A Century of Weird Fiction, 1832-1937
Disgust, Metaphysics and the Aesthetics of Cosmic Horror

Jonathan Newell

Series: Horror Studies

April 2020
£45 • PB • 9781786835444 • 216 x 138 mm • 272pp

Market:
The study is an academic monograph intended for scholars and students but may also be of interest to a more general readership with an interest in weird fiction.

Blurb:

*A Century of Weird Fiction, 1832–1937* offers a new critical perspective on the weird that combines two ways of looking at weird and cosmic horror. On the one hand, critics have considered weird fiction in relation to aesthetics – the emotional effects and literary form of the weird. On the other hand, recent scholarship has also emphasised the potential philosophical underpinnings and implications of weird fiction, especially in relation to burgeoning philosophical movements such as new materialism and speculative realism. This study bridges the gap between these two approaches, considering the weird from its early outgrowth from the Gothic through to Lovecraft’s stories – a ‘weird century’ from 1832–1937. Combining recent speculative philosophy and affect theory, it argues that weird fiction harnesses the affective power of disgust to provoke a re-examination of subjectival boundaries and the complex entanglement of the human and nonhuman.

Key Selling Points:

- Offers a new critical perspective on the weird that combines two ways of looking at weird and cosmic horror.
- Mingling of nausea and knowledge, this book connects pulp horror with metaphysical insight, offering an innovative approach aesthetics and metaphysics.
- Combines recent speculative philosophy and affect theory.

Author Details:

Jonathan Newell is an Instructor at Langara College in Vancouver, British Columbia. His research focuses on aesthetics and metaphysics in weird fiction, horror and the Gothic.
Contents:

Chapter 1: Introduction – Metaphysical Malignancies
Chapter 2: The Putrescent Principle – Edgar Allan Poe
Chapter 3: Ecstasies of Slime – Arthur Machen
Chapter 4: Horrible Enchantments – Algernon Blackwood
Chapter 5: Disgusting Powers – William Hope Hodgson
Chapter 6: Daemonology of Unplumbed Space – Howard Phillips Lovecraft
Conclusion: The Wisdom of the Unhuman
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This book argues that Kant’s theory of international relations should be interpreted as an attempt to apply the principles of reason to history in general, and in particular to political conditions of the late eighteenth century. It demonstrates how Kant attempts to mediate between a priori theory and practice, and how this works in the field of international law and international relations. Kant appreciates how the precepts of theory have to be tested against the facts, before the theory is enriched to deal with the complexities of their application. In the central chapters of this book, the starting points are apparent contradictions in Kant’s writings; assuming that Kant is a systematic and profound thinker, Cavallar seeks to use these contradictions to discover Kant’s ‘deep structure’, a dynamic and evolutionary theory that tries to anticipate a world where the idea of international justice might be more fully realized.

Key Selling Points:

- This book favours an ‘embedded’ approach: Kant is not the philosopher who has his head in the clouds, but the philosopher trying to bridge the gulf between the ideal and the real.
- The book paints a rather unconventional picture of Kant’s philosophy of international right.
- Kant’s theory combines two elements, the idealistic and normative element focusing on principles and the goal, as well as reflections on how to attain this goal and put these principles into practice.
- Kant goes beyond various ‘schools’ in IRT with his anticipatory realism: international relations different from our present ones are a real possibility and a proper goal of human endeavour.
- New Edition includes
  - Comments and criticism of the first edition have been taken into account.
  - Chapter four on republicanism and peace has been overhauled.
  - There is a new section on the Gulf War 2003 and Kant’s theory of the “unjust enemy”.
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  - Major publications on Kant’s political philosophy and his theory of international right, published since the first edition of this book, have been considered and incorporated into the text.
  - The bibliography has been updated.
Author Details:

Georg Cavallar is Universitätsdozent of Modern History at the Department of History, University of Vienna, Austria; he has published on Kant’s political philosophy, the history of international law, and the philosophy of cosmopolitanism.

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Preface
Acknowledgements
Introduction: Mediating Between Pure Reason and Practice
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Series: Writers of Wales

April 2020
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Market:

This book will be of interest to academics as well as the general reader.

Blurb:

Jane Williams (Ysgafell) was a writer with a long and varied list of publications: poetry, fiction, a riposte to the 1847 Blue Books, the ‘autobiography’ of Betsi Cadwaladr, a history of Wales, a biography of the historian and patriot Carnhuanawc, and a history of women’s writing in English. In her writing and her life she crossed and re-crossed boundaries – national, social, literary, linguistic and cultural – and carved out her own path. As a nineteenth-century woman whose writing career spanned fifty years and many genres, including serious non-fiction and texts in English on Wales and matters Welsh, Jane Williams is unique. This is the first full-length study of her life and work, comprising detailed original research from which the author has drawn a picture of a remarkable and impressive woman writer.

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Author Details:

Gwyneth Tyson Roberts is an independent scholar.
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