

American Houses

European Perspectives on the United States

Series Editor

Marek Paryż (*University of Warsaw*)

Editorial Board

Ingrid Gessner (*Vorarlberg University of Education*)

Justyna Włodarczyk (*University of Warsaw*)

Natalie Ann Zacek (*The University of Manchester*)

Michael Jonik (*University of Sussex*)

Frank Mehring (*Radboud University*)

VOLUME 3

The titles published in this series are listed at brill.com/eaas

American Houses

Literary Spaces of Resistance and Desire

Edited by

Rodrigo Andrés and Cristina Alsina Rísquez



BRILL

LEIDEN | BOSTON

Cover illustration: Illustration from *Moby Dick*. Colección Clásicos a Medida. Ed. Anaya Infantil y Juvenil. 2019. By Goyo Rodríguez.

This publication was made possible by:

Research Project “Troubling Houses: Dwellings, Materiality, and the Self in American Literature” (FFI2017-82692-P MINECO/AEI/FEDER, UE) funded by the Spanish Ministerio de Economía, Industria y Competitividad (2018–2020).



The Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available online at <https://catalog.loc.gov>

Typeface for the Latin, Greek, and Cyrillic scripts: “Brill”. See and download: brill.com/brill-typeface.

ISSN 2666-724X

ISBN 978-90-04-52031-8 (hardback)

ISBN 978-90-04-52111-7 (e-book)

Copyright 2022 by Koninklijke Brill nv, Leiden, The Netherlands.

Koninklijke Brill nv incorporates the imprints Brill, Brill Nijhoff, Brill Hotei, Brill Schöningh, Brill Fink, Brill mentis, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Böhlau and V&R unipress.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, translated, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior written permission from the publisher. Requests for re-use and/or translations must be addressed to Koninklijke Brill nv via brill.com or copyright.com.

This book is printed on acid-free paper and produced in a sustainable manner.

Contents

Notes on Contributors VII

- 1 American Houses, American Literature 1
Rodrigo Andrés

PART 1

Houses: Queer Affiliations and Temporalities

- 2 The House as Alternative to Familial Space and Time in Herman Melville's "I and My Chimney" 17
Rodrigo Andrés
- 3 Paths Well-Trodden and "Desire Lines" in Willa Cather's *The Professor's House* 39
Cristina Alsina Rísquez
- 4 Queering the American Family Home
The Aesthetics of Place and the Ethos of Domesticity in Alison Bechdel's Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic 58
Elena Ortells

PART 2

The Legacy of the House Divided

- 5 Cape Coast Castle in the Sky: Yaa Gyasi's *Homegoing* and the Im/possibility of the American Dream 77
Cynthia Lytle
- 6 The Haunted Plantation: Ghosts, Graves, and Transformation as Resistance in Charles W. Chesnutt's *The Conjure Woman* 97
Ian Green
- 7 A House is a House is a House: Toni Morrison's Politics of Domesticity, Redemption and Healing in *Beloved* and *Home* 115
Mar Gallego

- 8 The Politics of Affect with/in the African American Mansion in
Stephanie Powell Watts's *No One Is Coming to Save Us* 135
Vicent Cucarella-Ramon
- 9 "A Lot More Deadly": Gender and the Black Spatial Imaginary in U.S.
Prison Writings 153
Eva Puyuelo Ureña

PART 3

Troubled Boundaries of the Domestic Space

- 10 Thoreau's Unhoused 173
Michael Jonik
- 11 Too Tight for Comfort: Shipboard Distance as the Prerequisite for
Personal Intimacy in Herman Melville's *White-Jacket* 190
Arturo Corujo
- 12 "Maybe There's Nobody to Shoot": The Disappearing Landlord in 20th-
Century U.S. Fiction 208
Cynthia Stretch
- 13 Woody Guthrie's *House of Earth*: A Manifesto in Adobe as a Response to
Houselessness and Domicide in Post-Depression Years 226
Carme Manuel
- 14 The *Arrivant* in Toni Morrison's *Paradise*: Deviation, Iteration,
Intersection 244
Paula Martín-Salván
- 15 "A House at Odds with Itself": Barbara Kingsolver's *Unsheltered* 266
Dolores Resano
- 16 Afterword: In a Fictional House 283
Wyn Kelley
- Index 289

Notes on Contributors

Cristina Alsina Rísquez

is an Assistant Professor in American Literature at the Universitat de Barcelona (Serra Hunter Fellow) and a researcher at ADHUC Research Center for Theory, Gender, Sexuality. Her main area of research is twentieth-century U.S. literature with a special interest in the work of Willa Cather. She is currently the co-P.I., with Rodrigo Andrés, of the research project “(Un)Housing: Dwellings, Materiality, and the Self in American Literature” (2021–2024) funded by the Spanish Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación. She is co-editor in chief of the journal *Lectora: revista de dones i textualitat* and coordinates the MA in “Construction and Representation of Cultural Identities.”

Rodrigo Andrés

is an Assistant Professor in American Literature at the Universitat de Barcelona and a researcher at ADHUC Research Center for Theory, Gender, Sexuality. He specializes in the Nineteenth Century and his research focuses on the work of Herman Melville and on the literary representation of domestic spaces. He was the P.I. of the research project “Troubling Houses: Dwellings, Materiality, and the Self in American Literature” (2018–2020) and is currently the co-P.I., with Cristina Alsina Rísquez, of the research project “(Un)Housing: Dwellings, Materiality, and the Self in American Literature” (2021–2024), both funded by the Spanish Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación.

Arturo Corujo

is a Doctoral Researcher at Universitat de Barcelona. He holds a BA in English from Universidad de La Laguna, and an MA in “Construction and Representation of Cultural Identities” from Universitat de Barcelona, where he specialized in Gender, Identities, and the Literature of the American Renaissance, with specific focus on Herman Melville. His dissertation aims to stress the importance of Melville’s *White-Jacket* (1850) as a constitutive text in the author’s political, philosophical, and literary project.

Vicent Cucarella-Ramon

is an Assistant Lecturer at the Universitat de València (Spain). His research interests focus on US and Canadian literatures with a special emphasis on African American and African Canadian literatures. His recent articles on black authors from the US and Canada, such as Toni Morrison, Zora Neale Hurston, Wayde Compton, Jesmyn Ward or Esi Edugyan, appear on national and international journals such as *Studies in the Literary Imagination*, *Miscelánea*,

Revista de Estudios Norteamericanos, Canada and Beyond or *International Journal of English Studies*. He is the author of the book *Sacred Femininity and the Politics of Affect in African American Women's Fiction* (PUV, 2018).

Mar Gallego

is Full Professor of American and African American Literatures at the Universidad de Huelva (Spain), where she has worked since 1996. Her major research interests are African American Studies and the African diaspora, with a special focus on women writers and gender issues. She has published two monographs entitled *Passing Novels in the Harlem Renaissance* (LitVerlag, 2003) and *A ambas orillas del Atlántico: Geografías de hogar y diáspora en autoras afrodescendientes* (KKK, 2016), and has co-edited ten essay collections. Her articles have appeared in *Atlantis, Contemporary Women's Writing, African and the Black Diaspora*, among others. Currently, she is completing a monograph on Toni Morrison's fiction.

Ian Green

is an Assistant Professor of English at Eastern Washington University. His scholarship has appeared in *Horror Studies, Rocky Mountain Review of Language and Literature*, and *ANQ*. His fiction has appeared in such publications as *2 Bridges Review, Poydras*, and *Anamesa Journal*. In both scholarly and creative works, he focuses on the cultural and historical inheritance of horror and folk narratives in the present, lived experience of the United States. Originally from Philadelphia, he has lived in New York and currently divides his time between Spokane, Washington and Providence, Rhode Island.

Michael Jonik

teaches American literature and contemporary critical theory at the University of Sussex. He has published *Herman Melville and the Politics of the Inhuman* (Cambridge UP, 2018), and he writes on pre-1900 American literature and philosophy, including recent essays on Emerson, Thoreau, Melville, Dickinson, and Henry and William James. He is now editing the *New Cambridge Companion to Ralph Waldo Emerson*, the Oxford World Classic edition of *Herman Melville, Bartleby the Scrivener, Billy Budd, and Other Tales*, and co-editing *The Oxford Handbook of Herman Melville*. He is a founding member of The British Association of Nineteenth-Century Americanists (BrANCA), and Reviews and Special Issues editor for the journal *Textual Practice*.

Wyn Kelley

Senior Lecturer in Literature at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is author of *Melville's City: Literary and Urban Form in Nineteenth-Century New York* (1996) and of *Herman Melville: An Introduction* (2008); co-author, with

Henry Jenkins, of *Reading in a Participatory Culture* (2013); and co-editor with Christopher Ohge of the Wiley *A New Companion to Herman Melville* (2022). Former Associate Editor of *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies*, she is Associate Director of the Melville Electronic Library, works with MIT's Digital Humanities lab on digital pedagogy, and serves in the Melville Society Cultural Project, which oversees a scholarly archive at the New Bedford Whaling Museum.

Cynthia Lytle

is an independent scholar researching intersections of race, gender, class, and nationalism and how they construct and represent communities in American and postcolonial literature and media. She completed her PhD at the Universitat de Barcelona and currently lives and works in Berlin.

Carme Manuel

is Full Professor of English in the Department de Filologia Anglesa i Alemanya at the Universitat de València, where she started lecturing in 1992. She has published and lectured widely on nineteenth- and twentieth-century American and African American literature. Her research interests and publications focus on nineteenth- and twentieth-century fiction, with a special emphasis on African American women's writing. In 2002 she founded the independent scholarly collection Biblioteca Javier Coy d'estudis nord-americans (Publicacions Universitat València) devoted to publishing titles on American studies. BJC has published 180 volumes to date by Spanish, American and European scholars.

Paula Martín-Salván

is an Associate Professor of English Literatures at the Universidad de Córdoba (Spain). Her research focuses on the representation of communities in modernist and postmodernist fiction, and on contemporary critical theory. She has co-edited the volumes *Community in Twentieth Century Fiction* (Palgrave, 2013) and *New Perspectives on Community and the Modernist Subject* (Routledge, 2017). She is currently head of a research team working on a project on the notion of secrecy and democracy in fiction, funded by the Spanish Ministry of Economy (2020–2023). Her current research focuses on work by Toni Morrison, Don DeLillo, Amy Waldman, and Colson Whitehead.

Elena Ortells

is an Associate Professor at the Universitat Jaume I of Castelló in Spain. She has published articles in *Atlantis, Journal of the Spanish Association of Anglo-American Studies*, *Revista de Estudios Norteamericanos*, *English Teaching-*

Practice and Critique, *Quaderns de Filologia: Estudis Literaris* and *Studies in the Literary Imagination* among other journals. Books published include *La verdadera historia del cautiverio y la restitución de Mary Rowlandson: Traducción, estudio crítico y notas* (A True History of the Captivity and Restoration of Mary Rowlandson. Translation, Critical Study and Notes) (2008); *Truman Capote, un camaleón ante el espejo* (Truman Capote, a Chameleon at the Mirror) (2009) and *Prisioneras de salvajes: Relatos y confesiones de mujeres cautivas de indios norteamericanos* (Prisoners of Savages. Stories and Confessions of Captive Women of American Indians) (2012).

Eva Puyuelo Ureña

is a doctoral candidate in Construction and Representation of Cultural Identities at ADHUC Research Center for Gender, Theory, and Sexuality at the Universitat de Barcelona (Spain), where she also earned an MA in literature, gender, and identity in 2016. Her research focuses on black epistemologies, intersectional feminism, and black literature, and she is especially interested in exploring whether the representation of violence can be considered a violent act in itself. She has recently published a number of articles on Ta-Nehisi Coates, afropessimism, and racial (dis)identifications in leading academic journals, both at a national and international level.

Dolores Resano

is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at the Clinton Institute for American Studies, University College Dublin and Visiting Scholar at the Department of English and Creative Writing at Dartmouth College. Her current research is focused on 21st-century American and European literary fiction from a transatlantic perspective, with a special interest in the intersections of literature, politics, affect, and public discourse. An edited collection, *American Literature in the Era of Trump*, is forthcoming from Palgrave in 2021. She is also co-editor in chief of the journal *Lectora: revista de dones i textualitat*, dedicated to gender studies.

Cynthia Stretch

is a professor of American literature at Southern Connecticut State University. Her research interests usually steer her toward the intersection of art and activism, from representations of strikes in turn-of-the-century fiction to spoken word and slam poetry about gentrification and eviction. She is a member of the research team “Troubling Houses: Dwellings, Materiality, and the Self in American Literature” funded by the Spanish Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación.