

Utopia and Reality

Documentary, Activism and Imagined Worlds

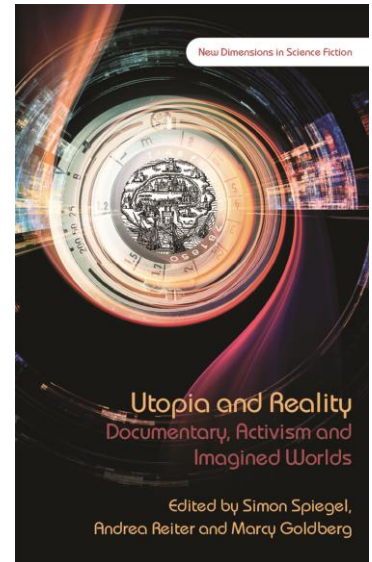
Edited by Simon Spiegel, Andrea Reiter and Marcy Goldberg

Series: New Dimensions in Science Fiction

March 2020

£65 • HB • 9781786835246 • 216 x 138 mm • 304pp

Images: 37



Market:

Utopia and Reality will appeal to undergraduate students.

Blurb:

Since publication of Thomas More's *Utopia* more than 500 years ago, there has been a steady stream of literary works that depict a better world; positive utopias in film, however, have been scarce. There is a consensus that utopias in the Morean tradition are not suited for fiction film and, accordingly, research has focused on dystopias. Starting from the insight that utopias are always a critical reaction to the deficits of the present, *Utopia and Reality* takes a different approach by looking into the under-researched area of propaganda and documentary films for depictions of better worlds. This volume brings together researchers from two fields that have so far seen little exchange – documentary studies and utopian scholarship – and covers a wide range of films from Soviet avant-garde to propaganda videos for the terror organisation ISIS, and from political-activist to ecofeminist and interactive documentaries.

Key Selling Points:

- Scholarship on utopias in film has so far focused exclusively on dystopias – but utopias are about criticizing the present rather than telling a gripping story
- *Utopia and Reality* looks into propaganda and documentary films for depictions of better worlds.
- This volume brings together researchers from two fields that have so far seen little exchange – documentary studies and utopian scholarship
- Covers a wide range of films from Soviet avant-garde to propaganda videos for the terror organisation ISIS, and from political-activist to ecofeminist and interactive documentaries.

Author Details:

Simon Spiegel is a research associate at the Department of Film Studies of the University of Zurich, and Privatdozent at the University of Bayreuth. He is project manager in the ERC Advanced Grant research project FilmColors.

Andrea Reiter is a film scholar and documentary filmmaker.

Marcy Goldberg is a film historian, university lecturer, editor and translator.

Contents:

Table of Contents

List of Illustrations

Contributors

Acknowledgments

Andrea Reiter and Simon Spiegel

Introduction: Utopian Realities

Lyman Tower Sargent and Simon Spiegel

Reality and Utopia: A Conversation with Lyman Tower Sargent

Part 1: Tracing Utopia

Susanna Layh

Utopia Revisited: Reading Dziga Vertov's Man with a Movie Camera in the Light of the Utopian Tradition

Peter Seyferth

Neither Fact Nor Fiction: Made in Secret as a Utopian Education in Desire

Simon Spiegel

The Utopia of the Caliphate: Reading ISIS Propaganda Videos as Utopian Texts

Part 2: Alternative Documentary Politics

Matthew Holtmeier

Living and Dying with Water: Indigenous Histories and Critical Bioregionalism in The Pearl Button

Andrea Reiter

Prospectivity in Political Documentaries

Chelsea Wessels

Practicing Hope: Ecofeminism, Documentary and Community Engagement

Part 3: New Forms of Documentary Activism

Daniel Schwartz, Klearjos Eduardo Papanicolaou, Alfredo Brillembourg, Hubert Klumpner

Trans-Utopia: Documenting Real and Imagined Cities

Dale Hudson

Post-Utopian Interventions by Students: Interactive Documentary and Micro-Revolutions

Jane M. Gaines

Documentary Dreams of Activism and the Arab Spring

List of Illustrations

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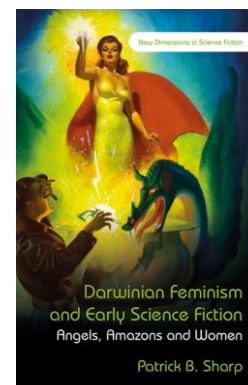
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Patrick B Sharp

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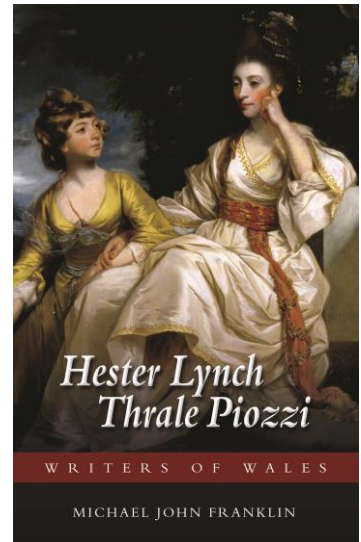
Hester Lynch Thrale Piozzi

Michael Franklin

Series: Writers of Wales

March 2020

£16.99 • PB • 9781786835406 • 216 x 138 mm • 216pp



Market:

Academic and general interest.

Blurb:

This is the first biography to foreground the importance of Hester Lynch Piozzi's Welsh heritage throughout her long life. As one anonymous reader put it, 'Few eighteenth-century Welsh writers long resident in England continued to identify as strongly with their homeland.' Born in an obscure *plwyf* in Caernarvonshire the *salonnière* of Streatham was finally laid to rest in the vault of Tremeirchion church in the Vale of Clwyd. Hester had been mortified at the failure of her brewer husband Henry Thrale, and her mentor Dr Samuel Johnson, to appreciate the beauties of Wales. But her second husband, musician Gabriel Piozzi, was so enamoured that he proposed residing there. Newly-found confidence inspired Piozzi to write in her middle age, and her daringly personal biography (1786) and edition of Johnson's letters (1788) were runaway bestsellers. Her travel book (1789) treated the reader for the first time as an intimate friend, recounting her love affair with her husband's homeland in Italy, whose landscape reminded her so much of Wales.

Key Selling Points:

- This book is a detailed textual analysis.
- It offers a Welsh perspective
- The Celtic aspects of Hester Lynch Thrale Piozzi early poetry and her later prose works are considered in detail.
- It is a compact biography of a particularly colourful late eighteenth-century personality.

Author Details:

Michael J. Franklin is Professor of English at Swansea University.

Contents:

Acknowledgements

List of illustrations

Chapter 1 - Hester Lynch Salusbury: 'a thousand pretty Tricks, [...] a Thousand pretty Stories and [...] a Thousand pretty Verses'

Chapter 2 - The Two Hesters 'have murder'd Peace & Happiness at Home'

Chapter 3 - The Arrivals of Queeney and the Great Cham.

Chapter 4 - Hester Brewster, or, 'Women have a manifest Advantage over Men in the doing Business'

Chapter 5 - 'Like a Rocket She rises, and leaves us to Stare'

Chapter 6 - 'To revise my past Life, & resolve upon a new one.'

Chapter 7 - 'To hie home and dye like a Hare upon the old Farm, near the Place I was kindled at'

Chapter 8 - 'Each bold Cambrio Briton's a Stranger to Fear'

Notes

Bibliography

Index

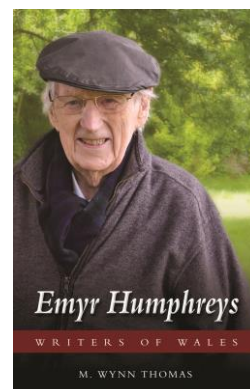
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