

Contents

Acknowledgements	9
1 New Women Writers and New Women's Writing in France	11
2 Changing Bodies and Changing Identities: Monsters, Mothers and Babies in the Writing of Marie Darrieussecq	75
3 Revolting Women? Excess and <i>détournement de genres</i> in the Work of Virginie Despentes	113
4 Telling Tales: Marie Ndiaye's Mythopoeic Imagination	151
5 Agnès Desarthe and the Challenges of the <i>Conte</i>	185
6 The Writing of Lorette Nobécourt: Body Matter(s) and Narrative Acts	219
7 Becoming Women: Amélie Nothomb's Studies in Constraint	255
Bibliography	287
Index	301

Index

- abjection 46, 53, 82, 93, 102, 113, 132, 133–6, 163, 224, 227, 229, 231, 257, 263, 278
- abortion 20, 22, 52, 53–4, 80, 82, 229–33, 236
- adolescence 22, 80, 159, 160–1, 165, 257, 258–74
- ageing 22, 52, 80, 185, 190, 195, 204–6, 223, 228
- Aallwood, Gill 36, 88
- Amitt, Lucie 153, 157, 163
- Angot, Christine 21, 26, 27, 29, 56, 95, 96, 221
- Astro, Alan 207
- Aubert, Brigitte 122
- autobiography 19, 26, 27, 40, 91, 256, 263–4, 268, 273
- autofiction 19, 26, 221, 274–9
- Badinter, Elisabeth 36–7, 125, 233, 234
- Barillé, Elisabeth 56
- Barthes, Roland 130, 155
- Baudrillard, Jean 273
- beauty 52, 80, 257, 260, 262, 273, 276
- Beauvoir, Simone de 21, 50, 79, 91, 100, 104
- bereavement 190, 192
- biological essentialism 87, 88, 104, 163
- Bishop, Michaël 174
- Blanckeman, Bruno 32
- bodies (and identity) 52–7, 91, 220, 222–33, 256, 262–81; (baby bodies) 52, 93, 95–6, 102; (diseased bodies) 52, 60, 220, 225; (metamorphosing bodies) 52, 75, 76, 78, 83, 164–5, 222, 263; (skin) 27, 221, 224, 225, 244
- Bordo, Susan 273
- bourgeoisie 126–7, 235
- Brook, Barbara 80, 82, 134
- Cardinal, Marie 134
- caricature 170, 193, 194–6, 199, 263
- Carter, Angela 56, 78
- Chawaf, Chantal 50, 59
- cinema 20, 114, 115, 124, 131; (cinematic idiom) 117, 127–9
- Cixous, Hélène 13, 21, 24, 37, 39, 40, 54, 48, 88, 156, 191, 248
- closure (of narrative) 48, 51, 141, 153, 154, 266
- Colette 188
- community 193, 194, 195, 196, 200
- Cornell, Drucilla 130
- crime fiction (and women) 17, 24, 29, 32, 35, 38, 113, 119–24
- Curti, Lidia 78, 88
- Cusset, Catherine 55, 228
- Darrieussecq, Marie 11, 14, 17, 20, 21, 24–5, 27, 29, 30–1, 29, 33, 35, 38, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45, 47, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 75–111, 212, 222, 257, 274, 280
- Davis, Colin 18, 197, 219
- death 153, 187, 220, 223, 228
- Denis, Claire 125
- depression 219
- Desarthe, Agnès 11, 18, 28, 29, 35, 40, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 60, 185–217
- Desnain, Véronique 38, 120, 122, 142
- Despentes, Virginie 11, 14, 20, 24, 27, 28, 33, 35, 38, 40, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 49, 53, 55, 56, 58, 113–50, 249
- domesticity 122, 189, 193, 244
- Douglas, Mary 82, 134
- Duhamel, Marcel 123, 127, 128
- Duras, Marguerite 13, 21, 24, 27, 90, 93, 248, 267–8, 274, 278, 280

- eating disorders 80, 121, 133, 272, 273, 276, 279
- écriture blanche* 219
- écriture féminine* 13, 57–8, 79
- Ernaux, Annie 15, 21, 26, 29, 40, 50, 52, 53–4, 60, 61, 91, 101, 102, 194, 230, 231
- Escalle, Clotilde 41, 56
- excess 32, 33, 39, 53, 54, 77, 113, 123, 132, 133
- exclusion 58, 152, 193, 195, 203
- exile 42, 46–8, 58
- Fallaize, Elizabeth 12, 18, 21, 24, 33, 134, 197, 219
- family 15, 20, 43, 47, 48–52, 75, 91, 117, 168, 169, 173–80, 185, 187, 197, 220, 224, 236
- fantasy 113, 123, 124–30, 131, 132, 136, 138–40
- fantastic literature 52, 61, 75, 79, 151–2, 153, 188, 194
- Farris, Wendy B. 159
- fathers 49, 59, 96, 224, 245
- feminism(s) 13, 33, 36–41, 75, 114; (post-feminism) 12, 31, 38, 99; (feminist theory) 49, 81, 125, 155–9, 280; (feminist heritage) 11, 16, 21, 30, 38, 41, 57–61, 76, 85, 87, 88, 89, 90, 97, 104, 163, 164–5, 256
- fin de siècle* 17, 42, 43, 48, 77, 113, 115, 151, 167, 186, 219
- Fleutiaux, Pierette 59
- Fouque, Antoinette 233
- Front National* 83
- Garapon, Paul 115, 116, 117, 118
- gaze 26, 81, 262, 264–7, 268
- Gazier, Michèle 49
- genre (and women) 15, 23–4, 32, 33, 54, 77, 79–80, 87–8, 113, 115–19, 140, 155–9
- Germain, Sylvie 28, 59
- history 18, 42–6, 240; (and gender) 243–8
- home 47, 105, 116
- Holmes, Diana 50, 51, 84, 134, 156, 165, 188
- Holocaust 44–5, 185, 186, 207–12, 244, 245
- Houellebecq, Michel 113
- humour 55, 58, 76, 104, 140, 185, 190, 195, 204, 274
- Hyvrard, Jeanne 13, 14
- Iacub, Marcela 37
- identity (crisis) 18, 41, 42, 261; (quest) 18, 35, 44, 78, 220, 237; (women's identity) 42, 44, 47, 49, 87, 172, 220, 256, 257; (identity and memory) 43, 207, 210
- incest 56, 95
- intertextuality 33, 77, 113, 128–9, 142, 172, 195
- Irigaray, Luce 13, 37, 234
- Japp, Andrea 121, 124
- Jardine, Alice 13, 42
- Jewish culture 186, 188, 207, 208–9
- Jourde, Pierre 30
- Klein, Melanie 75
- Kristeva, Julia 13, 14, 37, 57, 82, 97, 134
- Lacan, Jacques 57, 264
- lack 133, 270
- language (and women) 20, 22, 52, 57–9, 75, 76, 81–2, 90, 92, 93, 98, 105, 117, 118, 124, 125, 137–8, 230; (and mothers) 95, 98–101; (inadequacy of) 48, 97–8, 232
- Leclerc, Annie 13, 50, 54, 57, 89
- Lejeune, Philippe 40
- lesbianism 121, 228
- liminality 46, 47, 84, 91, 113, 116, 158–9, 173, 219, 227
- Lipovetsky, Gilles 32, 249
- literary establishment in France 142; (literary journalism) 16, 17, 92; (publishers/publishing) 16, 24, 28, 146; (mediatisation of writers) 219, 275–6; (*rentrée littéraire*) 113

- Little, Roger 159
 loss 15, 42, 45, 49, 75, 93, 257
 Lyotard, Jean-François 31
- madness 219, 226, 234
 marriage 51
 Mauss, Marcel 197
 Menke, Anne 13, 42
 menstruation 22, 52, 53, 80, 134–6, 160–1, 162, 263, 268
 menopause 22, 52, 80
 Millet, Catherine 21, 26, 37, 52, 55, 138, 228, 249
 mirrors/mirroring 40, 81, 246–7, 257, 264–74
Mix-cité 37
 Modiano, Patrick 210, 220, 246
 monstrosity 76, 77, 78, 79, 88, 278
 Morello, Nathalie 18, 25, 28, 34, 35, 41, 189
 motherhood 14, 20, 37, 41, 48, 49–51, 90, 93–6, 117, 151–2, 157, 159–60, 167–73, 224, 228, 233–7; (idealised mothers) 187, 188, 189, 191; (mother–daughter relations) 50, 75, 79, 159–67, 236; (mothers' bodies) 157, 225; (mothers and moral responsibility) 50, 51, 52, 93–4, 94–5, 161, 167–71, 177, 200, 201, 213, 225; (mothers and violence) 95, 173, 234, 235; (mothers and vampirism) 157, 243; (mothers and writing) 59, 99–102; (mother as origin) 157
- naming strategies 175–6, 242, 261–2, 269–70, 272
 narrative voice 75, 76, 86, 92, 154–5, 175, 190, 219, 236–7, 237–43, 258
 Ndiaye, Marie 11, 19, 25, 28, 29, 33, 35, 41, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 60, **151–84**
 Nettelbeck, Colin 25, 43, 45, 210
 new generation 16, 19, 41–2, 61, 115, 116, 117, 135, 166
 Nimier, Marie 33, 56
 Nobécourt, Lorette 11, 18, 19, 20, 27, 29, 30, 35, 40, 41, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 58, 59, 60, 177, 186, 200, 210, 213, **219–53**, 275
 Noreiko, Stephen 119
 Nothomb, Amélie 11, 14, 20, 26, 27, 28, 40, 45, 60, **255–86**
- orality 60, 76, 79, 104, 105, 154–5, 163, 237
- paratext 275–6
 parody 32, 39, 79, 89, 113, 123, 277
 patriarchy 51, 79, 82, 86, 100, 154, 156, 161, 188
 Pennac, Daniel 49, 192, 197
 phallogocentrism 86, 96
 phallus 133, 137
 pornography 17, 24, 33, 35, 36, 38, 54, 77, 88, 113, 114, 122, 127, 130–8
 Poole, Sara 121, 122
 post-colonial fiction 157–8
 postmodernism 12, 19, 31, 32–3, 151, 171–2, 178, 179, 213, 249; (and feminism) 33–6, 156, 166
 pregnancy 22, 52, 80, 229–30
 private/public divide 25, 102, 103
 Propp, Vladimir 154
 prostitution 28, 37, 38
- Rabaté, Dominique 237–8
 racism 193, 194, 197–8, 204
 rape 38, 56, 80, 118, 124–5, 127, 139, 227
 reader–writer relationships 12, 15, 26, 31, 39–41, 78, 80, 88, 90, 103, 225, 239, 264
 realism 113, 115, 117, 151, 169, 186, 193–4
 Redonnet, Marie 33, 59, 60, 160, 165
 reproductive technology 37, 234, 249
 Rochefort, Christiane 23
 Rodgers, Catherine 18, 25, 28, 34, 35, 41, 262, 279
 romantic love 48
 Roudinesco, Elisabeth 49, 54, 55
 Rye, Gill 12, 31–2, 40, 42, 95, 236
- Salvayre, Lydie 56, 206
 Sarraute, Nathalie 25, 91, 189

- Sarrey-Strack, Colette 33, 34, 89, 167, 170
 satire 76, 83, 84, 256
 Schweickart, Patrocinio P. 40
 self-other relations 48–52, 103, 195; (gender relations) 51, 85, 114, 162, 185, 188–9
 Sellers, Susan 40, 97, 153, 156, 159, 171, 172, 274
 sexuality 14, 22, 41, 52–7, 226–8; (sexual desire) 22, 36, 52, 89, 117, 222; (representations of sex) 55, 130–1, 137, 226
 shame 82
 Showalter, Elaine 41
 Stewart, Susan 157
 storytelling 18, 20, 41, 42, 50, 79, 87, 185–6, 188, 191–2, 194, 201–3; (fairy tale and myth) 33, 35, 59–61, 77, 79, 83, 84, 95, 151, 152–9, 202, 255, 257, 262, 264, 275, 277, 280
 suicide 220, 221, 224, 278
 surveillance 196
 Sylvain, Dominique 121, 122
 Tabachnik, Maud 119, 120, 121, 122, 127, 130, 139
 taboo subjects 52, 57, 95–6, 134–5, 222, 224, 230
 Todorov, Tzvetan 122
 transmission (stories of) 45–6, 60, 152, 159–67, 185, 186, 188, 208
 trash fiction 24, 113, 115–19
 trauma 18, 27, 41, 278
 ugliness 262, 266
 Vargas, Fred 121, 122, 142
 Viart, Dominique 48
 Vichy France 44, 211, 220, 244, 245
 violence 38, 41, 42, 43, 119, 123, 124–30, 137–8, 140; (sexual violence) 38, 56, 80, 88, 118, 130, 227
 Wadia, Khusheed 36, 88
 wandering women 151, 157, 158, 173, 178, 180
 Ward Jouve, Nicole 154
 Warner, Marina 157, 155
 Watkins, Susan 15, 34–5
 Weldon, Fay 78
 Wiesel, Elie 209
 Winterson, Jeanette 41
 witches 31, 159–67, 189; (and magic) 154, 157, 159–63, 172, 187, 188, 191
 Wittig, Monique 13, 24
 women writers (as category) 12–16, 47–8, 75, 120; (marketing of) 22–31; (fictional representations of) 19–21, 85, 87
 Woolf, Virginia 15, 188
 Worton, Michael 117