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0521772117 - Nathalie Sarraute, Fiction and Theory: Questions of Difference

Ann Jefferson

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Nathalie Sarraute, who died in 1999, is now regarded as one of the major French novelists of the twentieth century. Initially hailed as a leading theorist and exemplar of the *nouveau roman*, she has come to be regarded as an important author in her own right with her own distinctive concerns. In this major new study of Sarraute, Ann Jefferson offers a fresh perspective on Sarraute's oeuvre – her novels, her outstanding autobiography *Enfance* and her influential critical writings – by focusing on the crucial issue of difference which emerges as one of her central preoccupations. Drawing on a variety of critical approaches, Jefferson explores Sarraute's fundamental ambivalence towards differences of various kinds including questions of gender and genre. She argues that difference is simultaneously asserted and denied in Sarraute's work, and that the notion of difference, so often celebrated by other writers and thinkers, is shown in Sarraute's work to be inseparable from ambiguity and anxiety.

Ann Jefferson is Fellow and Tutor in French at New College, Oxford. She is author of *The Nouveau Roman and the Poetics of Fiction* (1980), *Reading Realism in Stendhal* (1988), and co-author of *Modern Literary Theory: A Comparative Introduction* (1982, rev. edn 1986). She also co-edited the Pléiade edition of Nathalie Sarraute's complete works (1997).

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for Mike

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Ann Jefferson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

We can find no scar,
But internal difference,
Where the Meanings, are.
Emily Dickinson

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>page xi</i>
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xiii
Introduction	I
I DIFFERENCE AND HUMAN RELATIONS	
1 Difference and dissension	17
‘Differences’ and ‘différends’	17
Difference denied	27
Beyond compare	34
2 Subjectivity and indistinction	39
Self and other	39
Differential systems	52
3 Abjection into art	60
Abjection	60
Words	62
Scenes of narration	67
Art	70
II THE BODY AND SEXUAL DIFFERENCE	
4 Minds, bodies and the new unanimism	79
Psychology	81
Representation	87
Writing	91
5 Sexual indifference	96
Women, human beings and writing	96
Gender and the gaze	101
Women writers	105
Identifications	109

Cambridge University Press

0521772117 - Nathalie Sarraute, Fiction and Theory: Questions of Difference

Ann Jefferson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

III GENRE AND DIFFERENCE

6	Criticism and ‘the terrible desire to establish contact’	119
	Generic differences	119
	Authority, heresy and reading	124
	Strategies for contact	133
	Criticism and/ as fiction	138
7	Same difference: reprise and variation	145
	Fiction and autobiography	145
	Variations: repetitions and difference	156
	Internal breaches	163

IV CONCLUSION

	Death and the impossible difference	171
	<i>Notes</i>	183
	<i>Bibliography</i>	201
	<i>Index</i>	214

Cambridge University Press

0521772117 - Nathalie Sarraute, Fiction and Theory: Questions of Difference

Ann Jefferson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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Cambridge University Press

0521772117 - Nathalie Sarraute, Fiction and Theory: Questions of Difference

Ann Jefferson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xii

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Finally, this book has been written for Mike – who makes all the difference.

Abbreviations

<i>T</i>	<i>Tropismes</i>
<i>PI</i>	<i>Portrait d'un inconnu</i>
<i>M</i>	<i>Martereau</i>
<i>P</i>	<i>Le Planétarium</i>
<i>FO</i>	<i>Les Fruits d'or</i>
<i>EVM</i>	<i>Entre la vie et la mort</i>
<i>VLE</i>	<i>Vous les entendez?</i>
<i>DLI</i>	<i>«disent les imbéciles»</i>
<i>UP</i>	<i>L'Usage de la parole</i>
<i>E</i>	<i>Enfance</i>
<i>TNTP</i>	<i>Tu ne t'aimes pas</i>
<i>I</i>	<i>Ici</i>
<i>O</i>	<i>Ouvrez</i>
<i>OC</i>	<i>Œuvres complètes</i>
<i>ES</i>	<i>L'Ère du soupçon</i>
'Ce que je cherche'	'Ce que je cherche à faire'
'Ce que voient'	'Ce que voient les oiseaux'
'Conversation'	'Conversation et sous-conversation'
'Dostoïevski'	'De Dostoïevski à Kafka'
'LeÈre'	'L'Ère du soupçon'
'Flaubert'	'Flaubert le précurseur'
'Forme'	'Forme et contenu du roman'
'PV'	'Paul Valéry et l'Enfant d'Éléphant'