

Geocriticism and Spatial Literary Studies

Series Editor
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Geocriticism and Spatial Literary Studies is a new book series focusing on the dynamic relations among space, place, and literature. The spatial turn in the humanities and social sciences has occasioned an explosion of innovative, multidisciplinary scholarship in recent years, and geocriticism, broadly conceived, has been among the more promising developments in spatially oriented literary studies. Whether focused on literary geography, cartography, geopoetics, or the spatial humanities more generally, geocritical approaches enable readers to reflect upon the representation of space and place, both in imaginary universes and in those zones where fiction meets reality. Titles in the series include both monographs and collections of essays devoted to literary criticism, theory, and history, often in association with other arts and sciences. Drawing on diverse critical and theoretical traditions, books in the Geocriticism and Spatial Literary Studies series disclose, analyze, and explore the significance of space, place, and mapping in literature and in the world.

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Monika Szuba · Julian Wolfreys
Editors

The Poetics of Space and Place in Scottish Literature

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SERIES EDITOR'S PREFACE

The spatial turn in the humanities and social sciences has occasioned an explosion of innovative, multidisciplinary scholarship. Spatially oriented literary studies, whether operating under the banner of literary geography, literary cartography, geophilosophy, geopoetics, geocriticism, or the spatial humanities more generally, have helped to reframe or to transform contemporary criticism by focusing attention, in various ways, on the dynamic relations among space, place, and literature. Reflecting upon the representation of space and place, whether in the real world, in imaginary universes, or in those hybrid zones where fiction meets reality, scholars and critics working in spatial literary studies are helping to reorient literary criticism, history, and theory. *Geocriticism and Spatial Literary Studies* is a book series presenting new research in this burgeoning field of inquiry.

In exploring such matters as the representation of place in literary works, the relations between literature and geography, the historical transformation of literary and cartographic practices, and the role of space in critical theory, among many others, geocriticism and spatial literary studies have also developed interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary methods and practices, frequently making productive connections to architecture, art history, geography, history, philosophy, politics, social theory, and urban studies, to name but a few. Spatial criticism is not limited to the spaces of the so-called real world, and it sometimes calls into question any too facile distinction between real and imaginary places, as it frequently investigates what Edward Soja has referred to as the

'real-and-imagined' places we experience in literature as in life. Indeed, although a great deal of important research has been devoted to the literary representation of certain identifiable and well-known places (e.g. Dickens's London, Baudelaire's Paris, or Joyce's Dublin), spatial critics have also explored the otherworldly spaces of literature, such as those to be found in myth, fantasy, science fiction, video games, and cyberspace. Similarly, such criticism is interested in the relationship between spatiality and such different media or genres as film or television, music, comics, computer programs, and other forms that may supplement, compete with, and potentially problematise literary representation. Titles in the *Geocriticism and Spatial Literary Studies* series include both monographs and collections of essays devoted to literary criticism, theory, and history, often in association with other arts and sciences. Drawing on diverse critical and theoretical traditions, books in the series reveal, analyse, and explore the significance of space, place, and mapping in literature and in the world.

The concepts, practices, or theories implied by the title of this series are to be understood expansively. Although geocriticism and spatial literary studies represent a relatively new area of critical and scholarly investigation, the historical roots of spatial criticism extend well beyond the recent past, informing present and future work. Thanks to a growing critical awareness of spatiality, innovative research into the literary geography of real and imaginary places has helped to shape historical and cultural studies in ancient, medieval, early modern, and modernist literature, while a discourse of spatiality undergirds much of what is still understood as the postmodern condition. The suppression of distance by modern technology, transportation, and telecommunications has only enhanced the sense of place, and of displacement, in the age of globalisation. Spatial criticism examines literary representations not only of places themselves, but of the experience of place and of displacement, while exploring the interrelations between lived experience and a more abstract or unrepresentable spatial network that subtly or directly shapes it. In sum, the work being done in geocriticism and spatial literary studies, broadly conceived, is diverse and far reaching. Each volume in this series takes seriously the mutually impressive effects of space or place and artistic representation, particularly as these effects manifest themselves in works of literature. By bringing the spatial and geographical concerns to bear on their scholarship, books in the *Geocriticism and Spatial Literary*

Studies series seek to make possible different ways of seeing literary and cultural texts, to pose novel questions for criticism and theory, and to offer alternative approaches to literary and cultural studies. In short, the series aims to open up new spaces for critical inquiry.

San Marcos, USA

Robert T. Tally Jr.

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The editors would like to thank individually and collectively the contributors to the present volume, those who started down this road, sometimes wondering doubtless if they would ever get anywhere, given that at times it seemed as if we had torn up the map and thrown away the compass. But then, in the words of a certain Scottish author, it's better to travel hopefully than to arrive... We can only hope everyone concerned feels that the destination has been worth the long road to the north. We would also like to thank the latecomers to the project who readily, and cheerily agreed to join the trek: in order of appearance, Alan Riach, Tom Ue, John Brannigan, and Mary Ann Caws. To quote Miss Bates, 'it is such a happiness when good people get together—and they always do'. Our thanks are also due to David Malcolm and Agnieszka Sienkiewicz-Charlish, co-organisers of the 'Place and Space in Scottish Literature and Culture' conference at the University of Gdańsk, which took place on 8–10 October 2015 in Sopot, where the first versions of some of the chapters were presented.

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CONTENTS

Introduction: The Proximity of Scotland	1
Monika Szuba and Julian Wolfreys	
Part I Contested Beginnings	
Location and Destination in Alasdair mac Mhaighstir Alasdair’s ‘The Birlinn of Clanranald’	17
Alan Riach	
Troubled Inheritances in R. L. Stevenson’s <i>Kidnapped</i> and Conan Doyle’s “The Adventure of the Priory School”	31
Tom Ue	
Part II Essaying Place: Fiction and Non-fiction Prose Representations	
From Dramatic Space to Narrative Place: George Mackay Brown’s <i>Time in a Red Coat</i>	49
Paul Barnaby	

The Empty Places: Northern Archipelagos in Scottish Fiction John Brannigan	71
‘Keep Looking, Even When There’s Nothing Much to See’: Re-imagining Scottish Landscapes in Kathleen Jamie’s Non-fiction Ewa Chodnikiewicz	87
Greenock-Outer Space: Place and Space in Ken MacLeod’s <i>The Human Front and Descent</i> Jessica Aliaga Lavrijsen	101
Part III Figuring Land, Figuring Self: Poetics	
“The Wider Rootedness”: John Burnside’s Embodied Sense of Place Monika Szuba	125
“Under the Saltire Flag”: Kei Miller’s Spatial Negotiations of Identity Bartosz Wójcik	145
A World of Islands: Archipelagic Poetics in Modern Scottish Literature Alexandra Campbell	165
From “Pictish Artemis” to “Tay Moses”: Visions of the River Tay in Some Contemporary Scottish Poems Robin MacKenzie	187
Derick Thomson’s <i>An Rathad Cian (The Far Road, 1970)</i>: Modern Gaelic Poetry of Place Between Introspection and Politics Petra Johana Poncarová	209

Glaswegian and Dundonian: <i>Twa Mither Tongues</i> Representing the Place and Space of Tom Leonard and Mark Thomson	231
Aniela Korzeniowska	
Take the Weather with You: Robin Robertson's North-East Coast Atmospheric of Landscape and Self	249
Julian Wolfreys	
Part IV Afterword: From Word to Image	
Jon Schueler (1916–1992): Intensity and Identity	277
Mary Ann Caws	
Index	301

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LIST OF FIGURES

A World of Islands: Archipelagic Poetics in Modern Scottish Literature

Fig. 1 'The Puffballs' (Hadfield 2014, 28–29) 181

Jon Schueler (1916–1992): Intensity and Identity

- Fig. 1 *Sky Song*, New York, 1985, 96 × 84 in/243.84 × 213.36 cm (o/c 1458). Jon Schueler Estate 278
- Fig. 2 *I Think of the Open Sea*, Mallaig, Scotland, 1957, 72 × 60 in/182.88 × 152.4 cm (o/c 57-52). Private collection 280
- Fig. 3 *Cloud Over Knoydart*, Mallaig, Scotland, 1957, 23.25 × 40.25 in/59.06 × 102.24 cm. (o/c 57-39). Jon Schueler Estate 281
- Fig. 4 *Skye*, Mallaig Scotland, 1957, 42.25 × 79 in/107.32 × 200.66 cm (o/c 57-51). Private collection 282
- Fig. 5 *Storm Over Skye*, Mallaig Scotland, 1958, 66 × 79 in/167.64 × 200.66 cm (o/c 58-12). Private collection 283
- Fig. 6 *Inverness-shire*, Mallaig Scotland, 1958, 81.75 × 72 in/207.65 × 182.88 cm (o/c 58-2). Private collection 284
- Fig. 7 *Knoydart*, Mallaig Scotland, 1957, 65.25 × 48.25 in/165.74 × 122.56 cm (o/c 57-36). Private collection 286
- Fig. 8 *Prussian Blue*, Mallaig Scotland, 1958, 72 × 60 in/182.88 × 152.4 cm (o/c 58-17). Private collection 288
- Fig. 9 *The Sound of Rhum*, Mallaig, Scotland, 1957, 79 × 50 in/200.66 × 127 cm (57-44). On loan to the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art 290

Fig. 10	<i>The Cruaich</i> , Mallaig Scotland, 1958, 35.5 × 59 in/90.17 × 149.86 cm (o/c 58-6). Jon Schueler Estate	291
Fig. 11	<i>The First Snow Cloud</i> , Mallaig Scotland, 1958, 37 × 32 in/93.98 × 81.28 cm (o/c 58-3). Jon Schueler Estate	293
Fig. 12	<i>Red Snow Cloud and the Sun</i> , Mallaig Scotland, 1958, 66 × 79 in/167.64 × 200.66 cm (58-7). Neuberger Museum	294
Fig. 13	<i>The Sea from Mallaig Vaig</i> , Mallaig Scotland, 1957, 38 × 53 in/96.52 × 134.62 cm (o/c 57-54). Private collection	296
Fig. 14	Jon Schueler painting in the Talbot Rice Art Centre, University of Edinburgh, 1981 (Photo Archie Iain McLellan)	297
Fig. 15	<i>February 22: The Day the Sun Comes Over the Cruaich</i> , Mallaig Scotland, 1958, 41 × 58 in/104.14 × 147.32 cm (o/c 58-10). Jon Schueler Estate	298