Palgrave Studies in Contemporary Women's Writing

Series Editors Gina Wisker International Ctr for Higher Ed Mgmt University of Bath Cambridge, UK

> Denise deCaires Narain University of Sussex Brighton, UK

This monograph series aims to showcase late twentieth and twenty-first century work of contemporary women, trans and non-binary writers in literary criticism. The 'women' in our title advocates for work specifically on women's writing in a world of cultural and critical production that can still too easily slide into patriarchal criteria for what constitutes 'worthy' literature. This vision for the series is avowedly feminist although we do not require submissions to identify as such and we actively encourage submissions that engage directly with different definitions of 'feminism'. Our series does make the claim for a continuing imperative to promote work by women authors; it remains essential for our field to make space for this body of literary criticism. Further, our series makes a claim that serious inquiry on late twentieth and twenty-first century women's writing contributes to a necessary, emerging and exciting research area in literary studies. Gina Wisker • Leanne Bibby Heidi Yeandle Editors

Legacies and Lifespans in Contemporary Women's Writing

palgrave macmillan *Editors* Gina Wisker University of Bath Bath, UK

University of Brighton Brighton, UK

Heidi Yeandle Swansea University Swansea, UK Leanne Bibby School of Social Sciences Humanities and Law Teesside University Middlesbrough, UK

 ISSN 2523-8140
 ISSN 2523-8159
 (electronic)

 Palgrave Studies in Contemporary Women's Writing
 ISBN 978-3-031-28092-4
 ISBN 978-3-031-28093-1
 (eBook)

 https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-28093-1

© The Editor(s) (if applicable) and The Author(s), under exclusive licence to Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2023

This work is subject to copyright. All rights are solely and exclusively licensed by the Publisher, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilms or in any other physical way, and transmission or information storage and retrieval, electronic adaptation, computer software, or by similar or dissimilar methodology now known or hereafter developed.

The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, service marks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use. The publisher, the authors, and the editors are safe to assume that the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication. Neither the publisher nor the authors or the editors give a warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the material contained herein or for any errors or omissions that may have been made. The publisher remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

This Palgrave Macmillan imprint is published by the registered company Springer Nature Switzerland AG.

The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

This book is for Leanne's daughter April Rose and Heidi's son Arthur, both of whom were born as we prepared this collection. As Gina once said, we created a nursery as well as a book, and we're prouder of them all than we can ever express.

Contents

1	Introduction: Writing Back and Looking Forward Gina Wisker and Leanne Bibby	1
2	Haunting Relationships, Dark Visions, Personal Dangers and Encounters with Strangers in Gothic Short Stories by Katherine Mansfield (1920), Shirley Jackson (1946), Daphne du Maurier (1952), and Alice Munro (2012) Gina Wisker	11
3	(Dis)continuing the Mother-daughter Dyad in Alison Bechdel's Are You My Mother? Working Back Through Our Mothers Caleb Sivyer	47
4	'You'll be told lies about me, or perhaps even nothing at all.' Facts, Fictions, and Anachronism and Realism in Contemporary Women's Historical Novels Leanne Bibby	73
5	A Feminist Genealogy: L'Écriture Féminine, The Youngest Doll, and Contemporary Puerto Rican Women Writers Melissa R. Sande	93

V111	CONTENTS

6	The Smallest Room of One's Own: Virginia Woolf and Jeanette Winterson in Close Quarters Shareena Z. Hamzah-Osbourne	111
7	"They are not only one; they're two, and three, and four": Building a Trauma Community in Toni Morrison's Beloved and Yaa Gyasi's Homegoing Laura Dawkins	139
8	'Ageing and Care in Contemporary Women's Writing: Doris Lessing's <i>The Diary of a Good Neighbour</i> and Margaret Drabble's <i>The Pure Gold Baby</i> ' Katsura Sako	165
9	(Re)Writing the Future/Disavowing the Past: Reading Feminism(s) in <i>The Power</i> and <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> Adele Jones	189

Index

215

Notes on Contributors

Leanne Bibby is Senior Lecturer in English Studies at Teesside University. Her research examines the intersections between literary writing and historical narrative. She has served as Secretary on the Executive Committee of the Contemporary Women's Writing Association. Her book *A. S. Byatt and Intellectual Women – Fictions, Histories, Myths* was published in 2022 by Palgrave.

Laura Dawkins is Professor of English at Murray State University. Her articles on American literature have appeared in *Callaloo, South Atlantic Review, LIT: Literature Interpretation Theory,* and 49th Parallel, among other journals, as well as in seven edited collections, including *Modernist Women Writers and American Social Engagement, Emmett Till in Literary Memory and Imagination,* and *The American Child: A Cultural Studies Reader.*

Shareena Z. Hamzah-Osbourne is an Honorary Research Associate at Swansea University and was a Research Fellow with the Florence Mockeridge Fellowship Group. She has taught English in Malaysia, Iran, and the UK. Her book entitled *Jeanette Winterson's Narratives of Desire: Rethinking Fetishism* was published by Bloomsbury in 2021.

Adele Jones is a tutor at Swansea University in English Literature and at the Centre for Academic Success. Her research interests include neo-Victorianism, hauntedness, the work of Sarah Waters, and psychoanalytic theory.

X NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Katsura Sako is an Associate Professor of English at Keio University, Japan. She has research interests in post-war/contemporary British literature, gender and literary/cultural gerontology. She is a co-author of *Contemporary Narratives of Dementia: Ethics, Ageing, Politics* (Routledge, 2019) and a co-editor of *Contemporary Narratives of Ageing, Illness and Care* (Routledge, 2021). She has published in journals such as *Contemporary Women's Writing, Women: A Cultural Review* and *Feminist Review*.

Melissa R. Sande is the Dean of Humanities at Union County College, New Jersey. Her work has appeared in or is forthcoming from *Quarterly Horse, The Researcher,* and *Papers on Language and Literature.* She is the co-editor of *Critical Theory and the Humanities in the Age of the Alt-Right,* Palgrave Macmillan, 2019.

Caleb Sivyer is Senior Lecturer at the University of the West of England, Bristol, where he teaches undergraduate and foundation year modules on a wide range of subjects including myths and fairy tales, political and cultural theory, and contemporary literature. He holds a PhD in English Literature from Cardiff University, with a thesis on the intersection of gender and visuality in selected works by Virginia Woolf and Angela Carter. He also has a background in philosophy, holding a BA in philosophy from the University of Kent. His research interests include contemporary literature, women's writing, gender and sexuality, literary and cultural theory, fairy tales, and philosophy. He has published a number of articles and book chapters on Angela Carter, as well as articles on other writers, including J.G. Ballard and Alison Bechdel. He is the co-founder (along with Marie Mulvey-Roberts and Charlotte Crofts) of the Angela Carter Society and he runs a website devoted to the life and works of Angela Carter (www.angelacarteronline.com) which has a thriving online community.

Gina Wisker is an Associate professor in the International Centre for Higher Education Management, University of Bath and Emeritus Professor of Contemporary Literature and Higher Education University of Brighton. Gina also teaches literature for the Open University. Her research and teaching interests are in contemporary women's writing, Gothic writing, horror and postcolonial writing and she has published prolifically on these topics.

Heidi Yeandle is based at Swansea University, and has numerous publications related to Angela Carter including *Angela Carter and Western Philosophy* (2017).