This book provides a history of the way in which literature not only reflects but also actively shapes processes of globalization and our notions of global phenomena. It takes in a broad sweep of history, from antiquity through to the era of imperialism, to the present day. Whilst its primary focus is our own historical conjuncture, it looks at how earlier periods have shaped this by tracking key concepts that are imbricated with the concept of globalization, from translation to empire, to pandemics and environmental collapse. Drawing on these older themes and concerns, it then traces the germ of the relation between global phenomena and literary studies into the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, exploring key issues and frames of study such as contemporary slavery, the digital, world literature and the Anthropocene.

Joel Evans is Assistant Professor in Literature at the University of Nottingham. He is the author of Conceptualising the Global in the Wake of the Postmodern: Literature, Culture, Theory (2019).
Cambridge Critical Concepts focuses on the important ideas animating twentieth- and twenty-first-century literary studies. Each concept addressed in the series has had a profound impact on literary studies, as well as on other disciplines, and already has a substantial critical bibliography surrounding it. This series captures the dynamic critical energies transmitted across twentieth- and twenty-first-century literary landscapes: the concepts critics bring to reading, interpretation and criticism. By addressing the origins, development and application of these ideas, the books collate and clarify how these particular concepts have developed, while also featuring fresh insights and establishing new lines of enquiry.

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GLOBALIZATION AND LITERARY STUDIES

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Contributors

Alexander Beecroft is Jessie Chapman Alcorn Memorial Professor of Foreign Languages and Professor of Classics and Comparative Literature at the University of South Carolina. He is the author of, among other works, An Ecology of World Literature: From Antiquity to the Present Day (2015).

Elleke Boehmer is Professor of World Literature in the English faculty, Oxford, and Director of the Oxford Centre for Life-Writing at Wolfson College, Oxford. His recent work includes Postcolonial Poetics (2018) and To the Volcano (2019).

Rebecca Braun is Professor and Executive Dean in the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies at The National University of Ireland, Galway. She is the author of, amongst other works, Authors and the World: Literary Authorship in Modern Germany (2022).

Maria Christou is Presidential Fellow in Modern and Contemporary Literature at the University of Manchester. She is the author of, among other works, Eating Otherwise: The Philosophy of Food in Twentieth-Century Literature (2017).

Walter Cohen is Professor of English at the University of Michigan and is the author, most recently, of A History of European Literature: The West and the World from Antiquity to the Present (2017).

Claire Colebrook is Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of English, Philosophy and Women’s and Gender Studies at Penn State University. Her most recent book (co-authored with Tom Cohen and J. Hillis Miller) is Twilight of the Anthropocene Idols (2016).

Mark Currie is Professor of Contemporary Literature at Queen Mary University of London. His books include About Time (2007) and The
List of Contributors

Unexpected (2013), and he is currently writing about the concepts of contingency and uncertainty in literature and culture.

Dominic Davies is Senior Lecturer in English at City, University of London. He is currently writing a book entitled The Weight of World Literature.

Matthew Eatough is Assistant Professor in Literature at Baruch College, City University New York. He is the assistant editor of The Oxford Handbook of Global Modernisms (2012) and the author of recent and forthcoming articles in Modern Language Quarterly, Literature and Medicine, Twentieth-Century Literature and Safund.

Joel Evans is Assistant Professor in Literature at the University of Nottingham. He is the author of, among other works, Conceptualising the Global in the Wake of the Postmodern: Literature, Culture, Theory (2019).

Michael Greaney is Senior Lecturer in the Department of English and Creative Writing at Lancaster University. He is the author of, among other works, Sleep and the Novel: Fictions of Somnolence from Jane Austen to the Present (2018).

Matthew Hart is the author of Extraterritorial: A Political Geography of Contemporary Fiction (2020). He is Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University.

Caren Irr is Professor of English at Brandeis University. She is the author of, among other works, Toward the Geopolitical Novel: U.S. Fiction in the Twenty-First Century (2014).

Joseph H. Jackson is Assistant Professor in Twentieth-Century and Contemporary English Literature at the University of Nottingham. He is the author of, among other works, Writing Black Scotland (2020).


Mary Helen McMurrkan teaches at the University of Western Ontario, where she specializes in eighteenth-century British literature. She is the author of, among other works, The Spread of Novels: Translation and Prose Fiction in the Eighteenth Century (2009).
List of Contributors

Simon Malpas lectures in English Literature at the University of Edinburgh. He is the author of, among other works, *Thomas Pynchon* (2013).

Christian Moraru is Class of 1949 Distinguished Professor in the Humanities and Professor of English at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. He has authored and co-edited books such as *Reading for the Planet: Toward a Geomethodology* (2015) and *Theory in the ‘Post’ Era: A Vocabulary for the Twenty-First-Century Conceptual Commons* (2021).

Laura T. Murphy is Professor of Human Rights and Contemporary Slavery at Sheffield Hallam University. She is the author of, among other works, *The New Slave Narrative: The Battle Over Representations of Contemporary Slavery* (2019).

Sam Solnick is Senior Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Liverpool. He is the author of, among other works, *Poetry and the Anthropocene: Ecology, Biology and Technology in Contemporary British and Irish Poetry* (2018).

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Ray Ryan for suggesting this project in the first place and for having the patience to see it through. Thanks also to Rebecca Spence for reading some of the manuscript in its early stages and to Chris Griffin for assisting me with referencing, style and so on. Special thanks are due to Maria, my wife, who has read parts of this manuscript and who also cared for me and our daughter during a long period of illness I went through whilst this book was in preparation. Thanks go to my parents also for caring for us during this period.