



**SPEAKING  
THE  
UNSPEAKABLE**

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*A Poetics of Obscenity*

***Peter Michelson***

# Speaking The Unspeakable A Poetics Of Obscenity

**Sylvia Shin Huey Chong**



## **Speaking The Unspeakable A Poetics Of Obscenity:**

*Speaking the Unspeakable* Peter Michelson, 1993-01-01 This book studies the literary and cinematic functions of the pornographic as a development from a poetics of obscenity It focuses on the developments of French British and American artistic pornography since the eighteenth century Discussing female literary figures including Hall Wharton Nin Reage Jong and Shulman such men as Cleland Sade Beardsley Lawrence Joyce and Miller and film makers such as Brakhage Jack Smith Bruce Conner Bertolucci Oshima and Wertmuller Michelson analyzes both the use of aesthetic pornography and the philosophical cultural and legal implications of its use He proposes that realizing the obscene in the sense of speaking the unspeakable is the principle aesthetic function of pornography

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Obscenity Jan M. Ziolkowski, 2023-11-27 This volume makes most wide ranging attempt ever to probe the nature's origins and consequences of obscenity in medieval literature art theater and law One large section examines obscenity in medieval French literature especially fabliaux but the rest of the book explores obscenity in cultures and languages of other regions in Europe

The Other Mirror Kristine Ibsen, 1997-02-25 During the last decade women's narrative has become a recognized force in Mexican letters The essays in this collection explore the recent work of nine contemporary Mexican women writers Many of the works have been translated into English some like Laura Esquivel's *Like Water for Chocolate* have become international best sellers The unprecedented commercial success of these novels has generated mixed reactions at the same time that the secondary status afforded women's narrative has come to be questioned in many academic circles some authors are dissociating themselves from women's writing The essays in this volume address these issues providing a much needed contribution to the study of women's narrative

*The Routledge Dictionary of Literary Terms* Peter Childs, Roger Fowler, 2006-07-13 A twenty first century version of Roger Fowler's 1973 *Dictionary of Modern Critical Terms* this latest edition of *The Routledge Dictionary of Literary Terms* is the most up to date guide to critical and theoretical concepts available to students of literature at all levels With over forty newly commissioned entries this essential reference book includes an exhaustive range of entries covering such topics as genre form cultural theory and literary technique new definitions of contemporary critical issues such as Cybercriticism and Globalization complete coverage of traditional and radical approaches to the study and production of literature thorough accounts of critical terminology and analyses of key

academic debates full cross referencing throughout and suggestions for further reading Covering both long established terminology as well as the specialist vocabulary of modern theoretical schools The Routledge Dictionary of Literary Terms is an indispensable guide to the principal terms and concepts encountered in debates over literary studies in the twenty first century

**The Divinity of Sex** Charles Pickstone, 2025-09-23 Overview In this fascinating new inquiry into contemporary culture Charles Pickstone a priest argues that the pervasiveness of sex in our society mirrors religion s former glory Indeed according to Pickstone sex has usurped religion s position on the spiritual pedestal In this time of increasing secularization our traditional views of sex have fallen by the wayside The religious right bemoans our so called hedonism as a retreat from religion and values Yet Pickstone challenges the belief that we have lost our spirituality and have become a world of lost souls damned for eternity His book provides a sober and lucid response to our concerns about where our society is headed Pickstone clearly demonstrates how we often describe sex in metaphors of natural and even supernatural phenomena The earth moves oceans swell and storms rage Moreover Pickstone argues we find in both sexual and religious passion the same transcendence of self that constitutes a spiritual experience Barriers break down as we are transported to another reality of ecstasy and heightened experience

*Trollope and the Magazines* M. Turner, 1999-10-28 Trollope and the Magazines examines the serial publication of several of Trollope s novels in the context of the gendered discourses in a range of Victorian magazines including Cornhill Good Words Saint Pauls and the Fortnightly Review It highlights the importance of the periodical press in the literary culture of Victorian Britain and argues that readers today need to engage with the lively cultural debates in the magazines in order better to appreciate the complexity of Trollope s popular fiction

**Maps of Heaven, Maps of Hell** Edward Ingebreetsen, 2016-09-16 From its beginnings in Puritan sermonising to its prominent place in contemporary genre film and fiction this book traces the use of terror in the American popular imagination Entering American culture partly by way of religious sanction it remains an important heart and mind shaping tool

*The Fountainhead of Chinese Erotica* Charles R. Stone, 2003-03-31 The Lord of Perfect Satisfaction Ruyijun zhuan a short work of fiction from the early sixteenth century tells the story of the Tang dynasty s notorious Wu Zetian the only woman to rule as emperor of China It is famous not for the history it relates but for its graphic sexual descriptions the first ever in a Chinese novel purportedly given from a woman s point of view Despite its renown and unmistakable influence on later writing the origins and significance of the Ruyijun zhuan have never been explored in any language and until now it has never been translated Its date of composition is unknown its author unidentified One of its earliest appraisals written by a contemporary scholar known for his conservatism maintains that the Ruyijun zhuan is a moral work notwithstanding its sexual content Combining a complete translation with a detailed and far ranging study of the text The Fountainhead of Chinese Erotica places this important cultural document into historical context and offers possibilities on its meaning

*Popular Modernity in America* Michael Thomas Carroll, 2000-09-28 Examines a wide variety of cultural and technological phenomena that have

helped shape American popular culture over the last 150 years      **Forbidden Fictions** John Phillips,1999-01-20 Phillips discusses texts by Apollinaire Pierre Lo ys Georges Bataille Pauline R age Alain Robbe Grillet Tony Duvert Elizabeth Barill and Marie Darrieussecq engaging in different levels of critical analysis so as to emphasize intertextual and parodic elements in one case or points of possible identification in another TLS French culture has long been perceived by the English speaking reader as somehow more erotic than its Anglo Saxon equivalent Forbidden Fictions is the first English language study devoted exclusively to the wide spectrum of French literary pornography in the twentieth century John Phillips provides a broad history of the genre and the associated moral and political issues Among the texts examined in detail all selected for their literary or sociopolitical importance are landmark works by Apollinaire Lou s Bataille R age Robbe Grillet Arsan and Duvert Phillips challenges current politically correct trends in literary criticism and stereotyped censoring discourses about pornography to provide a new reading of each text and to illustrate the genre s potential for social subversion Forbidden Fictions addresses the most controversial issues of contemporary sexual politics such as objectification sadomasochism homoeroticism and paedophilia with particular emphasis on the feminist debate on pornography In the light of current controversy over the control of pornography this is a timely and scholarly review of the ethical moral and social arguments surrounding the censorship of sexually explicit material      At Stake Edward Ingebreetsen,2001 Anyone who watches the evening news is all too familiar with how the word monster is used to describe acts of violence In this book Edward Ingebreetsen sets out to discover what is really at stake when we turn someone into a monster The monster he finds serves a moralizing function in our culture making exaggerated examples of particular evildoers in order to reaffirm prevailing standards of behavior and personal conduct      Queer Theory in Education William F. Pinar,2012-10-02 Theoretical studies in curriculum have begun to move into cultural studies one vibrant and increasingly visible sector of which is queer theory Queer Theory in Education brings together the most prominent and promising scholars in the field of education primarily but not exclusively in curriculum in the first volume on queer theory in education In his perceptive introduction the editor outlines queer theory as it is emerging in the field of education its significance for all scholars and teachers and its relation to queer theory in literacy theory and more generally in the humanities      The Oriental Obscene Sylvia Shin Huey Chong,2012 This book explores the impact of media representations of violence during the Vietnam War on people in the U S specifically how images of violence done to and by the Vietnamese were traumatic in ways that deeply affected the American psyche      **Difficult Reputations** Gary Alan Fine,2001-04 We take reputations for granted Believing in the bad and the good natures of our notorious or illustrious forebears is part of our shared national heritage Yet we are largely ignorant of how such reputations came to be who was instrumental in creating them and why Even less have we considered how villains just as much as heroes have helped our society define its values Presenting essays on America s most reviled traitor its worst president and its most controversial literary ing nue Benedict Arnold Warren G Harding and Lolita

among others sociologist Gary Alan Fine analyzes negative contested and subcultural reputations *Difficult Reputations* offers eight compelling historical case studies as well as a theoretical introduction situating the complex roles in culture and history that negative reputations play Arguing the need for understanding real conditions that lead to proposed interpretations as well as how reputations are given meaning over time this book marks an important contribution to the sociologies of culture and knowledge

*Laughter and Power* John Phillips, 2006 Laughter and power are here examined in a variety of contexts ranging from the satires of Renaissance Humanism through to the polemics of contemporary journalism How do the powerful use laughter as a cultural weapon which reinforces their position How do the powerless use laughter as a last resort in their self defence Sixteenth century intellectuals applied their satires to a campaign against intolerance Seventeenth century absolutism demanded of comedy that it serve its interests Yet subversive humour survived even at the court and led through the Enlightenment to its apogee in the black humour of Sade Twentieth century experimental fiction owes that trend a conscious debt Meanwhile an aesthetic tradition represented here by Flaubert Beckett and Queneau incites a laughter which releases tension rather than raising awareness As humour theorists Bergson Freud and Koestler help focus these concerns

Medieval Empires and the Culture of Competition Samuel England, 2018-03-07 The first book to look critically at digital technologies and the role they play within queer lives in contemporary India

**The Vagina: A Literary and Cultural History** Emma L. E. Rees, 2013-08-01 From South Park to Kathy Acker and from Lars Von Trier to *Sex and the City* women's sexual organs are demonized Rees traces the fascinating evolution of this demonization considering how calling the c word obscene both legitimates and perpetuates the fractured identities of women globally Rees demonstrates how writers artists and filmmakers contend with the dilemma of the vagina's puzzlingly covert visibility In our postmodern porn obsessed culture vaginas appear to be everywhere literally or symbolically but crucially they are as silenced as they are objectified *The Vagina A Literary and Cultural History* examines the paradox of female genitalia through five fields of artistic expression literature film TV visual and performance art There is a peculiar paradox unlike any other regarding female genitalia Rees focuses on this paradox of what is termed the covert visibility of the vagina and on its monstrous manifestations That is what happens when the female body refuses to be pathologized eroticized or rendered subordinate to the will or intention of another Common and often offensive slang terms for the vagina can be seen as an attempt to divert attention away from the reality of women's lived sexual experiences such that we don't look at the vagina itself slang offers a convenient distraction to something so taboo *The Vagina A Literary and Cultural History* is an important contribution to the ongoing debate in understanding the feminine identity

Enjoyment Anna-Teresa Tymieniecka, 2013-03-14 Philosophy art criticism and popular opinion all seem to treat the aesthetics of the comic as lightweight while the tragic seems to be regarded with greater seriousness Why this favouring of sadness over joy Can it be justified What are the criteria by which the significance of comedy can be estimated vis vis tragedy Questions such as these underlie the present selection of studies which casts new

light on the comic the joyful and laughter itself This challenge to the popular attitude strikes into new territory relating such matters to the profundity with which we enjoy life and its role in the deployment of the Human Condition In her Introduction Tymieniecka points out that the tragic and the comic might be complementary in their respective sense bestowing modes as well as in their dynamic functions they might both share in the primogenital function of promoting the self individualising progress of human existence For the first time in philosophy laughter mirth joy and the like are revealed as the modalities of the essential enjoyment of life being brought to bear in an illumination of the human condition

### **Modernist Invention**

Edward Allen, 2020-07-23 Modernist Invention attends to the parallel histories of media technology and modernist American poetry

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