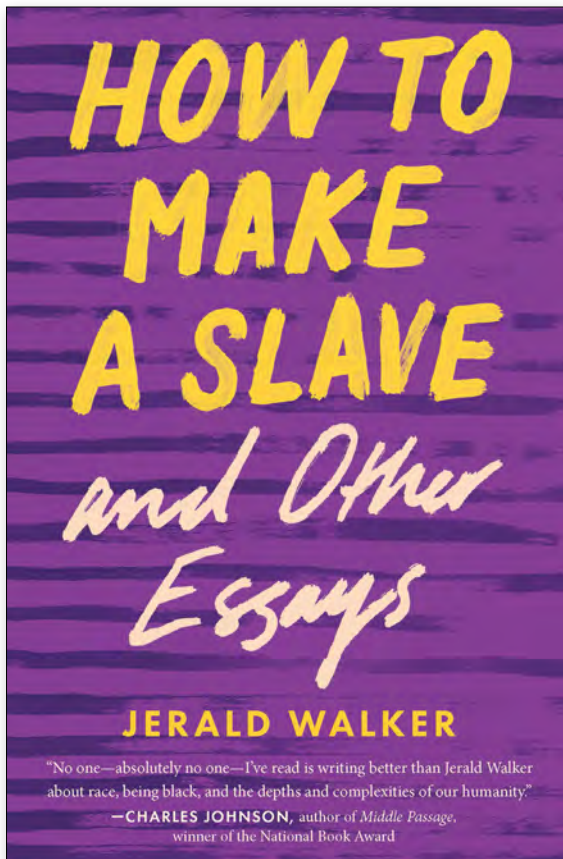
JERALD WALKER

“No one—absolutely no one—I’ve read is writing better than Jerald Walker about race, being black, and the depths and complexities of our humanity.” —**Charles Johnson**, author of *Middle Passage*

“These extraordinarily candid essays crackle with humor and dramatic tension. Jerald Walker is one of the most gifted essayists of our time.” —**Robert Atwan**, series editor, *Best American Essays*

**Jerald Walker** is the author of *The World in Flames: A Black Boyhood in a White Supremacist Doomsday Cult* and *Street Shadows: A Memoir of Race, Rebellion, and Redemption*, winner of the 2011 PEN New England Award for Nonfiction. He has published in magazines such as *Creative Nonfiction*, *Harvard Review*, *Missouri Review*, *River Teeth*, *Mother Jones*, *Iowa Review*, and *Oxford American*, and he has been widely anthologized, including four times in *The Best American Essays*. The recipient of James A. Michener and National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, Walker is Professor of Creative Writing at Emerson College.

November 2020 152 pp.  
\$19.95 T paperback 9780-8142-5599-5  
\$16.95 ebook 9-780-8142-7820-8  
Mad Creek Books - 21st Century Essays  
David Lazar and Patrick Madden,  
Series Editors



For the black community, Jerald Walker asserts in *How to Make a Slave*, “anger is often a prelude to a joke, as there is broad understanding that the triumph over this destructive emotion lay in finding its punchline.” It is on the knife’s edge between fury and farce that the essays in this exquisite collection balance. Whether confronting the medical profession’s racial biases, considering the complicated legacy of Michael Jackson, paying homage to his writing mentor James Alan McPherson, or attempting to break free of personal and societal stereotypes, Walker elegantly blends personal revelation and cultural critique. The result is a bracing and often humorous examination by one of America’s most acclaimed essayists of what it is to grow, parent, write, and exist as a black American male. Walker refuses to lull his readers; instead his missives urge them to do better as they consider, through his eyes, how to be a good citizen, how to be a good father, how to live, and how to love.

## Like Love

MICHELE MORANO

“In this breathtaking memoir-in-essays, Michele Morano illuminates romantic love in its many complex manifestations: romantic friendship, maternal love, the intense desire for contact that isn’t exactly sexual but almost is. Her portrayals of the people who have inspired these feelings are always astute and generous. This daring book expands our notion of what love is.”

—Kyoko Mori

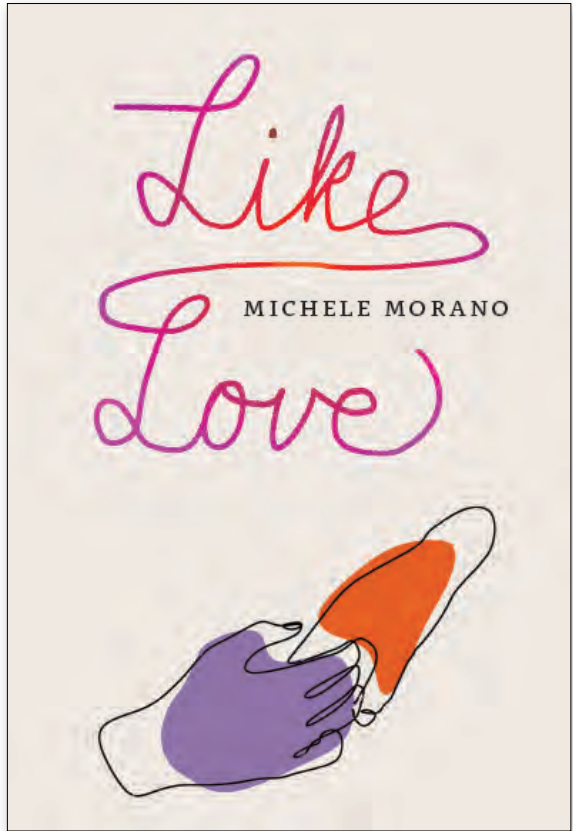
“If you have ever loved and lost, and if you can smile, wince, cry, laugh—all at the same time—you’re ready for Michele Morano’s brilliant new book about the perplexing forms and evolving definitions of love. And you’re in luck: Michele Morano is a superb writer. *Like Love* is an essential book for us all.”

—Abby Thomas



**Michele Morano** is the author of the travel memoir *Grammar Lessons: Translating a Life in Spain*. Her essays and short fiction have appeared in many journals and anthologies, including *The Best American Essays*, *Fourth Genre*, *Ninth Letter*, and *Waveform: Twenty-First-Century Essays by Women*. She lives in Chicago, where she chairs the English Department at DePaul University.

September 2020 232 pp.  
\$21.95 T paperback 978-0-8142-5598-8  
\$14.95 ebook 978-0-8142-7818-5  
Mad Creek Books - Machete  
Joy Castro, Series Editor



Crushes. Infatuations. Attractions. Unexpected, inexplicable allure. Entanglements steeped in taboo and disruption. In *Like Love*, nothing is off limits.

In these remarkable essays, Michele Morano explores the pleasures, possibilities, strangeness, and lessons of unconsummated romance. With insight and imagination, *Like Love* interweaves poignant, humorous episodes from adulthood with the backstory of a young family’s turbulent breakup. When Morano was an adolescent in blue-collar Poughkeepsie, New York, her mother left her father for a woman in an era when LGBTQ parents were widely viewed as “unfit.” Through the turmoil, adolescent Morano paid attention, tucking away the stories that were shaping her and guiding her understanding of love.

Turning romantic clichés inside out and challenging us to rethink our notions about what it means to love, *Like Love* tells hard and necessary truths about the importance of desire in growing, teaching, traveling, mourning, parenting, and figuring out who you are—and who you can be—in the world. With precision and depth, Morano doesn’t shy away from the taboo as she explores what it means to find ourselves in relationships that are not quite—but almost—like love.

## Don't Look Now

Things We Wish We Hadn't Seen

EDITED BY KRISTEN IVERSEN AND  
DAVID LAZAR

"How does the heart bear unbidden shock? What are the rules of engagement with ferocious memories? These gorgeous essays perform acts of homage, bravery, and forgiveness; show what can be made of the searing left by life-altering experiences; and point us toward a deeper understanding of both vulnerability and the capacity to rebuild at the blast site."

—Lia Purpura

**Kristen Iversen** is the author, most recently, of *Full Body Burden: Growing Up in the Nuclear Shadow of Rocky Flats*. She is Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Cincinnati and serves as the Literary Nonfiction editor of the *Cincinnati Review*. Iversen is currently a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Bergen.

**David Lazar** is the author of the soon to be released *Celeste Holm Syndrome*. He is Professor of Creative Writing at Columbia College Chicago and a former Guggenheim Fellow in Nonfiction. Lazar is the founding editor of the literary magazine *Hotel Amerika* and series coeditor of 21st Century Essays at Mad Creek Books.

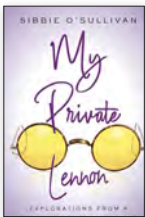
October 2020 240 pp.  
\$21.95 paperback T 978-0-8142-5601-5  
\$16.95 ebook 978-0-8142-7824-6  
Mad Creek Books - 21st Century Essays  
David Lazar and Patrick Madden, Series Editors



### Also of Interest

#### My Private Lennon

Explorations from a Fan Who Never Screamed  
Sibbie O'Sullivan



2020 184 pp.  
\$17.95 T paperback  
978-0-8142-5566-7  
Mad Creek Books - 21st Century Essays



Would that our memories were self-selecting. But often what we remember most, and most vividly, are those moments that caught us unawares: the things we wish we hadn't seen and have never been able to shake. This group of prominent American writers tries to come to grips with obsessive memory, the uncanny, and the bad dreams that accompany the moments in our lives when we wish we had looked away, the places we wish we had never been, and the scenes we wish we had never stumbled upon.

Featuring essays by Jericho Parms, XU XI, Jerald Walker, José Orduña, Kristen Iversen, Nicole Walker, Mary Cappello, Lina Ferreira, Colleen O'Connor, Sonya Huber, Paul Crenshaw, Alyce Miller, Patrick Madden, Amelia María de la Luz Montes, Yalie Kamara, Emily Heiden, Lee Martin, and David Lazar, this collection bares all. The authors invite readers into a dream that resurrects a departed mother each night, only to lose her again each morning upon waking; the post-mortem newspaper photos of a former student; kaleidoscope childhood memories of the mundane mixed up together with the traumatic; an unplanned pregnancy; a bullfight and a spouse's mortality; a teen witnessing the suicide of her father; a parent trying to shield his children from witnessing a violent death. What these writers are after, though, is not the melancholic/grotesque/violent moment itself, but the process of remembering—and trying to forget. They examine the way these memories take hold, resurface, and never leave, and what it means for a life lived long after these moments have passed. These scenes, slowly unfolding us like bad dreams or flying by like trains on elevated platforms, demand we reach some kind of accommodation with them—make peace or make sense or make amends. The one thing they insist with certainty is this: they cannot—will not—be unseen.

## Sign Here If You Exist and Other Essays

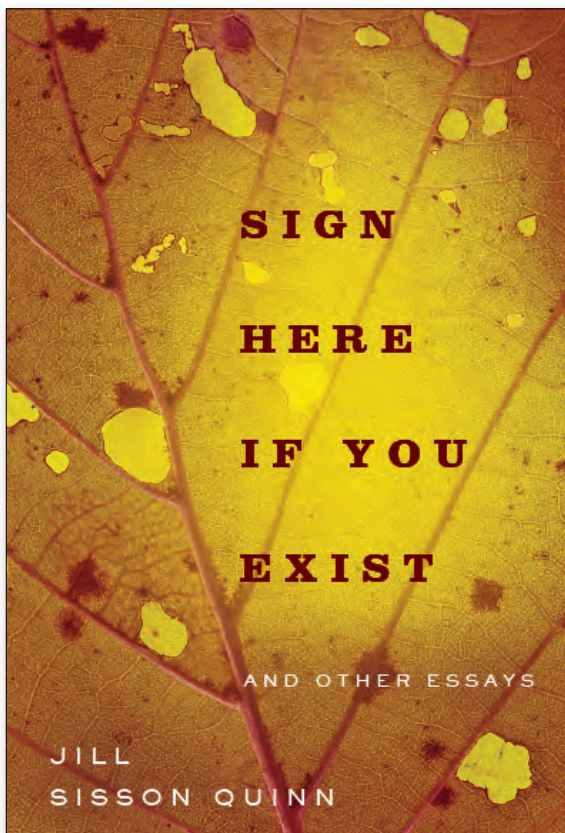
JILL SISSON QUINN

“Quinn’s prose—burnished by her deep knowledge of the natural world and by the honesty and eloquence with which she shares her fears and desires—knocks me flat.” —**Mary Roach, author of *Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void***

“Quinn, like Thoreau, is an explorer and namer of things, always curious, giving equal attention to the worlds inside and outside of us. Her voice is at once poetic and scientific—exactly what we need in today’s overheated world.” —**David Gessner, author of *Leave It As It Is: A Journey Through Theodore Roosevelt’s American Wilderness***



**Jill Sisson Quinn** is the author of *Deranged: Finding a Sense of Place in the Landscape and in the Lifespan*. Her essays have appeared in *Orion*, *Natural History*, and *OnEarth Magazine* and have been selected for *The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2011* and *The Best American Essays 2016*. She has received numerous awards, including the Annie Dillard Award for Creative Nonfiction, a John Burroughs Nature Essay Award, and a Rona Jaffe Writers’ Award.



*Sign Here If You Exist* explores states of being and states of mind, from the existence of God to sense of place to adoptive motherhood. In it, Jill Sisson Quinn examines how these states both disorient and anchor us as she treks through forests, along shorelines, and into lakes and rivers as well as through memories and into scientific literature. Each essay hinges on an unlikely pairing—parasitic wasps and the afterlife, or salamanders and parenthood—in which each element casts the other in unexpectedly rich light. Quinn joins the tradition of writers such as Annie Dillard, Scott Russell Sanders, and Eula Biss to deliver essays that radiate from the junction of science and imagination, observation and introspection, and research and reflection.

August 2020 184 pp.  
\$19.95 T paperback 978-0-8142-5592-6  
\$14.95 ebook 978-0-8142-7806-2  
Mad Creek Books - *The Journal Non/Fiction Prize*



## Warhol's Mother's Pantry

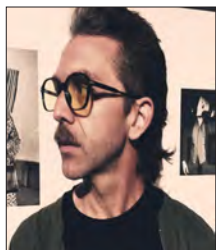
Art, America, and the Mom in Pop

M. I. DEVINE

WINNER OF THE 2019  
GOURNAY PRIZE

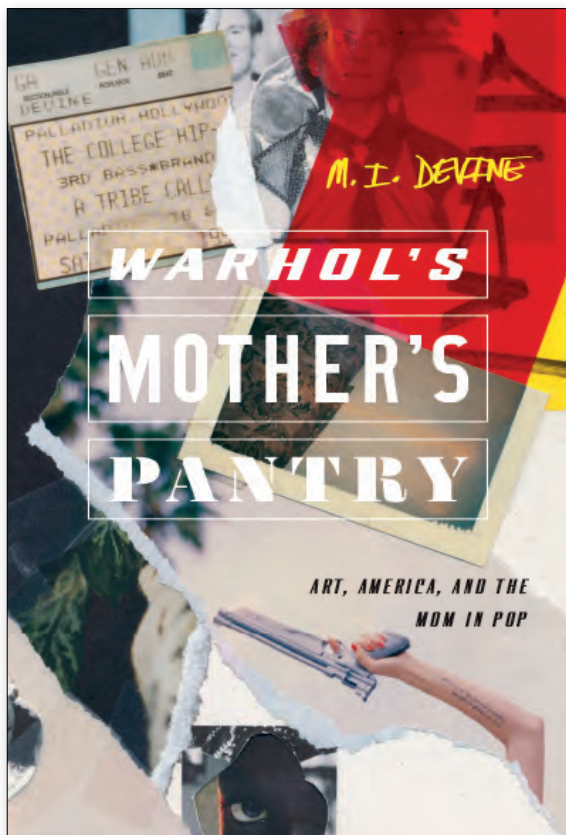
"In critico-lyrical prose that pops off the page and skips over boundaries with the agility native to its most daring subjects—from Stevie Smith to Leonard Cohen, from Andy Warhol to Kendrick Lamar—Devine issues a dare to his readers: Let us go. Take him up. You won't regret it." —**Boris Dralyuk, Executive Editor, Los Angeles Review of Books**

"Part prose poem, part mix tape, part mash-up, and part commonplace book, *Warhol's Mother's Pantry* channel surfs the cultural waves of the long twentieth century as they break on the shores of pop." —**Mike Chasar, author of Poetry Unbound: Poems and New Media from the Magic Lantern to Instagram**



**M. I. Devine's** essays have appeared in *American Literature*, *Adaptation*, *Measure*, and *Los Angeles Review of Books*. His writing has won support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Cofounder of the pop music project Famous Letter Writer, he is an Associate Professor of English at SUNY Plattsburgh.

November 2020 288 pp.  
\$24.95 paperback T 978-0-8142-5606-0  
\$17.95 ebook 978-0-8142-7848-2  
Mad Creek Books - 21st Century Essays  
David Lazar and Patrick Madden, Series Editors



"What are these fragments we've Jersey Shored against our ruin?" asks M. I. Devine, remixing T. S. Eliot, in this dizzying collection of essays that pays homage to the cultural forms that hold us steady. These fragments are stored in *Warhol's Mother's Pantry*, which takes us deep beneath the surfaces of pop to explore our shared quest for meaning today. Julia Warhola, an immigrant who arrived as the US was closing its borders a century ago, is the muse of reuse in these essays that cross boundaries—between now and then, high and low. She is the mom in pop who cut tin cans into flowers and taught Andy (and us) how to reshape and redeem our world. In essays as lyrical, witty, and experimental as the works they cover, Devine offers a new account of pop humanism. How we cut new things from the traditions we're given, why we don't stop believin' (and carry on, wayward sons) when so much is stacked against us. Here are Leonard Cohen's last songs and Molly Bloom's last words; Vampire Weekend's Rostam and Philip Larkin too; Stevie Smith, John Donne, and Kendrick Lamar; sonnets and selfies; early cinema and post-9/11 film, pop hooks, and pop art. In Devine's hands, these literary and cultural artifacts are provocatively reassembled into an urgent and refreshing history that refuses to let its readers forget where pop came from and where it can go.

new  
title

## Fulfilling the 21st Century Land-Grant Mission

Essays in Honor of The Ohio State University's Sesquicentennial Commemoration

EDITED BY STEPHEN M. GAVAZZI AND DAVID J. STALEY

"A beautiful compilation of essays celebrating the past, present, and future of one of America's most successful and important land-grant universities. With contributions from leading scholars, presidents, provosts, and faculty, the case for the land-grant as an institutional calling is made clear." —**David V. Rosowsky, Provost Emeritus, University of Vermont**

**Stephen M. Gavazzi** is Professor in the Human Development and Family Science program in the College of Education and Human Ecology at The Ohio State University. He is the coauthor (with E. Gordon Gee) of *Land-Grant Universities for the Future: Higher Education for the Public Good*.

**David J. Staley** is Director of the Humanities Institute at The Ohio State University and Associate Professor in the Department of History. He is the author, most recently, of *Alternative Universities: Speculative Design for Innovation in Higher Education*.

August 2020 296 pp.  
\$59.95 T jacketed cloth 978-0-8142-1444-2  
\$24.95 ebook 978-0-8142-7812-3  
Trillium Books

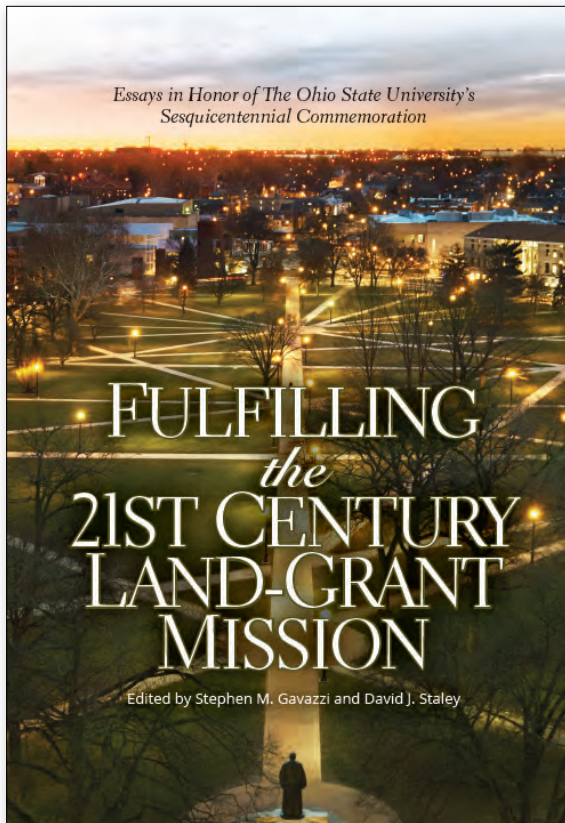


### Also of Interest

**The Ohio State University in the Sixties**  
The Unraveling of the Old Order  
Bill Shkurti



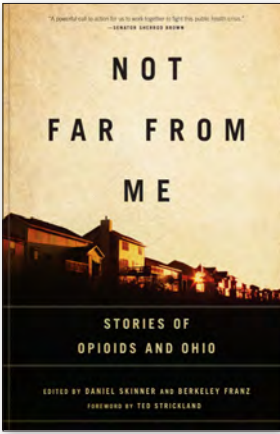
2016 288 pp.  
\$29.95 T paperback  
978-0-8142-1307-0  
\$39.95 T jacketed cloth  
978-0-8142-5541-4  
Trillium Books



Over the past 150 years, land-grant universities—America's first public institutions of higher learning—have had a profound impact on the well-being of our nation. Founded by the 1862 Morrill Land Grant Act and signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln, land-grant universities were given a three-part mission: to teach, to conduct research, and to engage communities across each state in order to meet their localized needs.

Gathered in honor of The Ohio State University's sesquicentennial celebration, this collection of essays highlights the significant contributions that Ohio State continues to make as part of its twenty-first-century land-grant mission. Authors from across the university—representing fields as various as agriculture, dance, English, engineering, family science, geography, medicine, social work, and veterinary science—provide contributions that highlight the preeminent status of The Ohio State University. In addition, the perspectives of alumni, staff members, and senior administrators (both present and former) round out the picture of Ohio State as the first among equals regarding its land-grant peers.





**Daniel Skinner**, PhD, is Assistant Professor of Health Policy in the Department of Social Medicine at Ohio University, Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine in Dublin, Ohio.

**Berkeley Franz**, PhD, is Assistant Professor of Community-Based Health in the Department of Social Medicine at Ohio University, Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine in Athens, Ohio.

2019 296 pp.  
\$14.95 T paperback 978-0-8142-5538-4  
Trillium Books



## Not Far from Me

Stories of Opioids and Ohio

EDITED BY DANIEL SKINNER AND BERKELEY FRANZ FOREWORD BY TED STRICKLAND

WINNER OF THE 2019 NATIONAL HUMANITIES SWARTZ PRIZE

"A powerful call to action for us to work together to fight this public health crisis." —**Senator Sherrod Brown**

"As a journalist and storyteller, I'm convinced that only through stories of real people will the stigma surrounding addiction fade—which is what makes projects like *Not Far from Me: Stories of Opioids and Ohio* so important and worth reading. We hear from them all: doctors, addicts, poets, mothers, librarians, nurses, pastors, inmates, and football coaches. Even though the stories in this volume are about one state, and only a few people from that state, together they tell one of the crucial stories of America today." —**Sam Quinones, author of *Dreamland***

"As I've traveled throughout Ohio, I've heard many personal stories of opioid addiction similar to those in *Not Far from Me: Stories of Opioids and Ohio*. These powerful stories will increase awareness, reduce the stigma, and help us better understand the complex issue of addiction so we can turn the tide of this epidemic and save lives." —**Senator Rob Portman**

## Ohio / Regional Interest / Memoir



**Beth Armstrong** spent much of her life caring for and observing gorillas—first as a keeper and then as head keeper at the Columbus Zoo, 1982–1996. She became a passionate proponent and voice for gorillas in the wild—and many other species—as the first Field Conservation Coordinator at the Columbus and Brevard Zoos, respectively.

2020 312 pp.  
\$19.95 T paperback 978-0-8142-5571-1  
\$19.95 ebook 978-0-8142-7765-2  
Trillium Books  
Book cover photo by Tom and Jan Parkes



## Voices from the Ape House

BETH ARMSTRONG

"*Voices from the Ape House* is a powerful journey through a remarkable time in zoological history. Throughout, Beth Armstrong examines the unique relationship between animals and people—showing that there is so much more to be learned as we work every day to conserve these magnificent creatures." —**Jack Hanna, host of *Jack Hanna's Into the Wild***

"Gorillas are also individuals, with unique quirks, personalities, and histories, and Armstrong writes about them with insight, intimacy, and heart in her lovely new memoir, *Voices from the Ape House*." —**Dave Ghose, *Columbus Monthly***

"Armstrong was in the forefront of exchanging experiences with other zoos around the world, developing a network of relationships that spread advances made in gorilla husbandry and zoo management.... Though the author's discussions of zoo management are ... engaging, the most heart-touching material is found in the profiles of the gorillas. A pleasing gathering of distinct personalities and unique stories from the ape house." —**Kirkus Reviews**



2019 184 pp.  
\$18.95 T paperback 978-0-8142-5567-4  
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Mad Creek Books



## Just an Ordinary Woman Breathing

JULIE MARIE WADE

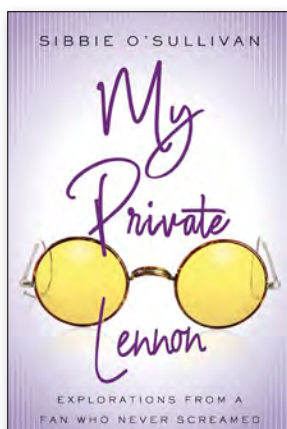
“*Just an Ordinary Woman Breathing* is a white-hot meteor streaking straight to the heart of individual identity.”

—**Danielle Ballantyne**, *Foreword Reviews*

“Intelligent and lyrical, the narrative mingles often comic musings on female embodiment with insightful observations about the meaning of love and self-acceptance. A sharp, innovative text.” —**Kirkus Reviews**

“These smart, language-rich, self-knowing essays manage a beautiful balance of the comic and the rueful. Whether affirming or rebutting the notion that ‘anatomy is destiny,’ they fulfill our contemporary longing for an embodied literature.”

—**Phillip Lopate**



2020 184 pp.  
\$17.95 T paperback 978-0-8142-5566-7  
\$14.95 ebook 978-0-8142-7757-7  
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## My Private Lennon

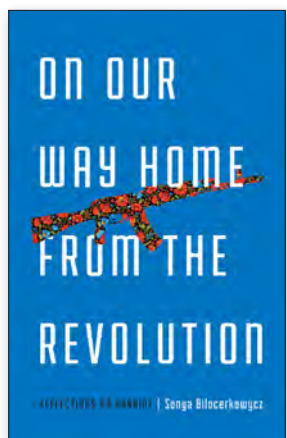
Explorations from a Fan Who Never Screamed

SIBBIE O'SULLIVAN

“Finely written, insightful, and unusually candid.” —**David Hepworth**, author of *Nothing Is Real: The Beatles Were Underrated and Other Sweeping Statements About Pop*

“Given how much support women and girls provided the Beatles before they became cultural icons, it’s astounding how absent female voices have been from Beatles history even fifty-plus years later. *My Private Lennon* fills that gap and will inspire other female voices to be heard.” —**Caryn Rose**, author of *B-Sides and Broken Hearts*

“Sibbie O’Sullivan’s evocative and deeply personal essays reveal how John Lennon informed the consciousness of millions of fans in the 1960s and remained a luminous presence throughout their lives. Readers will relate to O’Sullivan’s journey.” —**Candy Leonard**, author of *Beatlessness: How the Beatles and Their Fans Remade the World*



2020 232 pp.  
\$19.95 T paperback 978-0-8142-5543-8  
Mad Creek Books



## On Our Way Home from the Revolution

Reflections on Ukraine

SONYA BILOCERKOWYCZ

“The essays build to a shocking discovery that provides a thud of misunderstanding about our collective pasts—our very ideas of ourselves—that is so profound that I have a hard time imagining a reader who will not feel equally stunned and seen.... [A] magnificent debut.” —**Annie McGreevy**, *Chicago Review of Books*

“An emotionally urgent personal reckoning ... The granddaughter of Ukrainian refugees, [Bilocerkowycz] grew up steeped in the myths, the language, and the fierce politics of her Ukrainian-American community. *On Our Way Home from the Revolution* ... opens on the moment when some of these myths and political convictions begin to fray. The subsequent book-length unraveling becomes an affecting meditation on how our identities are formed, and to whom we are responsible.” —**John Dixon Mirisola**, *Los Angeles Review of Books*



## The Adventures of Chupacabra Charlie

WRITTEN BY FREDERICK LUIS ALDAMA

ILLUSTRATED BY CHRIS ESCOBARE

“A riveting adventure where a human and a chupacabra join forces to free the *niños* held by the Big People in Green.” — Norma Elia Cantú, author of *Meditación Fronteriza*

“A breathtaking story that inspires us with the help of a chupacabra and a little girl to care for those who have sacrificed everything!” —Raúl the Third, author/illustrator and winner of the *Pura Belpré Award*

“As an author, parent, and appreciator of great art: I LOVE this book. Fantastically imaginative, poignant, and artful, this is a story that resonates beyond the adventure of Chupacabra Charlie.” —Daniel Chacón, author of *Kafka in a Skirt* and *Hotel Juárez*

2020 36 pp.  
\$9.95 T paperback 978-0-8142-5586-5  
\$9.95 ebook 978-0-8142-7792-8  
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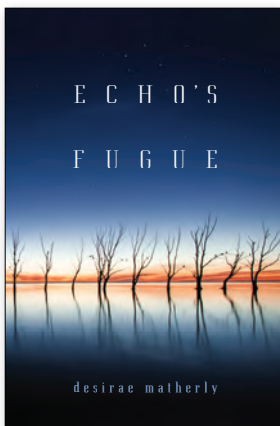
### Creative Nonfiction / Essays

## Echo's Fugue

DESIRAE MATHERLY

“*Echo's Fugue* transforms the personal essay into a listening essay, a fugue-flight, a ‘covert correspondence,’ and an interactive diagram of the heart. Marked by the signature attunement that is the hallmark of her art, Desirae Matherly’s wide-ranging experiments with form and vantage achieve a self-betraying clarity that is unsurpassed.” —Mary Cappello

“*Echo's Fugue* is heartbreaking, precise, and wild. Matherly’s book is the work of a master.” —Julija Šukys



2020 248 pp.  
\$22.95 T paperback 978-0-8142-5541-4  
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### Creative Nonfiction / Essays / History

## Wandering Dixie

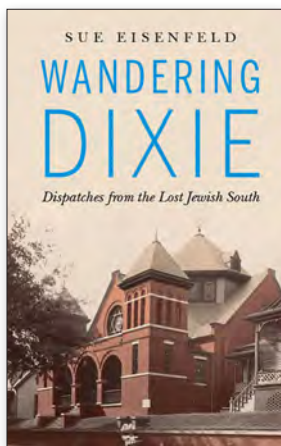
Dispatches from the Lost Jewish South

SUE EISENFELD

“[Eisenfeld] grounds her historical analysis in personal reflection as she travels to small towns with lost or vanishing Jewish histories.... Her ruminations highlight both Jewish history and lack of current resources to maintain sites and records.... Her stories provide many revealing tidbits for those who enjoy self-reflective historical writing.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“A digestible introduction to a specific piece of the history of the South’s racial politics.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“In stunningly elegant prose, Eisenfeld uncovers the anonymous corners of Jewish and Confederate history. In this immersive gem of a book, she inspires hope for a nuanced and vital conversation about race by claiming her own role in ‘our troubled American story.’” —Michelle Brafman, author of *Washing the Dead*



2020 296 pp.  
\$19.95 paperback 978-0-8142-5581-0  
\$14.95 ebook 978-0-8142-7782-9  
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## Rated RX

Sheree Rose with and after Bob Flanagan

EDITED BY YETTA HOWARD

“Grounded in archival images, with contextualizing essays by academics and artist-collaborators and interviews with Sheree Rose, the project more than succeeds in giving Rose a platform that is much needed, deserved, and welcomed.” — **Margot Weiss, author of *Techniques of Pleasure: BDSM and the Circuits of Sexuality***



**Yetta Howard** is Associate Professor at San Diego State University and author of *Ugly Differences: Queer Female Sexuality in the Underground*.

September 2020 320 pp.  
85 color illustrations  
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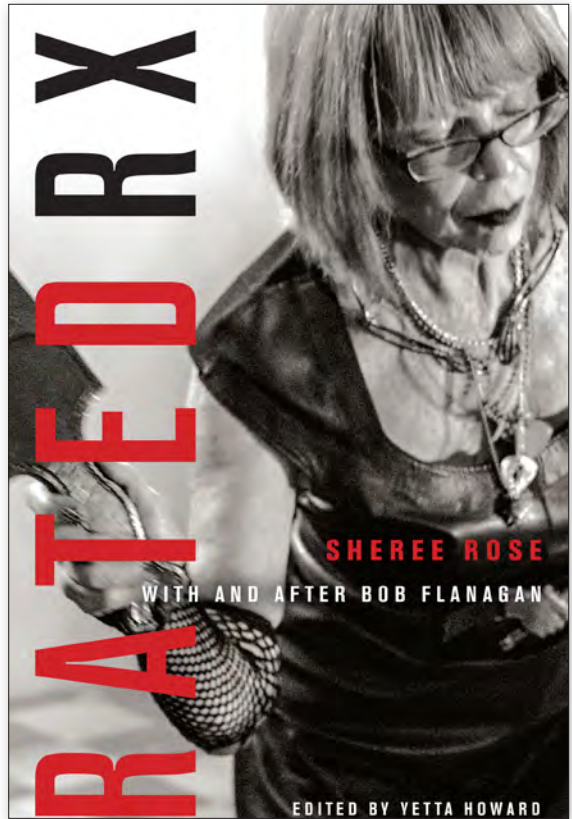
### Also of Interest

#### Asexual Erotics

Intimate Readings of Compulsory Sexuality  
Ela Przybylo



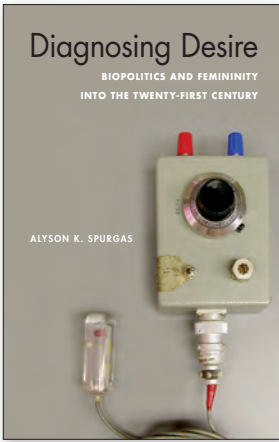
2019 252 pp.  
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Abnormalities: Queer/Gender/Embodiment



“The thing that people don’t understand is that Bob was my invention,” says Sheree Rose, the oft-overlooked partner of the late “supermasochist” performance artist Bob Flanagan. Unpacking this statement is at the heart of this important collection, which seeks to recuperate and showcase Rose’s contributions as performer, photographer, writer, and cultural innovator. While Rose is mostly known for blurring the boundaries between art and lived experience in the context of her full-time, mistress-slave relationship with Flanagan, *Rated RX* shifts focus from Flanagan to Rose, presenting a feminist project that critically reassesses the artistic legacies of Sheree Rose.

Curated with attention to queer-crip subjectivities and transgressive feminisms, *Rated RX* includes essays by and interviews with scholars, artists, and Rose’s collaborators that address gender politics, archival practices, minority embodiment, and disability in Rose’s work as well as more than eighty photographs and rare archival materials reflecting Rose’s recent and past performances. Offering a necessary corrective, *Rated RX* is the first collection to underscore Sheree Rose as a legendary figure in performance art and BDSM subcultural history, reflecting her lifetime of involvement in documenting the underground and the transformative role her work plays in sexual, subcultural, and art exhibitionism.

Contributors: Rhiannon Aarons, Tanya Augsborg, Chelsea Coon, Mary Ann Davis, Jane DeLynn, Luka Fisher, Yetta Howard, Harold Jaffe, Amelia Jones, Amber Musser, Martin O’Brien, Sheree Rose, and Tina Takemoto.



## Diagnosing Desire

Biopolitics and Femininity into the Twenty-First Century

ALYSON K. SPURGAS

In *Diagnosing Desire: Biopolitics and Femininity into the Twenty-First Century*, Alyson K. Spurgas examines the “new science of female sexuality” from a critical, sociological perspective, considering how today’s feminist-identified sex researchers study and manage women with low desire. *Diagnosing Desire* investigates experimental sex research that measures the disconnect between subjective and genital female arousal, contemporary psychiatric diagnoses for low female desire, new models for understanding women’s sexual response, and cutting-edge treatments for low desire in women—including from the realms of mindfulness and alternative healing. Spurgas makes the case that, together, all of these technologies create a “feminized responsive desire framework” for understanding women’s sexuality, and that this, in fact, produces women’s sexuality as a complex problem to be solved. The biggest problem, Spurgas argues, is that gendered and sexualized trauma—including as it is produced within technoscientific medicine itself—is too often ignored in contemporary renderings. Through incisive textual analysis and in-depth qualitative research based on interviews with women with low desire, Spurgas argues for a more radical and communal form of care for feminized—and traumatized—populations, in opposition to biopolitical mandates to individualize and neoliberalize forms of self-care. Ultimately, this is a book not just about a specific diagnosis or dysfunction but about the material-discursive regimes that produce and regulate femininity.

**Alyson K. Spurgas** is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut.

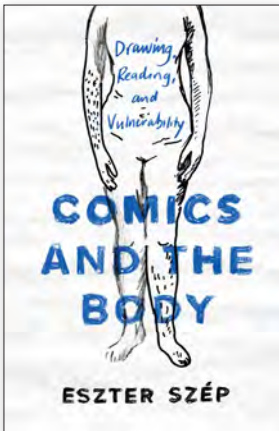
October 2020 290 pp.  
\$34.95 paperback 978-0-8142-5769-2  
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Abnormalities: Queer/Gender/  
Embodiment, Scott Herring, Series Editor

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## Comics Studies / Literary Theory / Gender and Sexuality Studies



## Comics and the Body

Drawing, Reading, and Vulnerability

ESZTER SZÉP

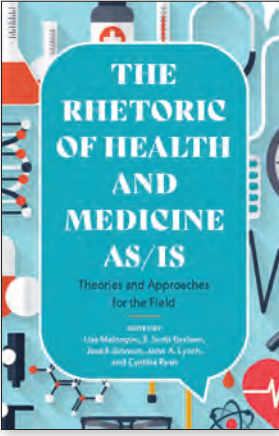
Eszter Szép’s *Comics and the Body* is the first book to examine the roles of the body in both drawing and reading comics within a single framework. With an explicit emphasis on the ethical dimensions of bodily vulnerability, Szép takes her place at the forefront of scholars examining comics as embodied experiences, pushing this line of inquiry into bold new territory. Focusing on graphic autobiography and reportage, she argues that the bodily performances of creators and readers produce a dialogue that requires both parties to experience and engage with vulnerability, thus presenting a crucial opportunity for ethical encounters between artist and reader. Szép considers visceral representations of bulimia, pregnancy, the effects of STIs, the catastrophic injuries of war, and more in the works of Lynda Barry, Ken Dahl, Katie Green, Miriam Katin, and Joe Sacco. She thus extends comics theory into ethical and psychological territory that finds powerful intersections and resonances with the studies of affect, trauma, gender, and reader response.

**Eszter Szép** is a module leader and mentor at Milestone Institute, Budapest.

November 2020 208 pp.  
\$32.95 paperback 978-0-8142-5772-2  
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## Rhetoric of Health and Medicine As/Is

Theories and Approaches for the Field

EDITED BY LISA MELONÇON, S. SCOTT GRAHAM, JENELL JOHNSON, JOHN A. LYNCH, AND CYNTHIA RYAN

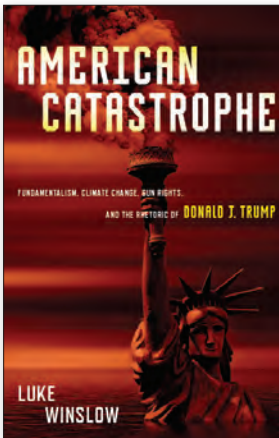
*Rhetoric of Health and Medicine As/Is: Theories and Approaches for the Field* provides an in-depth and wide-reaching analysis of the state of the rhetoric of health and medicine and offers core concepts and critical theories to ground research moving forward. With a foreword by Judy Segal and sections that address interdisciplinary perspectives, representations of health and illness in online spaces, and health activism and advocacy, this volume proceeds in a unique format: essays tackle these key topic areas through case studies ranging from food and its relation to public health, to apps that track fertility, to mental health and disability, to racial disparities that exist in public health campaigns about sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). The essays within each section are then followed by responses from prominent scholars in the rhetoric of health and medicine—including John Lyne, J. Blake Scott, and Lisa Keränen—who take on the central theme and discuss how the theory or concept under study can and should evolve in the next stages of research. Unifying the essays is a consideration of RHM as a theoretical construct guiding research and thinking alongside the conceptual parameters that constitute what RHM is and can be in practice. In asking questions about the role of rhetoric in health and medicine, this volume engages with broader theoretical and ethical concerns about our current healthcare system and how healthcare and medical issues circulate in all the social, cultural, economic, and political aspects of our world.

Contributors: Judy Segal, Lisa Melonçon, S. Scott Graham, Jenell Johnson, John Lynch, Colleen Derkatch, Philippa Spoel, Drew Holladay, Margaret Price, Emily Winderman, Jamie Landau, John Lyne, Molly Kessler, Amanda Friz, Stacey Overholt, Sarah Ann Singer, Jordynn Jack, J. Blake Scott, Rebecca Kuehl, Sara Drury, Jennifer Anderson, Jennifer Helene Maher, Amy C. Hickman, Rachel Bloom-Pojar, Laura Gonzales, Lisa B. Keränen, Cynthia Ryan, Barbara Heifferon, and T. Kenny Fountain.

**Lisa Melonçon** is Professor at the University of South Florida. **S. Scott Graham** is Assistant Professor at the University of Texas at Austin. **Jenell Johnson** is Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. **John A. Lynch** is Professor at the University of Cincinnati. **Cynthia Ryan** is Associate Professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

September 2020 282 pp.  
\$34.95 paperback 978-0-8142-5597-1  
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\$29.95 ebook 978-0-8142-7816-1

## Rhetoric and Communication / American Studies / Political Science



## American Catastrophe

Fundamentalism, Climate Change, Gun Rights, and the Rhetoric of Donald J. Trump

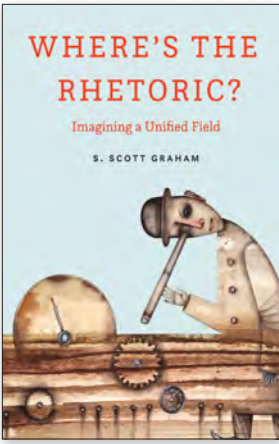
LUKE WINSLOW

On the face of it, most of us would agree that catastrophe is harmful and avoiding it is key to human survival and progress. And yet, the planet warms, 30,000 more Americans are killed by guns each year, and Donald J. Trump creates political chaos with his rage tweets. *American Catastrophe* explores such examples to argue that, in fact, we live in an age where catastrophe not only functions as a dominant organizing rhetoric but further as an appealing and unifying force for many communities across America.

Luke Winslow introduces the rhetorical homology as a critical tool useful for understanding how catastrophic appeals unite Americans across disparate religious, ecological, cultural, and political spheres. More specifically, the four case study chapters examining Christian fundamentalism, anti-environmentalism, gun rights messaging, and the administration of Donald Trump reveal a consistent formal pattern oriented toward catastrophe. In teasing out this orientation toward catastrophe, Winslow offers a fresh, provocative, and insightful contribution to our most pressing social challenges.

**Luke Winslow** is Assistant Professor at Baylor University and author of *Economic Injustice and the Rhetoric of the American Dream*.

July 2020 220 pp.  
\$32.95 paperback 978-0-8142-5590-2  
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## Where's the Rhetoric?

### Imagining a Unified Field

S. SCOTT GRAHAM

The emergence of rhetorical new materialisms and computational rhetorics has provoked something of an existential crisis within rhetorical studies. In *Where's the Rhetoric?*, S. Scott Graham tackles this titular question by arguing first that scholarly efforts in rhetorical new materialisms and computational rhetoric be understood as coextensive with longstanding disciplinary commitments in rhetoric. In making this argument, Graham excavates the shared intellectual history of traditional rhetorical inquiry, rhetorical new materialisms, and computational rhetoric with particular emphasis on the works of Carolyn Miller, Kenneth Burke, and Henri Bergson.

Building on this foundation, Graham then argues for a more unified approach to contemporary rhetorical inquiry—one that eschews disciplinary demarcations between rhetoric's various subareas. Specifically, Graham uses his unified field theory to explore 1) the rise of the "tweatorial" as a parascientific genre, 2) inventional practices in new media design, 3) statistical approaches to understanding biomedical discourse, and 4) American electioneering rhetorics. The book overall demonstrates how seemingly disparate intellectual approaches within rhetoric can be made to speak productively to one another in the pursuit of shared scholarly goals around questions of genre, media, and political discourse—thereby providing a foundation for imagining a more unified field.

**S. Scott Graham** is Assistant Professor at the University of Texas at Austin. He is the author of *The Politics of Pain Medicine: A Rhetorical-Ontological Inquiry*.

November 2020 214 pp.  
\$29.95 paperback 978-0-8142-5771-5  
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10 b&w illustrations

## Literary Studies / Literary Theory / Race and Ethnic Studies



## The Politics of Privacy in Contemporary Native, Latinx, and Asian American Metafictions

COLLEEN G. EILS

*The Politics of Privacy in Contemporary Native, Latinx, and Asian American Metafictions* is the first book-length study to approach contemporary issues of racialized visibility and privacy through narrative form. Using a formal maneuver, narrative privacy, Colleen G. Eils analyzes how writers of contemporary metafictions explicitly withhold stories from readers to illuminate and theorize the politics of privacy in a post-9/11 US context. As a formal device and reading strategy, narrative privacy has two primary critical interests: affirming the historically political nature of visibility, particularly for people of color and indigenous people, and theorizing privacy as a political assertion of power over representation and material vulnerability.

Eils breaks strict disciplinary silos by putting visibility/surveillance studies, ethnic studies, and narrative studies in conversation with one another. Eils also puts texts in the Native, Latinx, and Asian American literary canon in conversation with each other. She focuses on texts by Viet Thanh Nguyen, David Treuer, Monique Truong, Rigoberto González, Nam Le, and Stephen Graham Jones that call into question our positions as readers and critics. In deliberately and self-consciously evading readers through the form of their fiction, these writers seize privacy as a political tool for claiming and wielding power in both representational and material registers.

**Colleen G. Eils** is Assistant Professor of English and Associate Director of the West Point Writing Program at the United States Military Academy.

September 2020 234 pp.  
\$69.95 printed case 978-0-8142-1422-0  
\$29.95 ebook 978-0-8142-7822-2

## Literary Afrofuturism in the Twenty-First Century

EDITED BY ISIAH LAVENDER III  
AND LISA YASZEK

“Lavender and Yaszek have provoked a conversation among critics that challenges us with fundamental questions about the historical and geopolitical significance of African, Caribbean, and Black diasporic literary fantasies.”  
—**andré m. carrington** author of *Speculative Blackness: The Future of Race in Science Fiction*

“The collection delivers both up-to-date scholarship on a variety of authors and texts and documentation of the overall power and impact of Afrofuturist writing in the early twenty-first century. Each essay taught me something, whether it had to do with a familiar text or one that was entirely new to me.”  
—**Steven Shaviro**

**Isiah Lavender III** is the Sterling-Goodman Professor of English at the University of Georgia. He is the author of *Afrofuturism Rising: The Literary Prehistory of a Movement* (OSU Press, 2019).

**Lisa Yaszek** is Professor and Faculty Coordinator, SciFi@Tech at Georgia Tech. She is the author of *Galactic Suburbia: Recovering Women’s Science Fiction* (OSU Press, 2007).

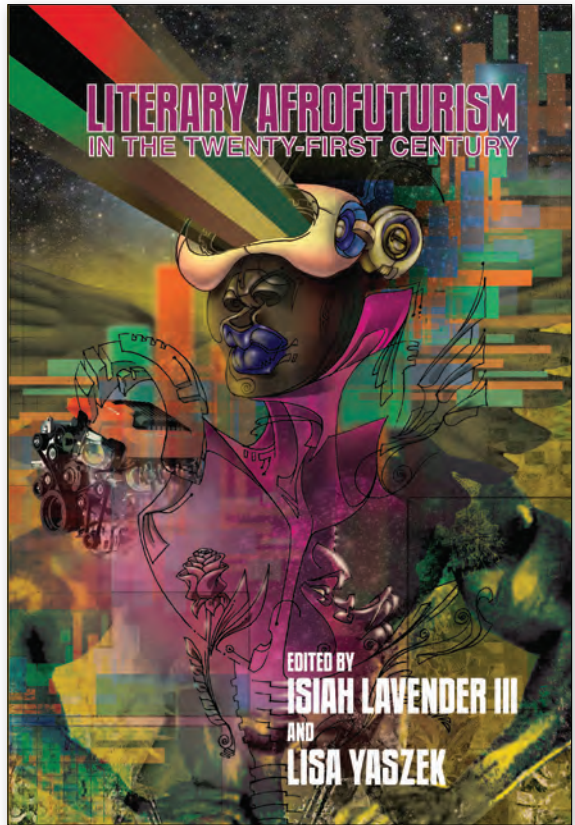
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9 b&w illustrations  
New Suns: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Speculative, Susana M. Morris and Kinitra D.

### Also of Interest

**Jordan Peele’s *Get Out***  
Political Horror  
Edited by Dawn Keetley



2020 262 pp.  
\$29.95 paperback 978-0-8142-5580-3  
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In *Literary Afrofuturism in the Twenty-First Century*, eminent contributors pay tribute to Afrofuturism as a powerful and evolving aesthetic practice that communicates the experience of science, technology, and race across centuries, continents, and cultures. While Ryan Coogler and Janelle Monáe may have helped bring the genre into contemporary pop consciousness, it in fact extends back to the writing of eighteenth-century poet Phyllis Wheatley and has continued in the work of Samuel R. Delany, Octavia E. Butler, N. K. Jemisin, and many others. In examining this heritage, contributors in this volume question generic boundaries, recover lost artists and introduce new ones, and explore how the meteoric rise of a new, pan-African speculative literary tradition may or may not connect with Afrofuturism.

Additionally, the editors have marshaled some of today’s most exciting writers for a roundtable discussion of the genre: Bill Campbell, Minister Faust, Nalo Hopkinson, N. K. Jemisin, Chinelo Onwualu, Nisi Shawl, and Nick Wood. Pioneering author and editor Sheree R. Thomas limns how black women have led new developments in contemporary Afrofuturism, and artist Stacey Robinson’s illustrations orient readers to the spirited themes of this enduring and consequential literary tradition.

Contributors: Marleen S. Barr, Mark Bould, Gerry Canavan, Lisa Dowdall, Rebecca J. Holden, De Witt Douglas Kilgore, Isiah Lavender III, Nedine Moonsamy, Stacey Robinson, Sheree R. Thomas, Elizabeth A. Wheeler, Jerome Winter, Gina Wisker, Lisa Yaszek





**Marco Codebò** is Professor of Italian and French at Long Island University.

September 2020 198 pp.  
\$79.95 printed case 978-0-8142-1447-3  
\$29.95 e book 978-0-8142-7840-6

## Novels of Displacement

Fiction in the Age of Global Capital

MARCO CODEBÒ

In *Novels of Displacement: Fiction in the Age of Global Capital*, Marco Codebò assesses the state of fiction in our time, an age defined by the combined hegemony of global capital and software. Codebò argues that present-day displacement originates in the dualism of power that pervades our polarized society and in the sweeping deterritorialization that is affecting people, objects, and signs. As the ties between subjectivity and territory break, being in the world means being displaced. Rather than narrating how subjectivity can mark a place, novels of displacement convey the crisis of subjectivity's connection to place.

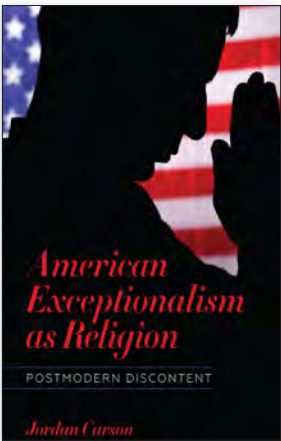
Using four works as case studies—Bernardo Carvalho's *Nove noites*, Daniel Sada's *Porque parece mentira la verdad nunca se sabe*, Zadie Smith's *White Teeth*, and Mathias Énard's *Zone*—Codebò investigates how globalization, displacement, and technology inform our understanding of subjectivity and one's place in the world. Coming from different literary traditions—Brazilian-Portuguese, Spanish, English, and French—*Novels of Displacement* traces the development of displacement caused by organized crime, migration, and war. Ultimately what emerges from this study is evidence of how cultures of untruth damage but do not destroy human agency.

## Literary Studies / American Studies

### American Exceptionalism as Religion

Postmodern Discontent

JORDAN CARSON



**Jordan Carson** is a Visiting Lecturer at Baylor University.

August 2020 240 pp.  
\$89.95 printed case 978-0-8142-1443-5  
\$29.95 e book 978-0-8142-7810-9  
Literature, Religion, and Postsecular Studies, Lori Branch, Series Editor

Jordan Carson's *American Exceptionalism as Religion* looks at how American nationalist ideologies intersect with religious ones in contemporary literature. Carson traces out how an exceptionalist belief system began to emerge historically with a distorted picture of religious commitment. He then connects this trend to writers such as Don DeLillo, Ana Castillo, Thomas Pynchon, George Saunders, and Marilynne Robinson to argue that these authors dismantle the privatization of religion in their writing and then offer their own alternatives. Their work, he argues, redefines religion in terms of practice and discipline, gauging it by its power to ground and guide behavior, morality, and sociality.

As American exceptionalism resurfaces in public discourse, Carson's timely work invites readers to reconsider the nexus of religion, politics, and culture. Carson argues that defining religion according to secularist criteria has insulated ostensibly secular ideologies as well as traditional religion from public scrutiny. DeLillo's, Castillo's, Pynchon's, Saunders's, and Robinson's redefinitions of religion result in a better grasp of how individuals actually live out their religious lives. More importantly, these authors help erect a framework for constructively engaging American exceptionalism and the ideas that support it.



**Natalya Bekhta** is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies.

July 2020 230 pp.  
\$79.95 printed case 978-0-8142-1441-1  
\$29.95 ebook 978-0-8142-7804-8  
Theory and Interpretation of Narrative  
James Phelan, Katra Byram, and Faye Halpern, Series Editors

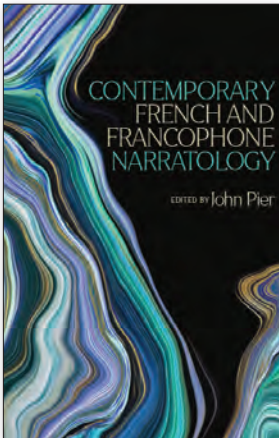
## We-Narratives

Collective Storytelling in Contemporary Fiction

NATALYA BEKHTA

Natalya Bekhta's *We-Narratives: Collective Storytelling in Contemporary Fiction* analyzes a storytelling form shaped by the pronoun "we," probing the tensions between individuality and collectivity in more recent narratives in English. Despite a growing interest in collective characters and the we-form in narratology and beyond, narrative theory has not yet done justice to the plural voice in fiction. In fact, the formulation of a poetics of collective expression needs clear theoretical conventions and a reassessment of established concepts in order to approach plural voices and agents on their own terms. *We-Narratives* addresses this demand by distinguishing between indicative and performative uses of the first-person plural pronoun in fiction and by identifying formal and rhetorical possibilities of stories told by group narrators.

What does it mean for a multitude to speak as one? How can a truly collective narrative voice be achieved or lost? What are its aesthetic and political repercussions? In order to tackle these questions, Bekhta reads a range of contemporary novels and short stories by Jeffrey Eugenides, Joshua Ferris, Toby Litt, Zakes Mda, Joyce Carol Oates, and Julie Otsuka. She also focuses on narrative innovation by Margaret Atwood, William Faulkner, and Susan Sontag. These narratives feature group protagonists and narrators and therefore offer insight into collective narrative discourse and focalization, construction of communal knowledge, and unreliability. We-narrative, taken as a distinct storytelling form, illuminates fiction's expressive potential and nuances models of narrative analysis.



## Contemporary French and Francophone Narratology

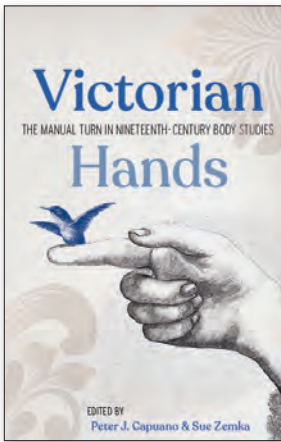
EDITED BY JOHN PIER

The essays included in this collection seek to take the pulse of recent developments in narratological research in the French-speaking countries. Theorists in these countries heavily participated in and shaped narratology, an outgrowth of the structuralist movement during the 1960s and 1970s. While US, German, and Scandinavian theorists took the forefront in the 1990s, narratology in France faded into the background. It was not until the turn of the century that a new interest in narratological issues among French researchers emerged. Activity in the field has since intensified, spurred on, in part, by the realization that narratology cannot be summed up by its formalist and structuralist origins.

Well-versed in French narrative theory, both classical and more recent, the authors in this collection also draw on scholarship coming from other research traditions. The result is that these contributions offer a number of syntheses and perspectives representative of recent French-language scholarship in the field that readers may not be familiar with or that provide them with further insight into subjects they may have encountered in other contexts. This volume will leave readers with a greater awareness of the directions taken by present-day French-language narratology as well as new and developing themes in narrative theory generally.

**John Pier** is Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Tours and a statutory member of the Centre de recherches sur les arts et le langage (CNRS/EHES) in Paris.

October 2020 252 pp.  
\$89.95 printed case 978-0-8142-1449-7  
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1 b&w illustration  
Theory and Interpretation of Narrative  
James Phelan, Katra Byram, and Faye Halpern, Series Editors



**Peter J. Capuano** is Associate Professor at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. He is the author of *Changing Hands: Industry, Evolution, and the Reconfiguration of the Victorian Body*. **Sue Zemka** is Professor at the University of Colorado Boulder. She is the author of *Time and the Moment in Victorian Literature and Society*.

October 2020 310 pp.  
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\$29.95 ebook 978-0-8142-8072-0  
14 b&w illustrations

## Victorian Hands

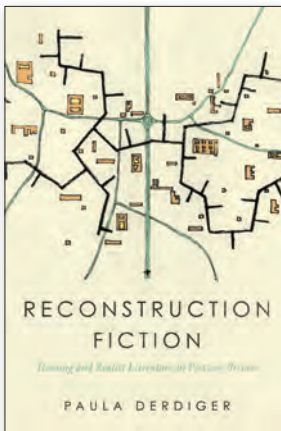
The Manual Turn in Nineteenth-Century Body Studies

EDITED BY PETER J. CAPUANO AND SUE ZEMKA

Until recently, the embodied hand has paradoxically escaped the notice of nineteenth-century cultural and literary historians precisely because of its centrality. The essays in Peter J. Capuano and Sue Zemka's new collection, *Victorian Hands: The Manual Turn in Nineteenth-Century Body Studies*, join an emerging body of work that seeks to remedy this. Casting new light on an array of well-known authors—Charlotte Brontë, Christina Rossetti, George Eliot, Wilkie Collins, William Morris, Thomas Hardy, Henry James, and Oscar Wilde—the volume explores the role of the hand as a nexus between culture and physical embodiment. The contributors to this volume address a wide range of manual topics and concerns, including those related to religion, medicine, science, industry, paranormal states, language, digital humanities, law, photography, disability, and art history. Examining hands, language, materiality, and agency, these contributors employ their expertise as Victorianists in order to understand what hands have to tell us about the cultural preoccupations of the nineteenth century and how the unique conditions of Britain at the time shaped the modern emergence of our cultural relationship with our hands.

Contributors: James Eli Adams, Karen Bourrier, Aviva Briefel, Peter J. Capuano, Jonathan Cheng, Kate Flint, Pamela K. Gilbert, Tamara Ketabgian, J. Hillis Miller, Deborah Denenholz Morse, Daniel A. Novak, Herbert F. Tucker, and Sue Zemka.

### Literary Theory



**Paula Derdiger** is Assistant Professor of English at the University of Minnesota Duluth.

October 2020 230 pp.  
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6 b&w illustrations

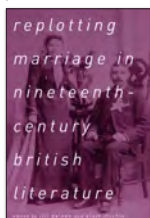
## Reconstruction Fiction

Housing and Realist Literature in Postwar Britain

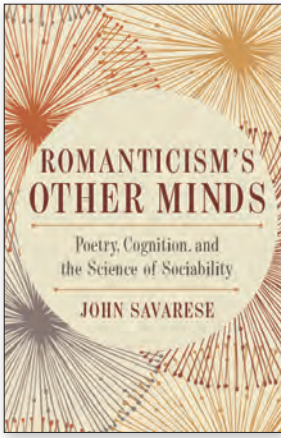
PAULA DERDIGER

*Reconstruction Fiction: Housing and Realist Literature in Postwar Britain* by Paula Derdiger assesses the impact of World War II and the welfare state on literary fiction by focusing on one of the defining issues of the postwar period: housing. Through compelling close readings and lively historical and cultural analysis, Derdiger argues that literary realism was a necessary, generative response to the war and welfare state since they impacted the built environment and landscape. Wartime decimation of buildings and streets called for reconstruction, and reconstruction called not just for bricks and mortar, architectural drawings, town plans, preservation schemes, and new policies but also for fiction that invited particular ways of inhabiting an environment that had been irrevocably changed. Derdiger argues that fiction, like actual buildings, creates a sheltered space for the mediation between individual subjects and the social and geographical environments that they encounter. Realist fiction, specifically, insists that such mediation is possible and that it is socially valuable. Covering writers spanning various social positions and aesthetic tendencies—including Elizabeth Bowen, Graham Greene, Patrick Hamilton, Doris Lessing, Colin MacInnes, and Elizabeth Taylor—Derdiger shows how these authors responded to the war with realistic technique, investing in external conditions just as much as or more than their characters' interior lives. In doing so, their reconstruction fiction helped to shape postwar life.

New in paperback  
**Replotting Marriage in Nineteenth-Century British Literature**  
Jill Galvan and Elsie Michie



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**John Savarese** is Assistant Professor at the University of Waterloo.

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Cognitive Approaches to Culture  
Frederick Luis Aldama, Patrick Colm Hogan,  
Lalita Pandit Hogan, and Sue J. Kim, Series  
Editors

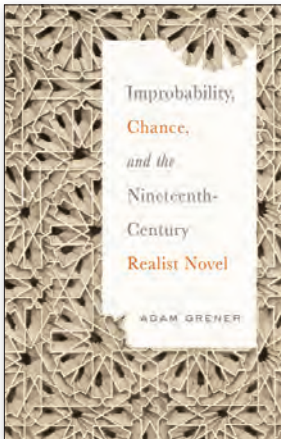
## Romanticism's Other Minds

Poetry, Cognition, and the Science of Sociability

JOHN SAVARESE

In *Romanticism's Other Minds: Poetry, Cognition, and the Science of Sociability*, John Savarese reassesses early relationships between Romantic poetry and the sciences, uncovering a prehistory of cognitive approaches to literature and demonstrating earlier engagement of cognitive approaches than has heretofore been examined at length. Eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century writers framed poetry as a window into the mind's original, underlying structures of thought and feeling. While that Romantic argument helped forge a well-known relationship between poetry and introspective or private consciousness, Savarese argues that it also made poetry the staging ground for a more surprising set of debates about the naturally social mind. From James Macpherson's forgeries of ancient Scottish poetry to Wordsworth's and Coleridge's *Lyrical Ballads*, poets mined traditional literatures and recent scientific conjectures to produce alternate histories of cognition, histories that variously emphasized the impersonal, the intersubjective, and the collective. By bringing together poetics, philosophy of mind, and the physiology of embodied experience—and with major studies of James Macpherson, Anna Letitia Barbauld, William Wordsworth, and Walter Scott—*Romanticism's Other Minds* recovers the interdisciplinary conversations at the heart of Romantic-era literary theory.

## Victorian Studies / Narrative Studies



**Adam Grener** is a Senior Lecturer in the English Programme at Victoria University of Wellington.

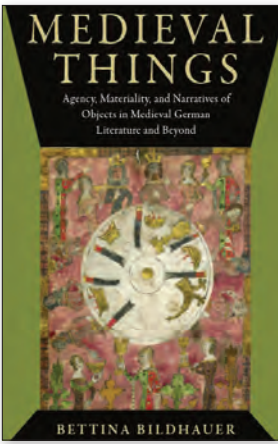
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## Improbability, Chance, and the Nineteenth-Century Realist Novel

ADAM GRENER

In *Improbability, Chance, and the Nineteenth-Century Realist Novel*, Adam Grener advances a new approach to evaluating realism in fiction by arguing that nineteenth-century literary realism shifted attention to the historical and social dimensions of probability in the period's literature. In an era in which probability was increasingly defined by statistical concepts of aggregation and abstraction, the realist writers discussed here turned to chance and improbability to address representational problems of contingency, difference, and scale.

Contemporary thinking about probability came to recognize the variability and even randomness of the world while also discovering how patterns and order reemerge at scale. Reading chance as a tension between randomness and order, Grener shows how novels by Jane Austen, Sir Walter Scott, Charles Dickens, Anthony Trollope, and Thomas Hardy resist the demands of probabilistic representation and develop strategies for capturing cultural particularity and historical transformation. These authors served their visions of realism by tactically embracing improbability in the form of coincidences, fatalism, supernaturalism, and luck. Understanding this strategy helps us to appreciate how realist novels work to historicize the social worlds and experiences they represent and asks us to rethink the very foundation of realism.



## Medieval Things

Agency, Materiality, and Narratives of Objects in Medieval German Literature and Beyond

BETTINA BILDHAUER

What does medieval literature look like from the point of view not of knights and ladies, but of treasure, and rings, nets and the grail? How does medieval literature imagine the agency of material things, and what exactly distinguishes human subjects from inanimate objects? *Medieval Things: Agency, Materiality, and Narratives of Objects in Medieval German Literature and Beyond* brings together a theoretically informed and politically engaged new materialist approach with a study of how everyday objects are understood in medieval literature. Bettina Bildhauer argues that medieval narratives can inspire current critical theory on agency and materiality. She focuses on famous and forgotten German narratives from the twelfth to the sixteenth centuries, including Wolfram of Eschenbach's *Parzival* and the epic *Song of the Nibelungs*, and sets them in their global context. Many such tales can be reconceptualized as “thing biographies”—stories that follow the trajectory not of a human hero but of a coin, a gown, a treasure, or a ring. Many also use nets and networks to conceptualize dangerous structures of knowledge. Shine, glamour, and charisma emerge as particularly powerful ways in which material things exert a kind of agency that is neither pseudo-human nor fetishistic. In analyzing details like these from medieval literature, Bildhauer thus contributes in new ways to current theory on agency and materiality.

**Bettina Bildhauer** is Professor of Modern Languages at the University of St Andrews.

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## Classics / Literary Theory

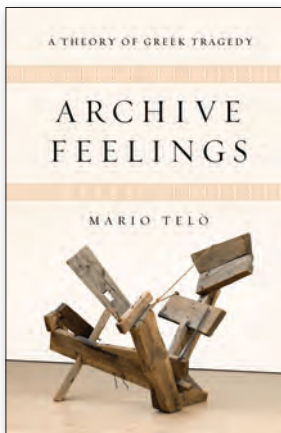
### Archive Feelings

A Theory of Greek Tragedy

MARIO TELÒ

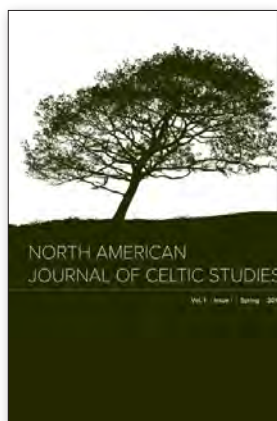
Do we take pleasure in reading ancient Greek tragedy despite the unsettling content or because of it? Does a safe aesthetic distance protect us from tragic suffering, or does the proximity to death tap into something more primal? Aristotle proposed catharsis, an emotional cleansing—or, in later interpretations, a sense of equilibrium—as tragedy's outcome, and Sigmund Freud and Jacques Lacan, grand theorists of the forces of anti-mastery in human and nonhuman existence, surprisingly agreed. Notwithstanding this deferral to Aristotle, their theorizations of the death drive—together with Jacques Derrida's notion of the archive as a place of conservation that inevitably fails—provide the groundwork for a radically new way of understanding tragic aesthetics.

With bold readings of thirteen plays by Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, including the Oedipus cycle, the *Oresteia*, *Medea*, and *Bacchae*; an eclectic synthesis of Freud, Lacan, Derrida, Žižek, Deleuze, and other critical theorists; and an engagement with art, architecture, and film, Mario Telò's *Archive Feelings: A Theory of Greek Tragedy* locates the genre's aesthetic allure beyond catharsis in a vertiginous sense of giddy suspension, in a spiral of life and death that resists equilibrium, stabilization, and all forms of normativity. In so doing, Telò forges a new model of tragic aesthetics.



**Mario Telò** is Professor of Classics at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author of *Aristophanes and the Cloak of Comedy: Affect, Aesthetics, and the Canon*.

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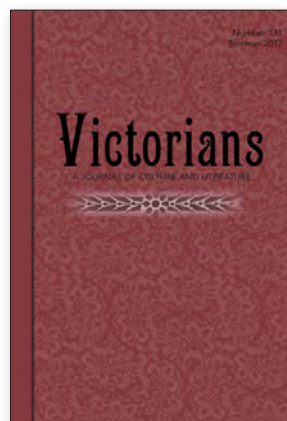
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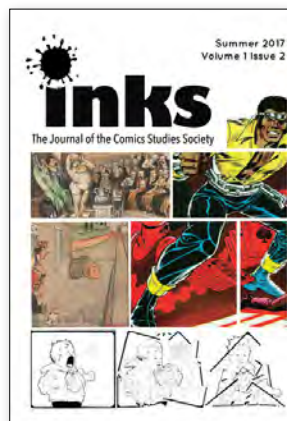
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