

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

RÓNÁN MCDONALD

University of New South Wales



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Notes on Contributors

CHARLES ALTIERI teaches at UC Berkeley. He is the author of several books on twentieth-century poetry and on critical theory. His latest books are *Wallace Stevens and the Demands of Modernity* (2013) and, forthcoming, *Reckoning with Imagination: Wittgenstein and the Aesthetics of Literary Experience*.

DEREK ATTRIDGE is the author of books and essays on literary theory, poetic form, and Irish and South African literature. His most recent publications are *The Work of Literature* (2015) and, with Henry Staten, *The Craft of Poetry: Dialogues on Minimal Interpretation* (2015). He teaches at the University of York and is a Fellow of the British Academy.

ANTHONY J. CASCARDI is Dean of Arts and Humanities at UC Berkeley, where he is also Sidney and Margaret Ancker Distinguished Professor in Comparative Literature. He has written widely on the relationship between literature and philosophy, on aesthetic theory, and on the literature and arts of the early modern and modern periods. His books include *Consequences of Enlightenment: Aesthetics as Critique* (1999), *Cervantes, Literature, and the Discourse of Politics* (2012), and *The Cambridge Introduction to Literature and Philosophy* (2014).

JAMES CHANDLER is Barbara E. and Richard J. Franke Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago and Director, Franke Institute for the Humanities. His eclectic research interests include the Romantic movement; the study of lyric poetry; the history of the novel; relations between politics and literature, history, and criticism; the Scottish Enlightenment; modern Irish literature and culture; the sentimental mode; cinema studies; and the history of humanities disciplines. His latest book is *An Archaeology of Sympathy: The Sentimental Mode in Literature and Cinema* (2013).

SIMON DURING is an Australian Professorial Fellow at the University of Queensland. His books include *Foucault and Literature* (1991), *Modern Enchantments: The Cultural Power of Secular Magic* (2002), and *Against Democracy: Literary Experience in the Era of Emancipations* (2012). He is currently mainly working on a history of the relationship between Anglicanism and literature in Britain from 1600 to 1945.

DEBJANI GANGULY is Director of the Institute of Humanities and Global Cultures, and Professor of English at the University of Virginia. She was previously Director of the Humanities Research Centre at the Australian National University. She is the author of *This Thing Called the World: The Novel in Our Time* (2016, in press) and *Caste, Colonialism and Counter-Modernity: Notes on a Postcolonial Hermeneutics of Caste* (2005). Debjani is a Life Fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge, Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, and Member on the international advisory boards of the Harvard Institute for World Literature and the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes, Duke University.

ROBIN TRUTH GOODMAN is a Professor of English at Florida State University. Her prior publications include *Gender Work: Feminism after Neoliberalism* (2013); *Feminist Theory in Pursuit of the Public: Women and the "Re-privatization" of Labor* (2010); *Policing Narratives and the State of Terror* (2009); *World, Class, Women: Global Literature, Education, and Feminism* (2004); *Strange Love: Or, How We Learn to Stop Worrying and Love the Market* (with Kenneth J. Saltman, 2002); and *Infertilities: Exploring Fictions of Barren Bodies* (2001). Goodman is also the editor of *Literature and the Development of Feminist Theory*, recently published by Cambridge University Press.

RÓNÁN MCDONALD is Professor of Modern Literature at the University of New South Wales, where between 2010 and 2014 he directed the Global Irish Studies Centre. He has published widely in modern Irish literary and cultural studies, literary criticism, and the value of the humanities. His books include *Tragedy and Irish Literature* (2002), *The Cambridge Introduction to Samuel Beckett* (2007), and *The Death of the Critic* (2008). He is coeditor of *Flann O'Brien and Modernism* (2014).

KATHLEEN MCLUSKIE is a widely published literary critic and was a university senior manager and eventually the director of the University of Birmingham Shakespeare Institute from 1970 to 2011. She now

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volunteers for the National Trust, sings in a local choir, and makes a garden in the Cotswolds. Her latest book, *Cultural Value in Twenty-First Century England*, was published in 2013.

NATALIE MELAS teaches Comparative Literature at Cornell University. She is the author of *All the Difference in the World: Postcoloniality and the Ends of Comparison* (2007) and coeditor of *The Princeton Sourcebook in Comparative Literature* (2009). She is currently completing a study entitled *The Poetics and Politics of Untimeliness: Césaire, Cavafy*.

JULIAN MURPHET is Scientia Professor in English and Film Studies in the School of Arts and Media, where he also directs the Centre for Modernism Studies in Australia. His books include *Multimedia Modernism: Literature and the Anglo-American Avant-garde* (2009) and *Literature and Race in Los Angeles* (2001).

CHRISTOPHER NEALON is the author of two books of literary criticism, *Foundlings: Lesbian and Gay Historical Emotion before Stonewall* (2001) and *The Matter of Capital: Poetry and Crisis in the American Century* (2011), as well as three books of poems: *The Joyous Age* (2004), *Plummet* (2009), and *Heteronomy* (2014). He is Chair of the English Department at Johns Hopkins University.

JEAN-MICHEL RABATÉ, Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Pennsylvania since 1992, is a curator of Slough Foundation, an editor of the *Journal of Modern Literature*, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has authored or edited more than thirty books and collections of essays. Recent books include the *Cambridge Introduction to Literature and Psychoanalysis* (2014) and *Crimes of the Future* (2014).

ALAN SINGER is the author of books on aesthetics and rationality in literary studies, most recently *Aesthetic Reason* (2003) and the *Self-Deceiving Muse* (2010). His current project is tentatively titled *Posing Sex: Towards a Perceptual Ethics*. An excerpt, “The Senses of Personhood: Beyond Allegories of the Body,” has just appeared in *Culture, Theory and Critique*. Additionally, he has published many articles on aesthetic agency in the literary and visual arts. He is Professor of English at Temple University.

HELEN SMALL is Professor of English Literature at Oxford University, and Jonathan and Julia Aisbitt Fellow in English at Pembroke College. Her

books include *The Long Life* (2007), *The Value of the Humanities* (2013), and the edited collection *The Public Intellectual* (2002).

DIRK VAN HULLE is Professor of English literature at the University of Antwerp (Centre for Manuscript Genetics). His recent publications include the monographs *Modern Manuscripts: The Extended Mind and Creative Undoing* (2014) and (with Shane Weller) *The Making of Samuel Beckett's LInnomable/The Unnamable* (2014). With Mark Nixon, he is codirector of the Beckett Digital Manuscript Project (www.beckettarchive.org), author of *Samuel Beckett's Library* (2013), and editor in chief of the *Journal of Beckett Studies*. He is editor of the *New Cambridge Companion to Samuel Beckett* (2015).

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