

THE VALUES OF LITERARY STUDIES

What is valuable about literary studies? What is its point and purpose? In *The Values of Literary Studies: Critical Institutions, Scholarly Agendas*, leading scholars in the field illuminate both the purpose and priorities of literary criticism. At a time when the humanities are increasingly called upon to justify themselves, this book seeks to clarify their myriad values and ideologies. Engaging the idea of literary value while remaining attuned to aesthetic, ethical, political and psychological principles, this book serves to underscore the enduring significance of literary studies in an academic climate that is ostensibly concerned with expediency and quantification. As a sophisticated examination of literary theory and criticism, *The Values of Literary Studies: Critical Institutions, Scholarly Agendas* provides a rich, wide-ranging view of where the discipline is now and what avenues it is likely to take from here.

RÓNÁN MCDONALD is Professor of Modern Literature at the University of New South Wales. His research interests include modern Irish literature and culture, literary criticism and the value of the humanities. His books include *Tragedy and Irish Literature*, *The Death of the Critic*, and *The Cambridge Introduction to Samuel Beckett* (Cambridge University Press, 2007).

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Critical Institutions, Scholarly Agendas

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University of New South Wales



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