



Notions of Otherness

Literary Essays from Abraham Cahan to Dacia Maraini

By Mark Axelrod-Sokolov

Pub Date: 30 April 2019

Binding: Paperback

Price: £35.00 / \$59.95

ISBN: 9781783089284

Extent: 96 pages

Size: 153 x 229 mm /

6 x 9 inches

BISAC CATEGORY: LITERARY CRITICISM / General

LITERARY CRITICISM / Comparative Literature

BISAC CODE: LIT000000

BIC CODE: DS

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Exclusive: WORLD

A collection of essays that manifest notions of otherness in a unique manner

“Mark Axelrod-Sokolov’s ‘Notions of Otherness’ comes at a crucial moment in the history of the concept, a radical shift from understanding ‘otherness’ as that which cannot be known to that which should elicit an ‘encounter.’ With his signature breadth of perspective and theoretical originality, Axelrod-Sokolov brings our current historical juncture—defined by alterity—into the fold of this broader ethical and even metaphysical discussion.”

—Pablo Baler, Professor of Latin American Literature, California State University, Los Angeles, USA, and Author of Latin American Neo-Baroque: Senses of Distortion

“A refreshing, instructive read in literary criticism, these essays bring to light how a number of twentieth-century works uniquely model different phenomena of otherness. Inspired by George Simmel’s notion of the Stranger, the author analyzes processes of identity that confront exclusion from the communities to which they belong.”

—Ana Paula Ferreira, Professor of Portuguese and Spanish Studies, Samuel Russell Chair in the Humanities, University of Minnesota, USA

‘Notions of Otherness’ is a collection of literary essays that approaches the idea of alterity politically, aesthetically, ethically, culturally and sexually in a diachronic manner.

Contents

Introduction; 1. Acculturation, Otherness and the Loss of Jewish Identity in Abraham Cahan’s ‘The Rise of David Levinsky’; 2. Aesthetic Otherness in Woolf’s ‘Mark on the Wall’, ‘Kew Gardens’ and ‘Lappin and Lappinova’; 3. The Prose of Otherness in Bruno Schulz’s ‘Street of Crocodiles’; 4. D. H. Lawrence and ‘Ranamin’: Otherness and Visions of a Fascist American Utopia; 5. The Aesthetics of Otherness in Nathalie Sarraute’s ‘Tropisms’, ‘The Square’, ‘The Lover’ and ‘Hiroshima, Mon Amour’: Fiction, Film and Duras’s Notion of the Other; 6. Otherness and Sexual Alterity in Monique Wittig’s ‘Les Guérillères’; 7. Mystery, Authority and the Patriarchal Voice in Dacia Maraini’s ‘Voices’; Index.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Mark Axelrod-Sokolov is professor of comparative literature in the Department of English at Chapman University, USA, and director of the John Fowles Center for Creative Writing and editor of its literary journal, ‘Mantissa’.

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