

AMERICAN LITERATURE IN TRANSITION,
1960–1970

The decade of the 1960s has come to occupy a uniquely seductive place in both the popular and the historical imagination. While few might disagree that it was a transformative period, the United States remains divided on the question of whether the changes that occurred were for the better or for the worse. Some see it as a decade when people became more free; others as a time when people became more lost. *American Literature in Transition, 1960–1970* provides the latest scholarship on this time of fateful turning, as seen through the eyes of writers as various as Toni Morrison, Gary Snyder, Michael Herr, Amiri Baraka, Joan Didion, Louis Chu, John Rechy, and Gwendolyn Brooks. This collection of essays by twenty-five scholars offers analysis and explication of the culture wars surrounding the period and explores the enduring testimonies left behind by its literature.

DAVID WYATT is an authority on the literature and history of the American 1960s. His first book on the subject, *Out of the Sixties: Storytelling and the Vietnam Generation*, focused on the careers of ten writer-artists born between Pearl Harbor and Ike's election and included chapters on Bruce Springsteen, Sam Shepard, Alice Walker, and Louise Glück. In 2015, he published *When America Turned: Reckoning with 1968*, a riveting narrative of the events of that fateful year.

AMERICAN LITERATURE IN TRANSITION

American Literature in Transition captures the dynamic energies transmitted across the twentieth- and twenty-first-century American literary landscapes. Revisionary and authoritative, the series offers a comprehensive new overview of the established literary landmarks that constitute American literary life. Ambitious in scope and depth and accommodating new critical perspectives and approaches, this series captures the dynamic energies and ongoing change in twentieth- and twenty-first-century American literature. These are decades of transition but also periods of epochal upheaval. These decades – the Jazz Age, the Great Depression, the Cold War, the sixties, 9/11 – are turning points of real significance. But in a tumultuous century, these terms can mask deeper structural changes. Each one of these books challenges in different ways the dominant approaches to a period of literature by shifting the focus from what happened to understanding how and why it happened. They elucidate the multifaceted interaction between the social and literary fields and capture that era's place in the incremental evolution of American literature up to the present moment. Taken together, this series of books constitutes a new kind of literary history in a century of intense cultural and literary creation, a century of liberation and also of immense destruction too. As a revisionary project grounded in preexisting debates, American Literature in Transition offers an unprecedented analysis of the American literary experience

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EDITED BY

DAVID WYATT

University of Maryland



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Contributors

ANGELA S. ALLAN

Angela is Lecturer on History and Literature at Harvard University. She is working on a book project entitled, *Black Market Realism: American Literature in the Risk Economy*.

PHILIP D. BEIDLER

Philip is Professor of English at the University of Alabama. His many books on the literature of the Vietnam War include *American Literature and the Experience of Vietnam* (1982) and *Re-writing America: Vietnam Authors in Their Generation* (1991).

MICHAEL COLLIER

Michael is Professor of English and Director of the MFA Program at the University of Maryland, College Park. His books of poetry include *An Individual History* (2012) and *My Bishop and Other Poems* (2018).

FREDRIK DEBOER

Fredrik is Academic Assessment Manager at Brooklyn College, City University of New York. He is the author of “The Charmer: Notes on Louis Farrakhan” (2016) for *Harper’s Magazine* and “Why We Should Fear University, Inc.,” for *The New York Times Magazine* (2015).

MORRIS DICKSTEIN

Morris is Distinguished Professor of English and Senior Fellow at the Center for the Humanities, The Graduate Center of the City University of New York. His books include *Why Not Say What Happened: A Sentimental Education* (2015) and *Leopards in the Temple: The Transformation of American Fiction, 1945–1970* (2002).

List of Contributors

ix

AL FILREIS

Al is Professor of English and Faculty Director of the Kelly Writers House at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of *Modernism from Left to Right* (1994) and *Wallace Stevens and the Actual World* (1991).

LOREN GLASS

Loren is Associate Professor of English at the University of Iowa. He is the author of *Authors, Inc.: Literary Celebrity in the Modern United States* (2004) and *Counter-Culture Colophon: Grove Press, the Evergreen Review, and the Incorporation of the Avant-Garde* (2013).

OCTAVIO R. GONZÁLEZ

Octavio is Assistant Professor of English at Wellesley College. He is the author of a book of poems, *The Book of Ours* (2009), and is working on a manuscript entitled, “*Misfit Modernism: Intersections of Double Exile in the Early Twentieth Century.*”

JOHN HELLMANN

John is Professor of English at The Ohio State University at Lima. He is the author of *Fables of Fact: The New Journalism as New Fiction* (1981) and *The Kennedy Obsession: The American Myth of JFK* (1997).

ROBERT P. KOLKER

Robert is Professor of English Emeritus at the University of Maryland, College Park. His books on film include *A Cinema of Loneliness* (1980 and 2011) and *The Extraordinary Image: Orson Welles, Alfred Hitchcock, Stanley Kubrick, and the Reimagining of Cinema* (2016).

DAVID KRASNER

David is Chair of Theatre at Five Towns College, Long Island, NY. He is the author of *A History of Modern Drama* (2016) and *A Beautiful Pageant: African American Theater, Drama, and Performance, 1910–1927* (2004).

JOSEPH KUBIAK

Joseph is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of English at Arizona State University and Adjunct Professor of English at Glendale Community College. His research is focused on creating new frameworks for the analysis of radical and revolutionary rhetoric.

PAUL LAUTER

Paul is Professor of English Emeritus at Trinity College. He is the author of *From Walden Pond to Jurassic Park* (2001) and *Canons and Contexts* (1991) and the general editor of the *Heath Anthology of American Literature*.

DANIEL LEHMAN

Daniel is Trustees' Distinguished Professor of English Emeritus at Ashland University. He is the author of *John Reed and the Writing of Revolution* (2002) and *Matters of Fact: Reading Nonfiction Over the Edge* (1997).

PHILIP LONGO

Philip is a Continuing Lecturer in the Writing Program at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He is currently working on a book project, *An Army of Lovers: Erotic Social Forms in Writing of the Sexual Revolution*.

KEITH D. MILLER

Keith is Professor of English at Arizona State University. He is the author of *Voice of Deliverance: The Language of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Its Sources* (1992) and *Martin Luther King's Biblical Epic: His Great, Final Speech* (2012).

RANDY ONTIVEROS

Randy is Associate Professor of English at the University of Maryland. He is the author of *In the Spirit of a New People: The Cultural Politics of the Chicano Movement* (2013).

CRYSTAL PARIKH

Crystal is Associate Professor of English at New York University. She is the author of *An Ethics of Betrayal: The Politics of Otherness in Emergent U.S. Literature and Culture* (2009) and coeditor of the *Cambridge Companion to Asian American Literature* (2015).

TIMOTHY PARRISH

Timothy is Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of California, Davis. His books include *From the Civil War to the Apocalypse: History in Twentieth-Century American Fiction* (2008) and *Ralph Ellison and the Genius of America* (2012).

List of Contributors

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NANCY J. PETERSON

Nancy is Professor of English at Purdue University. She is the author of *Beloved: Character Studies* (2008) and *Against Amnesia: Contemporary Women Writers and the Crises of Historical Memory* (2001).

CATHERINE RAINWATER

Catherine is Professor of English at St. Edward's University. She is the author of *Dreams of Fiery Stars: The Transformations of Native American Fiction* (1999) and editor of *Leslie Marmon Silko's Storyteller: New Perspectives* (2016).

ROBERT SCHULTZ

Robert is the John P. Fishwick Professor of English at Roanoke College. He is the author of a novel, *The Madhouse Nudes* (1997), three volumes of poetry, and *We Were Pirates: A Torpedoman's Pacific War* (2009).

CHRISTIN MARIE TAYLOR

Christin is Assistant Professor of English at Shenandoah University. She is the author of *Labor Pains: New Deal Fictions of Race, Work, and Sex in the South* (2019).

PATRICIA WALLACE

Patricia is Professor of English Emeritus at Vassar College. She has served as an editor of the *Norton Anthology of American Literature* (1989–2012) and a contributor to the *Columbia History of American Poetry* (1993).

DAVID WYATT

David is Professor of English at the University of Maryland, College Park. He has published two books on the 1960s: *Out of the Sixties: Storytelling and the Vietnam Generation* (1993) and *When America Turned: Reckoning with 1968* (2014).

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