

# Cambridge Elements

Elements in Beckett Studies

edited by  
Dirk Van Hulle  
*University of Oxford*  
Mark Nixon  
*University of Reading*

## SAMUEL BECKETT AND CULTURAL NATIONALISM

Shane Weller  
*University of Kent*



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-009-04548-3 — Samuel Beckett and Cultural Nationalism  
Shane Weller  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom  
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,  
New Delhi – 110025, India  
79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781009045483](http://www.cambridge.org/9781009045483)  
DOI: 10.1017/9781009042277

© Shane Weller 2021

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2021

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

ISBN 978-1-009-04548-3 Paperback  
ISSN 2632-0746 (online)  
ISSN 2632-0738 (print)

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

## Samuel Beckett and Cultural Nationalism

Elements in Beckett Studies

DOI: 10.1017/9781009042277  
First published online: May 2021

---

Shane Weller  
*University of Kent*

**Author for correspondence:** Shane Weller, S.J.Weller@kent.ac.uk

**Abstract:** Drawing on evidence from his published works, manuscripts, and correspondence, *Samuel Beckett and Cultural Nationalism* explores Beckett's engagement with the theme of cultural nationalism throughout his writing life, revealing the various ways in which he sought to challenge culturally nationalist conceptions of art and literature, while never embracing a cosmopolitan approach. The Element shows how, in his pre-Second World War writings, Beckett sought openly to mock Irish nationalist ideas of culture and language, but that, in so doing, he failed to avoid what he himself described as a 'clot of prejudices'. In his post-war works in French and English, however, following time spent in Nazi Germany in 1936–7 as well as in the French Resistance during the Second World War, Beckett began to take a new approach to ideas of national-cultural affiliation, at the heart of which was a conception of the human as a citizen of nowhere.

**Keywords:** nationalism, cosmopolitanism, Samuel Beckett, translation, violence

© Shane Weller 2021

ISBNs: 9781009045483 (PB), 9781009042277 (OC)  
ISSNs: 2632-0746 (online), 2632-0738 (print)

## Contents

1 Introduction	1
2 A Nameless and Hideous Mass	10
3 Displaced Persons	25
4 Citizens of Nowhere	43
5 Conclusion	57
Bibliography	63