

## AFTER DERRIDA

This collection of essays explores the main concepts and methods of reading launched by French philosopher Jacques Derrida, who died in 2004. Derrida exerted a huge influence on literary critics in the 1980s, but later there was a backlash against his theories. Today, one witnesses a general return to his way of reading literature, the rationale of which is detailed and explained in the essays. The authors, both well-known and younger specialists, give many precise examples of how Derrida, who always remained at the cusp between literature and philosophy, posed fundamental questions and thus changed the field of literary criticism, especially with regard to poetry. The contributors also highlight the way Derrida made spectacular interventions in feminism, psychoanalytic studies, animal studies, digital humanities and postcolonial studies.

JEAN-MICHEL RABATÉ was a student of Jacques Derrida at the École Normale Supérieure, and defended his dissertation under the supervision of Hélène Cixous. Since 1992, he has been Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Pennsylvania. He is one of the managing editors of the *Journal of Modern Literature* and a co-founder and senior curator of the Slought Foundation, Philadelphia. Since 2008, he has been a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is the author of more than thirty-five books and collections of essays on modernism (Pound, Joyce, Beckett), the arts and philosophy.

## AFTER SERIES

This series focuses on the legacy of several iconic figures, and key themes, in the origins and development of literary theory. Each book in the series attempts to isolate the influence, legacy and the impact of thinkers. Each figure addressed not only bequeathed specific concepts and doctrines to literary study, but they effectively opened up new critical landscapes for research. It is this legacy that this series tries to capture, with every book being designed specifically for use in literature departments. Throughout each book the concept of 'After' is used in 3 ways: After in the sense of trying to define what is quintessential about each figure: 'What has each figure introduced into the world of literary studies, criticism and interpretation?' After in a purely chronological sense: 'What comes after each figure?', 'What has his/her influence and legacy been?' and 'How have they changed the landscape of literary studies?' Lastly, After in a practical sense: 'How have their respective critical legacies impacted on an understanding of literary texts?' Each book is a collaborative volume with an international cast of critics and their level is suited for recommended reading on courses.

## Published Titles

*After Foucault: Culture, Theory and Criticism in the 21st Century*  
Edited by Lisa Downing  
University of Birmingham

*After Derrida: Literature, Theory and Criticism in the 21st Century*  
Edited by Jean-Michel Rabaté  
University of Pennsylvania

*After Lacan: Literature, Theory, and Psychoanalysis in the Twenty-First Century*  
Edited by Ankhi Mukherjee  
University of Oxford

*Forthcoming titles*  
*After Said: Postcolonial Literary Studies in the 21st Century*  
Edited by Bashir Abu-Manneh  
University of Kent

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-42610-7 — After Derrida  
Edited by Jean-Michel Rabaté  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

---

# AFTER DERRIDA

*Literature, Theory and Criticism in the  
Twenty-First Century*

EDITED BY  
JEAN-MICHEL RABATÉ  
*University of Pennsylvania*



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-42610-7 — After Derrida  
Edited by Jean-Michel Rabaté  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

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.  
It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of  
education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108426107](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108426107)  
DOI: 10.1017/9781108539937

© Cambridge University Press 2018

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception  
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,  
no reproduction of any part may take place without the written  
permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2018

Printed in the United States of America by Sheridan Books, Inc.

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

ISBN 978-1-108-42610-7 Hardback  
ISBN 978-1-108-44452-1 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of  
URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication  
and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain,  
accurate or appropriate.

## *Contents*

<i>List of Contributors</i>	<i>page vii</i>
Introduction <i>Jean-Michel Rabaté</i>	I
PART I FRAMES	19
1 The Instant of Their Debt: Derrida with Freud and Heidegger in Greece <i>Vassiliki Kolocotroni</i>	21
2 Derrida and the Psychoanalysis of Culture <i>Andrea Hurst</i>	39
3 Derrida and Sexual Difference <i>Ginette Michaud</i>	58
4 Derrida Queries de Man: A Note on the Materiality of the Letter versus the Violence of the Letter <i>Martin McQuillan</i>	80
PART II FOCUS	95
5 Derrida as Literary Reader <i>Derek Attridge</i>	97
6 Broken Singularities (Derrida and Celan) <i>Joshua Schuster</i>	111
7 Derrida and the Essence of Poetry <i>Yue Zhuo</i>	126
8 From Mallarmé to the Event: Badiou after Derrida <i>Laurent Milesi</i>	143

vi	<i>Contents</i>	
	PART III FUTURES	159
9	<i>Ecce animot: Animal Turns</i> <i>Jane Goldman</i>	161
10	Deconstruction, Collectivity, and World Literature <i>Jen Hui Bon Hoa</i>	180
11	Literature Calls Justice: Deconstruction's "Coming-to-Terms" with Literature <i>Elisabeth Weber</i>	197
12	The Documental Revolution and the Archives of the Future <i>Maurizio Ferraris</i>	212
	<i>Index</i>	226

## Contributors

DEREK ATTRIDGE, emeritus Professor of English at the University of York, has authored many books, which include *Post-structuralism and the Question of History* (co-edited with Geoff Bennington and Robert Young) (1987), *Poetic Rhythm: An Introduction* (1995) and *Joyce Effects: On Language, Theory, and History* (2000). He has held fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Camargo Foundation and the Leverhulme Trust, and is a fellow of the British Academy.

MAURIZIO FERRARIS is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Turin, where he also runs the Inter-University Centre for Theoretical and Applied Ontology and the Laboratory for Ontology. He is the author of more than fifty books on aesthetics, Derrida and continental philosophy. Books in English include *History of Hermeneutics* (1996), *Documentality, or Why It Is Necessary to Leave Traces* (2012), *Goodbye Kant!* (2013), *Manifesto of New Realism* (2014) and *Where Are You? Ontology of the Cell Phone* (2014).

JANE GOLDMAN is Reader in English Literature at the University of Glasgow and General Editor of the Cambridge University Press edition of the writings of Virginia Woolf. She is the author of *The Feminist Aesthetics of Virginia Woolf: Modernism, Post-Impressionism and the Politics of the Visual* (1998) and the co-editor of *Modernism: An Anthology of Sources and Documents* (1998). Other publications include *Modernism, 1910–1945: Image to Apocalypse* (2004) and *The Cambridge Introduction to Virginia Woolf* (2006). She is currently completing a book on *Virginia Woolf and the Signifying Dog*.

JEN HUI BON HOA is Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature at Yonsei University's Underwood International College. She specializes in modern French and English literature and continental philosophy. She

is currently writing a book on post-Marxist theories of community and representations of the city in contemporary French non-fiction.

ANDREA HURST is Associate Professor in Philosophy at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. She is the author of *Derrida Vis-à-vis Lacan: Interweaving Deconstruction and Psychoanalysis* (2008). She has published more than forty papers on authors such as Lyotard, Levinas, Heidegger, Lacan, Irigaray, Žižek and Adorno in various journals.

VASSILIKI KOLOCOTRONI is Senior Lecturer and Head of English Literature at the University of Glasgow. She has co-edited *Modernism: An Anthology of Sources and Documents* (1998), *In the Country of the Moon: British Women Travellers in Greece 1718–1932* (2005), *Women Writing Greece* (2008) – a collection of critical essays on gender, Hellenism and Orientalism – and *The Edinburgh Dictionary of Modernism* (2017). She has a special interest in the subject of Hellenism and its uses by modern writers and thinkers, which is the focus of her next book, *Still Life: Modernism's Greek Turn*.

MARTIN MCQUILLAN is Professor of Literary Theory and Cultural Analysis and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Kingston University, London. He is the author of four books (*Roland Barthes or the Profession of Cultural Studies*, *Deconstruction after 9/11*, *Paul de Man* and *Deconstructing Disney*). He has edited nine collections of essays on topics like Paul de Man, Rousseau, Muriel Spark and Post-theory.

GINETTE MICHAUD is Professor of French Literature at the University of Montréal. She is the author of more than twenty books and collections, half of which deal with Quebecois literature, half with deconstruction and Derrida, whose seminars she is publishing in French and English. In 2010 she published *Battements du secret littéraire: Lire Derrida et Cixous*, vol. 1, and *Comme en rêve*, vol. 2. In 2013 she published *Cosa Volante*, and in 2014 she co-edited *Appels de Jacques Derrida*.

LAURENT MILESI, formerly Chair of the Centre for Critical and Cultural Theory, Cardiff University, is Tenured Professor of English Literature and Critical Theory at Shanghai Jiao Tong University. He is one of the general editors of the Theory, Culture and Politics series at Rowman and Littlefield International and, together with Arleen Ionescu, edits the international journal *Word and Text – A Journal of Literary Studies and Linguistics*. He has edited *James Joyce and the Difference of Language*



*List of Contributors*

ix

(2003) and coedited *Credo Credit Crisis: Speculations on Faith and Money* (2017). He has translated works by Jacques Derrida (*H. C. for Life, That Is to Say . . .*, 2006) and Hélène Cixous (*Zero's Neighbour*, 2010; *Philippines*, 2011; *Tomb(e)*, 2014).

JOSHUA SCHUSTER is Associate Professor of English at Western University. His book *The Ecology of Modernism: American Environments and Avant-Garde Poetics* (2015) won the Alanna Bondar Memorial Book Prize from the Association for Literature, Environment, and Culture in Canada. Recent essays have appeared in *Humanimalia*, *Minnesota Review* and *Photography & Culture*, as well as in an edited volume, *Critical Perspectives on Veganism*, and in the book *Edward Burtynsky: Essential Elements* (2016). His next book is *What Is Extinction? A Cultural and Natural History of Last Animals*.

ELISABETH WEBER is Professor of German, Comparative Literature and Religious Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She is the author of *Verfolgung und Trauma* (1990). She has edited *Das Vergessen(e): Anamnesen des Undarstellbaren* (1997) and *Questioning Judaism* (2004). She is the editor of works by Jacques Derrida, and the translator into German of texts by Jacques Derrida, Emmanuel Levinas and Félix Guattari. Recent publications include the co-edited volume *Speaking about Torture* (2012) and *Living Together: Jacques Derrida's Communities of Violence and Peace* (2013).

YUE ZHUO has taught at Yale and has been Andrew W. Mellon Research Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. She is the author of the forthcoming *La force du négatif, Georges Bataille et la question du sacré*. She has published twenty articles on Georges Bataille, Roland Barthes and Pascal Quignard in various edited volumes and journals, including *Contemporary French & Francophone Studies*; *Critique*; *French Forum*; *Modern Language Notes*; *Theory, Culture & Society*; *Littérature*; *Yale French Studies*; and *Revue Textuel*.