

## HERMAN MELVILLE AND THE POLITICS OF THE INHUMAN

Studies of the writing of Herman Melville are often divided among those that address his political, historical, or biographical dimensions and those that offer creative theoretical readings of his texts. In *Herman Melville and the Politics of the Inhuman*, Michael Jonik offers a series of nuanced and ambitious philosophical readings of Melville that unite these varied approaches. Through a careful reconstruction of Melville's interaction with philosophy, Jonik argues that Melville develops a notion of the "inhuman" after Spinoza's radically non-anthropocentric and relational thought. Melville's own political philosophy, in turn, actively disassembles differences between humans and nonhumans, and the animate and inanimate. Jonik has us rethink not only how we read Melville, but also how we understand our deeply inhuman condition.

MICHAEL JONIK teaches American literature at the University of Sussex. He writes on pre-1900 American literature, continental philosophy, and the history of science, and has authored essays on Berkeley, Thoreau, Hawthorne, and James. He has won a Cornell Society for the Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowship; a Leverhulme Research Grant; and, in 2015, the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy prize "for the paper that makes the most significant contribution to the history of American Philosophy from colonial times to the present." He is a founding member of the British Association of Nineteenth-Century Americanists (BrANCA), and Reviews and Special Issues Editor for *Textual Practice*.

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-42092-1 — Herman Melville and the Politics of the Inhuman  
Michael Jonik  
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MICHAEL JONIK  
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## 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.

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[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108420921](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108420921)  
DOI: 10.1017/9781108355667

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First published 2018

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

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

*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

Names: Jonik, Michael, 1979– author.

Title: Herman Melville and the politics of the inhuman / Michael Jonik.

Description: Cambridge; New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2018. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2017044199 | ISBN 9781108420921 (hardback)

Subjects: LCSH: Melville, Herman, 1819–1891 – Philosophy. | Melville, Herman, 1819–1891 – Criticism and interpretation. | Literature – Philosophy.

Classification: LCC PS2388.P5 J66 2018 | DDC 813/.3–dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2017044199>

ISBN 978-1-108-42092-1 Hardback

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*For Polona, Luiza, Lucian, and Gabriel*

## *Contents*

	<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> viii
	<i>Acknowledgments</i>	ix
	Introduction: Melville's Inhumanities	I
1	"The constituents of a chaos": Character, Materiality, and Ethopolitics in <i>Moby-Dick</i>	20
2	A Geology of Murmurs: <i>Pierre's</i> Inhuman Transformations	67
3	Outlandish Beings, Outlandish Politics: "The Encantadas, or Enchanted Isles"	105
4	Misanthropology: Commonality and Its Discontents in <i>The Confidence-Man</i>	147
5	"Where wild rocks are set": Character and the Space of <i>Clarel</i>	172
6	Form, Relation, and Dissolution in Melville's Later Poetry	202
	Coda: Impulsive Billy Budd	230
	<i>Notes</i>	237
	<i>Index</i>	263

## *Figures*

- |   |   |               |
|---|---|---------------|
| 1 | Herman Melville, annotation on Matthew Arnold's "Spinoza"                         | <i>page 2</i> |
| 2 | Herman Melville, markings and annotation on Matthew Arnold's poem "Heine's Grave" | 5             |

## *Acknowledgments*

Books are collectives: of the living and of the dead, of conversations and of institutions, of materials and events. This book would not have been possible without the collectives that nourished it and brought it to life. First, I must thank Timothy Murray; the Fellows of the Society for the Humanities; and the faculty, staff, students, and friends at Cornell University during my stay there from 2010 to 2012. I am especially indebted to Kevin Attell, Marcus Boon, Timothy Campbell, Joshua Clover, Elisha Cohn, Eric Cheyfitz, Lorenzo Fabbri, Debra Fried, Jess Keiser, Shirley Samuels, and friends from the Americanist Reading Group. My students and colleagues at the University of Sussex have challenged me, supported me, perplexed me, and made me laugh. I particularly want to thank Richard Adelman, Natalia Cecire, Sara Crangle, Sue Currell, Doug Haynes, Margaret Healey, Tom Healey, Daniel Kane, Catherine Packham, Nicholas Royle, Martin Ryle, Keston Sutherland, Pam Thurschwell, Katie Walter, Carol Watts, and Tom Wright, among others. Exchanges with friends and colleagues beyond my home institutions are written into this book in innumerable ways: I am grateful to, among many others, Geoffrey Bennington, Thomas Constantinesco, Mladen Dolar, Hilary Emmett, Helen Tartar, Michel Imbert, Peggy Kamuf, Lloyd Pratt, Cécile Roudeau, François Specq, and Mark Storey, as well as auditors at Cornell, Paris Diderot, Barcelona, and Sussex. Dear friends and fellow travelers from the Melville Society enriched this book in ways that sometimes went beyond speech, in shared moments in Jerusalem, Rome, or Washington: Dennis Berthold, John Bryant, David Dowling, Meredith Farmer, Timothy Marr, Cody Marrs, Tony McGowan, Sam Otter, Laura Lopez Peña, Robert Wallace, and many others. I am grateful to Alan Hart for generously sending me his article on Melville and Spinoza, and to Steven Olsen-Smith for his invaluable assistance with images of Melville's editions of Arnold.

I appreciate the enthusiasm and support of Ray Ryan; Edgar Mendez the staff at Cambridge University Press; and the assiduous, generous, and

incisive readers of the manuscript. I am grateful to the presses who have graciously allowed me to reprint previously published material: “Melville’s Misanthropology,” in *Melville’s Philosophies*, ed. Branka Arsić and K. L. Evans (Bloomsbury Academic, an imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing Inc., 2017); “Melville’s Permanent Riotocracy,” in *A Political Companion to Herman Melville*, ed. Jason Frank (University of Kentucky Press, 2013); “Isles of Absentees: The Form of the Archipelago in Melville’s Writing,” in *Melville as Poet: The Art of “Pulsed Life.”* ed. Sanford E. Marovitz (Kent State University Press, 2013); “Character and the Space of Clarel,” *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies* (October 2011); and “Murmurs, Stutters, Foreign Intonations: Melville’s Unreadables,” *The Oxford Literary Review* (Vol. 33.1, July 2011). “Congruence and Project Space in Melville and Olson” in *Olson’s Prose*, ed. Gary Grieve-Carlson (2007) is published here with the permission of Cambridge Scholars Publishing. Richard Barney, Ron Bosco, Don Byrd, Pierre Joris, Eric Keenaghan, Michael Peters, and Sam Truitt shaped and will continue to shape my intellectual direction. But this project, and all my work, would not be what it is were it not for the invested guidance, enduring support, and grace of intellect of Branka Arsić and David Wills. Wyn Kelley, Andrew Hadfield, Peter Boxall, Peter Riley, Rodrigo Andrés, and Jennifer Greiman read parts or entire versions of the manuscript with patience, rigor, and magnanimity. I am grateful to my family and friends, in the USA, Slovenia, and the UK, for their loving support, especially my sister, Lauren Jonik; my mother, Patricia Jonik; and my father, David Jonik, who meticulously read the manuscript. This book came into the world and grew along with my three children, Luiza, Lucian, and Gabriel, who I know sacrificed far too much for it. But every day and in countless joyful ways they increase my power of acting. With enduring love, I dedicate the book to them and to my wife Polona, with whom I live in the all, who has given all to me, and for whom I do all things.