

Cambridge Elements

Elements in Beckett Studies

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INSUFFERABLE: BECKETT, GENDER AND SEXUALITY

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Insufferable: Beckett, Gender and Sexuality

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Abstract: *Insufferable: Beckett, Gender and Sexuality* rethinks the role of gender politics in the oeuvre, demonstrates Beckett's historical importance in the development of the 'antisocial thesis' in queer theory, and shows the work's attachment to sexuality as temporarily consolatory but ultimately unbearable. The Beckett oeuvre might seem unpromising material for gender and sexuality studies, but this is exactly what makes it worth considering. This Element brings to Beckett questions that have emerged from gender, queer and trans theory, engages with the history of feminism and sexuality studies, and develops a theoretical framework able to account for what we have previously overlooked, underplayed and misinterpreted in Beckett. In the spirit of being 'on the lookout for an elsewhere', it makes a case for a queerly generative de-idealisation of Beckett as an object of critical study.

Keywords: Samuel Beckett, gender studies, queer theory, trans theory, sexual politics

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