

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-08395-0 - The Cambridge Companion to: The American Modernist Novel

Edited by Joshua L. Miller

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THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO  
THE AMERICAN MODERNIST NOVEL

*The Cambridge Companion to the American Modernist Novel* offers a comprehensive analysis of U.S. modernism as part of a wider, global literature. Both modernist and American literary studies have been reshaped by waves of scholarship that unsettled prior consensus regarding America's relation to transnational, diasporic, and indigenous identities and aesthetics; the role of visual and musical arts in narrative experimentation; science and technology studies; and allegiances across racial, ethnic, gendered, and sexual social groups. Recent writing on U.S. immigration, imperialism, and territorial expansion has generated fresh and exciting reasons to read – or reread – modernist novelists, both prominent and forgotten. Written by a host of leading scholars, this *Companion* provides unique interpretations and approaches to modernist themes, techniques, and texts.

Joshua L. Miller is Associate Professor of English at the University of Michigan. His first book, *Accented America: The Cultural Politics of Multilingual Modernism*, analyzed the mixed languages of interwar U.S. literary modernism. He is the coeditor of the forthcoming book *Languages of Modern Jewish Cultures: Comparative Perspectives*.

*A list of titles in the series is at the end of the book.*

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JOSHUA L. MILLER  
*University of Michigan*



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## CONTRIBUTORS

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MARY PAT BRADY teaches at Cornell University. She is the author of *Extinct Lands, Temporal Geographies: Chicana Literature and the Urgency of Space* (Duke, 2002) and an associate editor of the seventh edition of *The Heath Anthology of American Literature* (Cengage, 2012).

DENISE CRUZ is Assistant Professor of English at the University of Toronto. She is the author of *Transpacific Femininities: The Making of the Modern Filipina* (Duke, 2012) and the editor of Yay Panlilio's *The Crucible: An Autobiography of Colonel Yay, Filipina American Guerrilla* (Rutgers, 2009). Her articles have appeared (or are forthcoming) in *American Quarterly*, *PMLA*, *Modern Fiction Studies*, *American Literature*, *American Literary History*, and the collection *Eating Asian America: A Food Studies Reader*. Her research centers on the use of spatial and geographic frameworks to analyze gender and sexuality in national and transnational cultures.

YOGITA GOYAL is Associate Professor of English at the University of California, Los Angeles, and Associate Editor of *Contemporary Literature*. She is the author of *Romance, Diaspora, and Black Atlantic Literature* (2010) and the editor of the forthcoming *Cambridge Companion to Transnational American Literature*. Her next book explores the afterlives of slavery in contemporary fiction.

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DANIEL KATZ is Professor of English and Comparative Literary Studies at the University of Warwick. He is the author of *Saying I No More: Subjectivity and Consciousness in the Prose of Samuel Beckett* (Northwestern, 1999), *American Modernism's Expatriate Scene: The Labour of Translation* (Edinburgh, 2007; paperback reissue, 2014), and *The Poetry of Jack Spicer* (Edinburgh, 2013).

EMILY J. LORDI is Assistant Professor of English at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and the author of *Black Resonance: Iconic Women Singers and African American Literature* (Rutgers, 2013). She is writing a musical-literary history of the concept of "soul" in African American culture.

STEVEN MEYER teaches intellectual history and modern literature at Washington University in St. Louis. He is the author of *Irresistible Dictation: Gertrude Stein and the Correlations of Writing and Science* (Stanford, 2001), which seeks to establish the interdisciplinary contours of Stein's writing: philosophical, psychological, neurophysiological, literary. He is currently completing *Robust Empiricisms: Jamesian Modernism between the Disciplines, 1878 to the Present*, a cross-disciplinary account of investigations in literature, literary criticism, philosophy, science studies, and the life sciences that involve the development of techniques for eliciting something where, from the perspective of more traditional empiricisms, there is nothing. He is also the editor of the forthcoming *Cambridge Companion to Literature and Science*.

CATHERINE MORLEY is Senior Lecturer in American Literature at the University of Leicester. She has published numerous articles and chapters, as well as two monographs: *The Quest for Epic in Contemporary American Fiction* (Routledge, 2009) and *Modern American Literature* (Edinburgh, 2012). She is the editor of *American Writing after 9/11* (Bloomsbury, 2015) and the coeditor of *American Thought and Culture in the 21st Century* (Edinburgh, 2008) and *American Modernism: Cultural Transactions* (Cambridge Scholars, 2009).

JULIAN MURPHET is Professor in Modern Film and Literature at the School of the Arts and Media as well as Director of the Centre for Modernism Studies in Australia at UNSW, where he edits the journal *Affirmations: of the modern*. He is the author of *Literature and Race in Los Angeles* (Cambridge, 2001) and *Multimedia Modernism* (Cambridge, 2009).

GAYLE ROGERS is Associate Professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh, where he teaches courses in modernism, world literature, translation theory, and archival research methods. He is the author of *Modernism and the New Spain: Britain, Cosmopolitan Europe, and Literary History* (Oxford, 2012) and of

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publications in *PMLA*, *Modernism/modernity*, *Comparative Literature*, *Journal of Modern Literature*, *James Joyce Quarterly*, *TransLatin Joyce: Global Transmissions in Ibero-American Literature*, *Oxford Handbook of Global Modernisms*, *Revista de Estudios Orteguianos*, and *100 Escritores del Siglo XX*. His current book projects are *Modernism: Evolution of an Idea*, coauthored with Sean Latham (Bloomsbury, 2015), and *Between Literary Empires: Translation and the International Emergence of Modernism*, a study of English/Spanish translation practices from the Spanish-American War of 1898 through the modernist era.

HARILAOS STECOPOULOS is Associate Professor of English at the University of Iowa and the editor of *The Iowa Review*. He is the author of *Reconstructing the World: Southern Fictions and U.S. Imperialisms, 1898–1976* (Cornell, 2008).

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# CHRONOLOGY

1877	Thomas A. Edison invents the phonograph
1879	Henry James, <i>Daisy Miller: A Study</i>
1880	George Washington Cable, <i>The Grandissimes: A Story of Creole Life</i>
1881	Henry James, <i>The Portrait of a Lady</i>
1882	Chinese Exclusion Act The Edison Illuminating Company opens the first U.S. central power plant in New York City
1884	Ten-story Home Insurance Building in Chicago is the first “skyscraper” Henry James, “The Art of Fiction”
1886	Haymarket Affair in Chicago
1887	Thibodaux (LA) Massacre
1888	Edison and Eadweard Muybridge meet to discuss development of a device to exhibit motion pictures First Kodak box cameras sold
1890	Sherman Antitrust Act First U.S. census utilizing machine tabulation with data punch cards National Afro-American League founded Battle of Wounded Knee Henry James, <i>The Tragic Muse</i> William James, <i>The Principles of Psychology</i> Sarah Orne Jewett, <i>Tales of New England</i> Mary E. Bradley (Lane), <i>Mizora</i>

CHRONOLOGY

- Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives*  
 Oscar Wilde, *Picture of Dorian Gray*, published in  
*Lippincott's Monthly Magazine* (Philadelphia)
- 1891 International Copyright Act  
 The kineograph and kinetoscope, early motion picture devices  
 attributed to Edison and W.K.L. Dickson, are exhibited  
 Henry Ford hired as engineer at Edison Illuminating Company
- 1892 Francis E.W. Harper, *Iola Leroy*
- 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago  
 Financial panic of 1893
- 1894 Mark Twain, *The Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson and the  
 Comedy of Those Extraordinary Twins*  
 Kate Chopin, *Bayou Folk*
- 1896 Financial panic of 1896  
 U.S. Supreme Court upholds "separate but equal" doctrine of  
 racial segregation in *Plessy v. Ferguson*  
 Abraham Cahan, *Yekl*  
 Sarah Orne Jewett, *The Country of the Pointed Firs*
- 1897 Henry James, *What Maisie Knew*
- 1898 Sinking of USS *Maine* in Havana, Cuba  
 Wars with Spain over Cuba, Puerto Rico, Philippines, and  
 Guam  
 Hawai'i annexed  
 Wilmington (NC) coup d'état  
*United States v. Wong Kim Ark* Supreme Court case
- 1899 Samoa occupied  
 American Anti-Imperialist League formed  
 Kate Chopin, *The Awakening*
- 1900 Pauline Hopkins, *Contending Forces: A Romance*
- 1901 Pan-American Exposition held in Buffalo, NY  
 President William McKinley is shot by Leon Czolgosz at the  
 Pan-American Exposition and dies eight days later; Vice  
 President Theodore Roosevelt succeeds McKinley  
 Charles Chesnutt, *The Marrow of Tradition*  
 Booker T. Washington, *Up from Slavery*



CHRONOLOGY

- 1902 Pauline Hopkins, *Of One Blood*, published serially through  
 1903 William James, *The Varieties of Religious Experience*
- 1903 Immigration Act of 1903 (Anarchist Exclusion Act)  
 W.E.B. Du Bois, *Souls of Black Folk*  
 Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *The Home: Its Work and Influence*  
 Henry James, *The Ambassadors*  
 Jack London, *The Call of the Wild*  
 Gertrude Stein, *Q.E.D.* composed
- 1904 Henry James, *The Golden Bowl*
- 1905 Niagara Movement formed  
 Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth*
- 1906 Atlanta race riots  
 President Theodore Roosevelt receives the Nobel Peace Prize  
 Meat Inspection Act and Pure Food and Drug Act  
 San Francisco earthquake  
 Picasso completes his portrait of Gertrude Stein in Paris
- 1907 Immigration Act of 1907  
 Financial panic leads to creation of Federal Reserve System  
 Henry Adams, *The Education of Henry Adams*  
 Henry James, *The American Scene*  
 William James, *Pragmatism: A New Name for Some Old Ways of Thinking*
- 1908 “Gentleman’s agreement” with Japan  
 Ford Motor Company introduces the Model T automobile  
 Jack London, *The Iron Heel*
- 1909 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) founded  
 Gertrude Stein, *Three Lives*
- 1910 Mexican Revolution  
 Mann Act (“White-Slave Traffic Act”)
- 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Company fire  
 Dillingham Commission Report

CHRONOLOGY

- Frederick Winslow Taylor, *The Principles of Scientific Management*  
 Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *Moving the Mountain*
- 1912 Mary Antin, *The Promised Land*  
 Edith Eaton (Sui-Sin Far), *Mrs. Spring Fragrance*  
 James W. Johnson, *Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*
- 1913 The New York Armory Show  
 California enacts Alien Land Law  
 Willa Cather, *O Pioneers!*
- 1914 Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria assassinated in Sarajevo  
 Panama Canal completed  
 Tampico Affair and six-month occupation of Veracruz, Mexico  
 Ludlow Massacre  
 Henry Ford introduces “Five Dollar Day”  
 American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers is established to protect copyrighted music
- 1915 German U-boat sinks ocean liner *Lusitania*  
 U.S. occupation of Haiti  
 Mariano Azuela, *Los de abajo* published serially in *El Paso del Norte* (revised and republished in 1920)  
 Willa Cather, *The Song of the Lark*  
 Charlie Chaplin, *The Tramp*  
 Winnifred Eaton (Onoto Watanna), *Me: A Book of Remembrance*  
 Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *Herland*  
 D.W. Griffith, *The Birth of a Nation*
- 1916 Margaret Sanger, Ethel Byrne, and Fanny Mindell open first U.S. birth control clinic  
 John Dewey, *Democracy and Education*  
 W.C. Handy, “Beale Street Blues”  
 Rabindranath Tagore, *At Home in the World*
- 1917 United States enters World War I  
 Russian Revolution  
 East St. Louis race riot (others in Chester, PA; Philadelphia, PA; and Houston, TX)  
 Immigration Act of 1917

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- 1918      Influenza epidemic  
             Dillingham-Hardwick Act  
             Henry Adams, *The Education of Henry Adams*  
             Willa Cather, *My Ántonia*  
             Olga Beatriz Torres, *Memorias de mi viaje*  
             Ralph Werther, *Autobiography of an Androgyne*
- 1919      Treaty of Versailles  
             18th Amendment to the Constitution prohibits alcohol;  
                 National Prohibition (Volstead) Act  
             “Red Summer” of race riots in more than 25 cities, including  
                 Chicago, IL; Washington, DC; and Elaine, AR  
             Palmer Raids  
             Sherwood Anderson, *Winesburg, Ohio*  
             H.L. Mencken, *The American Language*
- 1920      F. Scott Fitzgerald, *This Side of Paradise*  
             Anzia Yezierska, *Hungry Hearts*
- 1921      Tulsa race riot  
             Emergency Quota Act
- 1922      Cable Act  
             Willa Cather, *One of Ours*  
             F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Beautiful and Damned*  
             Waldo Frank, *City Block*  
             Anzia Yezierska, *Salome of the Tenements*
- 1923      Rosewood (FL) Massacre  
             *United States v. Bhagat Singh* Third Supreme Court decision  
                 declaring Native Americans nonwhite in the “common  
                 understanding” of the nation  
             Willa Cather, *A Lost Lady*  
             Jean Toomer, *Cane*
- 1924      Johnson-Reed Immigration Act  
             Walter White, *The Fire in the Flint*
- 1925      Scopes trial  
             Sherwood Anderson, *Dark Laughter*  
             Willa Cather, *The Professor’s House*  
             John Dos Passos, *Manhattan Transfer*  
             F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*  
             Ernest Hemingway, *In Our Time*  
             Alain Locke, *The New Negro*

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- Anita Loos, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*  
 Gertrude Stein, *The Making of Americans*  
 Anzia Yezierska, *Bread Givers*
- 1926 Hilda Doolittle, *Palimpsest*  
 Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*  
 Langston Hughes, "The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain"
- 1927 Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti executed  
 Willa Cather, *Death Comes for the Archbishop*  
 Ernest Hemingway, *Men without Women*  
 V.L. Parrington, *Main Currents in American Thought*  
 Bessie Smith, "Backwater Blues"
- 1928 Djuna Barnes, *Ryder* and *Ladies' Almanack*  
 W.E.B. Du Bois, *Dark Princess: A Romance*  
 Dashiell Hammett, *Red Harvest*  
 Nella Larsen, *Quicksand*  
 Claude McKay, *Home to Harlem*
- 1929 Stock Market crashes on "Black Thursday"  
 William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*  
 Alyse Gregory, *King Log and Lady Lea*  
 Ernest Hemingway, *A Farewell to Arms*  
 Nella Larsen, *Passing*  
 Oliver La Farge, *Laughing Boy*  
 Claude McKay, *Banjo*
- 1930 Sinclair Lewis is the first U.S. writer to win the Nobel Prize in Literature  
 Watsonville (CA) riots  
 John Dos Passos, *42nd Parallel*  
 William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*  
 Michael Gold, *Jews without Money*  
 Langston Hughes, *Not without Laughter*
- 1931 Pearl S. Buck, *The Good Earth*  
 William Faulkner, *Sanctuary*  
 George Schuyler, *Black No More*  
 Edmund Wilson, *Axel's Castle*
- 1932 John Dos Passos, *1919*  
 William Faulkner, *Light in August*

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- Kathleen Tamagawa, *Holy Prayers in a Horse's Ear*  
Wallace Thurman, *Infants of the Spring*
- 1933 21st Amendment to the Constitution repeals Prohibition  
Gertrude Stein, *Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*  
Nathanael West, *Miss Lonelyhearts*
- 1934 Gertrude Stein and Alice Toklas tour United States  
James M. Cain, *The Postman Always Rings Twice*  
F. Scott Fitzgerald, *Tender Is the Night*  
Henry Miller, *Tropic of Cancer*  
Henry Roth, *Call It Sleep*  
Nathanael West, *A Cool Million, or, the Dismantling of Lemuel Pitkin*
- 1935 Harlem race riot  
James M. Cain, *Double Indemnity*  
W.E.B. Du Bois, *Black Reconstruction in America*  
\*Jovita González, "Shades of the Tenth Muses" completed  
Horace McCoy, *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?*  
Gertrude Stein, *Lectures in America and Narration*  
H.T. Tsiang, *The Hanging on Union Square*
- 1936 Djuna Barnes, *Nightwood*  
John Dos Passos, *The Big Money*  
William Faulkner, *Absalom, Absalom!*  
D'Arcy McNickle, *The Surrounded*  
George Santayana, *The Last Puritan: A Memoir in the Form of a Novel*
- 1937 Ernest Hemingway, *To Have and Have Not*  
Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*  
Younghill Kang, *East Goes West*  
Claude McKay, *A Long Way from Home*  
H.T. Tsiang, *And China Has Hands*
- 1938 Pearl Buck receives Nobel Prize  
Zora Neale Hurston, *Tell My Horse*
- 1939 World's Fair in New York City  
Golden Gate Exposition in San Francisco  
Raymond Chandler, *The Big Sleep*

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- John Fante, *Ask the Dust*  
 William Faulkner, *The Wild Palms* [*If I Forget Thee, Jerusalem*]  
 Zora Neale Hurston, *Moses, Man of the Mountain*  
 John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*  
 Nathanael West, *The Day of the Locust*
- 1940 James Agee and Walker Evans, *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*  
 Willa Cather, *Sapphira and the Slave Girl*  
 Raymond Chandler, *Farewell, My Lovely*  
 Ernest Hemingway, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*  
 Langston Hughes, *The Big Sea*  
 \*Américo Paredes, *George Washington Gómez* completed  
 Richard Wright, *Native Son*
- 1941 F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Last Tycoon*  
 Lin Yutang, *A Leaf in the Storm*  
 Richard Wright, *12 Million Black Voices*
- 1942 Alfred Kazin, *On Native Grounds*
- 1943 Magnuson Act repeals the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882  
 Race riots in Detroit, MI; New York, NY; and Los Angeles, CA (Zoot Suit Riots)  
 \*Jovita González and Margaret Elmer [Eve Raleigh], *Caballero: A Historical Novel* completed
- 1945 Chester Himes, *If He Hollers, Let Him Go*
- 1946 Carlos Bulosan, *America Is in the Heart*  
 Gertrude Stein, *Wars I Have Seen*
- 1948 Zora Neale Hurston, *Seraph on the Suwanee*  
 Lin Yutang, *Chinatown Family*
- 1950 William Faulkner receives Nobel Prize  
 Jade Snow Wong, *Fifth Chinese Daughter*
- 1952 Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*  
 Ernest Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea*
- 1953 Raymond Chandler, *The Long Goodbye*

\* NB: An asterisk denotes uncertain date of composition or completion of a work.