

Cambridge Caryl Phillips

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The Event of Postcolonial Shame
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Bénédicte Ledent Maria Festa Bénédicte Ledent Yogita Goyal Robert C. Hauhart Leila Kamali Daria Tunca Susana Onega Jaén Timothy Bewes Delphine Munos African Literature Association. Meeting Elvira Pulitano Caryl Phillips Jürgen Schlaeger Lars Eckstein Len Platt Gemma Romain Marcus Wood

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this examination of caryl phillips novels ranges from the final passage to the nature of blood and considers them in relation to his plays and essays starting with a textual analysis of his fiction it examines how it charts a diasporic awareness

thematically and structurally the work of the kittitian british writer caryl phillips reimagines the notion of genealogy phillips s fiction drama and non fiction foreground broken filiations and forever deferred promises of new affiliations in the aftermath of slavery and colonization his texts are also in dialogue with multiple historical figures and literary influences imagining around the life of the african american comedian bert williams and the caribbean writer jean rhys or retelling the story of othello additionally phillips s work resonates with that of other writers and visual artists such as derek walcott toni morrison or isaac julien written to honor the career of renown phillipsian scholar bénédicte ledent the contributions to this volume including one by phillips himself explore the multiple ramifications of genealogy across and beyond phillips s work

this monograph examines caryl phillips s *the nature of blood* 1997 a novel exploring recurring expressions of exclusion and discrimination throughout history with particular focus on jewish and african diasporas and the storytelling of its migrant characters particular attention is given to the analysis of characters revealing different facets of the jewish question maria festa also provides a historical excursus on the notion of race and considers another character alluding to shakespeare s othello to expose the paradoxes of the relationship between subjugator and subjugated the study makes the case that among the novel s most remarkable achievements is phillips s effort to redress the absence of the other from our history that by depicting experiences of displacement and by confronting readers with seemingly disconnected narrative fragments the nature of blood is a

writers in exile offers an academically rigorous important and cohesive volume

this book offers a new approach to reading the cultural memory of africa in african american fiction from the post civil rights era and in black british fiction emerging in the wake of thatcherism the critical period between the decline of the civil rights movement and the dawn of the twenty first century saw a deep contrast in the distinctive narrative approaches displayed by diverse african diaspora literatures in negotiating the crisis of representing the past through a series of close readings of literary fiction this work examines how the cultural memory of africa is employed in diverse and specific negotiations of narrative time in order to engage and shape contemporary identity and citizenship by addressing the practice of remembering africa the book argues for the signal importance of the african diaspora's literary interventions and locates new paradigms for cultural identity in contemporary times

metaphors are ubiquitously used in the humanities to bring the tangibility of the concrete world to the elaboration of abstract thought drawing on this cognitive function of metaphors this collection of essays focuses on the evocative figures of the gateway and the wall to reflect on the state of postcolonial studies some chapters on such topics as maze making in canada and the berlin wall in the writings of new zealand authors foreground the modes of articulation between literal borders and emotional disconnections while others examine how artefacts ranging from personal letters to clothes may be conceptualized as metaphorical gateways and walls that lead or conversely regulate access to specific forms of cultural expression and knowledge following this line of metaphorical thought postcolonial studies itself may be said to function as either barrier or pathway to further modes of enquiry this much is suggested by two complementary sets of contributions on the one hand those that contend that the canonical centre periphery paradigm and the related writing back model have prevented scholars from recognizing the depth and magnitude of cross cultural influences between civilizations on the other those that argue that the scope of traditional postcolonial models may be fruitfully widened to include territories such as post imperial turkey a geographical and cultural gateway between east and west that features in several of the essays included in this collection ultimately all of the contributions testify to the fact that postcolonial studies is a field whose borders must be constantly redrawn and whose paradigms need to be continually reshaped and rebuilt to remain relevant in the contemporary world in other words the collection's varied approaches suggest that the discipline itself is permanently under construction readers are therefore invited to perform a critical inspection of the postcolonial construction site contributors vera alexander elisabeth bekens devon campbell hall simran chadha carmen concilio margaret daymond marta dvořák claudia duppé elena furlanetto gareth griffiths john c hawley sissy helff marie herbillon deepika marya bronwyn mills padmini mongia golnar nabizadeh gerhard stilz

contemporary works of art that remodel the canon not only create complex hybrid and plural products but also alter our perceptions and understanding of their source texts this is the dual process referred to in this volume as refraction that the essays collected here set out to discuss and analyse by focusing on the dialectic rapport between postmodernism and the canon what is sought in many of the essays is a redefinition of postmodernist art and a re-examination of the canon in the light of contemporary epistemology given this dual process this volume will be of value both to everyone interested in contemporary art particularly fiction drama and film and also to readers whose aim it is to promote a better appreciation of canonical british literature

in a postcolonial world where structures of power hierarchy and domination operate on a global scale writers face an ethical and aesthetic dilemma how to write without contributing to the inscription of inequality how to process the colonial past without reverting to a pathology of self disgust can literature ever be free of the shame of the postcolonial epoch ever be truly postcolonial as disparities of power seem only to be increasing such questions are more urgent than ever in this book timothy bewes argues that shame is a dominant temperament in twentieth century literature and the key to understanding the ethics and aesthetics of the contemporary world drawing on thinkers such as jean

paul sartre frantz fanon theodor adorno and gilles deleuze bewes argues that in literature there is an event of shame that brings together these ethical and aesthetic tensions reading works by j m coetzee joseph conrad nadine gordimer v s naipaul caryl phillips ngugi wa thiong o and zoë wicomb bewes presents a startling theory the practices of postcolonial literature depend upon and repeat the same structures of thought and perception that made colonialism possible in the first place as long as those structures remain in place literature and critical thinking will remain steeped in shame offering a new mode of postcolonial reading the event of postcolonial shame demands a literature and a criticism that acknowledge their own ethical deficiency without seeking absolution from it

moving beyond the postcolonial literature field's traditional focus on the novel this book shines a light on the minor genres in which postcolonial issues are also explored the contributors examine the intersection of generic issues with postcolonial realities in regions such as south africa nigeria new zealand indonesia australia the united kingdom and the caribbean these minor genres include crime fiction letter writing radio plays poetry the novel in verse and short stories as well as blogs and essays the volume closes with robert antoni's discussion of his use of the vernacular and digital resources in *as flies to whatless boys* 2013 and suggests that major genres might yield new webs of meaning when digital media are mobilized with a view to creating new forms of hybridity and multiplicity that push genre boundaries in focusing on underrepresented and understudied genres this book pays justice to the multiplicity of the field of postcolonial studies and gives voice to certain literary traditions within which the novel occupies a less central position this book was originally published as a special issue of the journal of postcolonial writing

this volume of essays covers all phases and geographical areas of african literature including lesser known areas such as oral literature literature written in african languages and lusophone literature also included are articles on caribbean literature developments in south african theatre and two articles on african film several writers receive special attention chinua achebe maryse conde wole soyinka niyi osundare ngugi wa thiong o and hampate ba also included are the key note addresses by achebe conde and osundare

this book offers a timely intervention in current debates on diaspora and diasporic identity by affirming the importance of narrative as a discursive mode to understand the human face of contemporary migrations and dislocations focusing on the caribbean double diaspora pulitano offers a close reading of a range of popular works by four well known writers currently living in the united states jamaica kincaid michelle cliff edwidge danticat and caryl phillips navigating the map of fictional characters testimonial accounts and autobiographical experiences pulitano draws attention to the lived experience of contemporary diasporic formations the book offers a provocative re thinking of socio scientific analyses of diaspora by discussing the embodied experience of contemporary diasporic communities drawing on disciplines such as caribbean postcolonial diaspora and indigenous studies along with theories on border thinking and colonality modernity contesting restrictive national and linguistic boundaries when discussing literature originating from the caribbean pulitano situates the transnational location of caribbean born writers within current debates of transnational american studies and investigates the role of immigrant writers in discourses of race ethnicity citizenship and belonging exploring the multifarious intersections between home exile migration and displacement the book makes a significant contribution to memory and trauma studies human rights debates and international law aiming at a wide range of scholars and specialized agents beyond the strictly literary circle this volume affirms the humanity of personal stories and experiences against the invisibility of immigrant subjects in most theoretical accounts of diaspora and migration

the powerful and evocative story of a young west indian man's search for home in 1960s london by the multi award winning author dubbed one of the literary giants of our time new york times a guardian book to look forward to in 2025 a masterful stylist writing at the top of his powers anthony joseph an engrossing artfully constructed chronicle of lives tragically unfulfilled mail on sunday a

remarkable achievement washington post a moving accomplished study of the vulnerabilities carried and concealed by human beings on their journeys throughout the world financial times in the early sixties victor lucky johnson arrives in london from st kitts with dreams of becoming a journalist lucky soon finds work first at an irish pub in notting hill then as a rent collector for an unscrupulous slum landlord peter feldman shadowing lucky from his early struggles in london to the present day caryl phillips paints a striking portrait of a flawed but vividly alive man grappling with the lifelong disillusionments of exile and the uniquely complicated identity of the windrush generation another man in the street is an unforgettable story of loss displacement belonging and the triumph of black resilience epic in scope and yet profoundly intimate and a radical and timely portrait of immigrant london praise for caryl phillips one of britain's pre-eminent writers guardian one of the literary giants of our time new york times phillips is a linguistic and cultural virtuoso the times

the atlantic slave trade continues to haunt the cultural memories of africa europe and the americas there is a prevailing desire to forget while victims of the african diaspora tried to flee the sites of trauma enlightened westerners preferred to be oblivious to the discomfiting complicity between their enlightenment and chattel slavery recently however fiction writers have ventured to remember the black atlantic this book is concerned with how literature performs as memory it sets out to chart systematically the ways in which literature and memory intersect and offers readings of three seminal black atlantic novels

postmodernism and race explores the question of how dramatic shifts in conceptions of race in the late twentieth and early twenty first centuries have been addressed by writers at the cutting edge of equally dramatic transformations of literary form an opening section engages with the broad question of how the geographical and political positioning of experimental writing informs its contribution to racial discourses while later segments focus on central critical domains within this field race and performativity race and the contemporary nation and postracial futures with essays on a wide range of contemporary writers including bernadine evaristo alasdair gray jhumpa lahiri andrea levy and don delillo this volume makes an important contribution to our understanding of the politics and aesthetics of contemporary writing

first published in 2006 the dynamics of ethnicity diaspora identity and community are the defining features of contemporary life giving rise to important and exciting new interdisciplinary fields of study and literature on subjects that were previously seen as the exclusive domain of the social sciences connecting histories is an important contribution to this trend while using sociological and anthropological theories it is an innovative historical and comparative assessment of ethnic identities and memories remain focuses on afro caribbean and jewish individuals and groups investigating the ways in which communities remember their experiences

slavery empathy and pornography considers the operations of slavery and of abolition propaganda on the thought and literature of english from the late eighteenth to the mid nineteenth centuries incorporating materials ranging from canonical literatures to the lowest form of street publication marcus wood writes from the conviction that slavery was and still is a dilemma for everyone in england and seeks to explain why english society has constructed atlantic slavery in the way it has he takes on the works of canonic eighteenth and nineteenth century white authors which claimed when written to account for slavery and asks with some scepticism what kind of truth they hold taking an interdisciplinary approach chapters focus on the writings of the major romantic poets english radicals william cobbett and john thelwall the surinam writings of john stedman the full range of slavery texts generated by harriet martineau john newton and the social prophets carlyle and ruskin slavery empathy and pornography also contains a radical new critique of the operations of slavery within the work of austen and charlotte brontë

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