London’s literary and cultural scene fostered newly configured forms of feminist anti-colonialism during the modernist period. Through their writing in and about the imperial metropolis, colonial women authors not only remapped the city, they also renegotiated the position of women within the empire. This book examines the significance of gender to the interwoven nature of empire and modernism. As transgressive figures of modernity, writers such as Jean Rhys, Katherine Mansfield, Una Marson and Sarojini Naidu brought their own versions of modernity to the capital, revealing the complex ways in which colonial identities ‘traveled’ to London at the turn of the twentieth century. Anna Snaith’s timely and original study provides a new vantage point on the urban metropolis and its artistic communities for scholars and students of literary modernism, gender and postcolonial studies, and English literature more broadly.

Anna Snaith is a Reader in Twentieth-Century Literature at King’s College London. She holds a BA from the University of Toronto and a PhD from University College London. She is the author of Virginia Woolf: Public and Private Negotiations (2000), editor of Palgrave Advances in Virginia Woolf Studies (2007) and co-editor of Locating Woolf: The Politics of Space and Place (with Michael Whitworth, 2007). She recently edited Virginia Woolf’s The Years for The Cambridge University Press Edition of the Works of Virginia Woolf (2012).
MODERNIST VOYAGES

Colonial Women Writers in London, 1890–1945

ANNA SNAITH

King's College London
To my parents, Carolyn and Victor,
who took us voyaging.
With love and gratitude
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