

The Singularity of Literature

Derek Attridge



Routledge Classics

Singularity Of Literature

Marcel A. Müller



Singularity Of Literature:

The Singularity of Literature Derek Attridge, 2017-04-07 The Iliad and Beowulf provide rich sources of historical information The novels of Henry Fielding and Henry James may be instructive in the art of moral living Some go further and argue that Emile Zola and Harriet Beecher Stowe played a part in ameliorating the lives of those existing in harsh circumstances However as Derek Attridge argues in this outstanding and acclaimed book none of these capacities is distinctive of literature What is the singularity of literature Do the terms literature and the literary refer to actual entities found in cultures at certain times or are they merely expressions characteristic of such cultures Attridge argues that this resistance to definition and reduction is not a dead end but a crucial starting point from which to explore anew the power and practices of Western art Derek Attridge provides a rich new vocabulary for literature rethinking such terms as invention singularity otherness alterity performance and form He returns literature to the realm of ethics and argues for the ethical importance of literature demonstrating how a new understanding of the literary might be put to work in a responsible creative mode of reading *The Singularity of Literature* is not only a major contribution to the theory of literature but also a celebration of the extraordinary pleasure of the literary for reader writer student or critic This Routledge Classics edition includes a new preface by the author

The Singularity of Literature Derek Attridge, 2004 *The Singularity of Literature* Derek Attridge, 2004 This brilliant contribution to the theory of literature demonstrates how a new understanding of the literary might be applied in a responsible creative mode of reading *The Work of Literature* Derek Attridge, 2015-03-26 What is distinctive about the cultural practice called literature How does it benefit individuals and society How do literary works retain their importance and their capacity to give pleasure over decades and centuries What constitutes responsible criticism These are some of the questions addressed in this book which develops the arguments put forward in Derek Attridge's influential study *The Singularity of Literature* 2004 Beginning with an extended cross examination in the form of an interview addressing a range of topics relating to the work of literature understood both as the activity of the writer and as the text itself and the practices of literary reading and literary criticism it asks what it means to do justice to a work of literature provides a full account of the concept of singularity considers the problematic power of criticism and advances an account of the role of context in the writing and reading of literary works In other chapters it explores the issue of cultural difference in responses to literature discusses the working of metaphor questions the attribution of knowledge to literary works and addresses the topics of affect and hospitality The book follows through the consequences of regarding the singular and inventive work of literature as an event that takes place anew each time it is read providing an opening to an otherness excluded by prevailing cultural norms and habits of thought and feeling Although the focus of the book is on literature the arguments are relevant to all the arts and engage with the thought of major aesthetic theorists in a number of traditions *Singularity and Transnational Poetics* Birgit Mara Kaiser, 2014-12-05 Over

the past decade singularity has been a prominent term in a broad range of fields ranging from philosophy to literary and cultural studies to science and technology studies This volume intervenes in this broad discussion of singularity and its various implications proposing to explore the term for its specific potential in the study of literature Singularity and Transnational Poetics brings together scholars working in the fields of literary and cultural studies translation studies and transnational literatures The volume's central concern is to explore singularity as a conceptual tool for the comparative study of contemporary literatures beyond national frameworks and by implication as a tool to analyze human existence Contributors explore how singularity might move our conceptions of cultural identity from prevailing frameworks of self other toward the premises of being as singular plural Through a close reading of transnational literatures from Ireland Germany the Netherlands France and South Africa this collection offers a new approach to reading literature that will challenge a reader's established notions of identity individuality communicability and social cohesion

Jacques Derrida: Live Theory James KA Smith, 2005-10-20 Jacques Derrida Live Theory is a new introduction to the work of this most influential of contemporary philosophers It covers Derrida's corpus in its entirety from his earliest work in phenomenology and the philosophy of language to his most recent work in ethics politics and religion It investigates Derrida's contribution to and impact upon such disciplines as philosophy literary theory cultural studies aesthetics and theology Throughout the key concepts that underpin Derrida's thought are thoroughly examined in particular the notion of the Other or alterity is employed to indicate a fundamental continuity from Derrida's earliest to his latest work The text emphasizes the importance of understanding Derrida's philosophical heritage as the key to understanding the interdisciplinary impact of his project In the wake of Derrida's death the book includes an interview that interrogates the very notion of live theory as a way into the core themes of deconstruction

Institutions of World Literature Stefan Helgesson, Pieter Vermeulen, 2015-06-19 This volume engages critically with the recent and ongoing consolidation of world literature as a paradigm of study On the basis of an extended active and ultimately more literary sense of what it means to institute world literature it views processes of institutionalization not as limitations but as challenges to understand how literature may simultaneously function as an enabling and exclusionary world of its own It starts from the observation that literature is never simply a given but is always performatively and materially instituted by translators publishers academics and academics critics and readers as well as authors themselves This volume therefore substantiates refines as well as interrogates current approaches to world literature such as those developed by David Damrosch Pascale Casanova and Emily Apter Sections focus on the poetics of writers themselves market dynamics postcolonial negotiations of discrete archives of literature and translation engaging a range of related disciplines The chapters contribute to a fresh understanding of how singular literary works become inserted in transnational systems and conversely how transnational and institutional dimensions of literature are inflected in literary works Focusing its methodological and theoretical inquiries on a broad archive of texts spanning the triangle Europe Latin

America Africa the volume unsettles North America as the self evident vantage of recent world literature debates Because of the volume s focus on dialogues between world literature and fields such as postcolonial studies translation studies book history and transnational studies it will be of interest to scholars and students in a range of areas

Understanding Derrida Jack Reynolds,Jonathan Roffe,2004-06-01 Jacques Derrida continues to be the world s single most influential philosophical and literary theorist He is also one of the most controversial and most complex His own works and critical studies of his work proliferate but where can a student utterly new to the work of Derrida start Understanding Derrida is written as an introduction to the full range of Derrida s key ideas and influences It brings together the world s leading authorities on Derrida each writing a short accessible essay on one central aspect of his work Framed by a clear introduction and a complete bibliography of Derrida s publications in English the essays systematically analyze one aspect of Derrida s work each essay including a quick summary of Derrida s books which have addressed this theme guiding the student towards a direct engagement with Derrida s texts The essays cover language metaphysics the subject politics ethics the decision translation religion psychoanalysis literature art and Derrida s seminal relationship to other philosophers namely Husserl Heidegger Levinas Hegel and Nietzsche

A New Philosophy of Discourse Joshua Kates,2020-11-12 What would happen if structures forms and other stand alone entities thought to comprise our intellectual toolkit words meanings signs were jettisoned How would a work written in a purportedly dead language like The Iliad or penned in a foreign tongue be approached if deemed legible without structures such as meaning bearing signs or grammatical rules A New Philosophy of Discourse charts a novel course in response to these questions coining an original concept of discourse or talk that Joshua Kates presents as more fundamental than language In Kates conception of discourse writing and speech take shape entirely as events situated within histories contexts and traditions themselves always in the making Combining literary theory literary criticism and philosophy to reveal a new perspective on discourse Kates focuses on literary criticism literary texts by Charles Bernstein and Stanley Elkin and the philosophical writings of Stanley Cavell Hans Georg Gadamer Donald Davidson and Martin Heidegger This ground breaking study bridges the analytical continental divide by working through concrete problems using novel and extended interpretations with wide ranging implications for the humanities

Probing the Ethics of Holocaust Culture Claudio Fogu,Wulf Kansteiner,Todd Presner,2016-10-17 Probing the Ethics of Holocaust Culture is a reappraisal of the controversies that have shaped Holocaust studies since the 1980s Historians artists and writers question if and why the Holocaust should remain the ultimate test case for ethics and a unique reference point for how we understand genocide and crimes against humanity

The Cambridge Companion to the Poem Sean Pryor,2024-06-06 This Companion offers an engaging and accessible introduction to key concepts in the study of poetry and poetics

Complicite, Theatre and Aesthetics Tomasz Wiśniewski,2016-10-27 This book presents a pioneering critical study of Complicite s work throughout the years Drawing on an extensive overview of the available research material including interviews manuscripts and the

company's own archive the book is framed within a clearly defined research perspective and explores the singularity of theatre communication. The book results from an encounter between the London based but cosmopolitan in scope company and a fresh application of the form oriented scholarship of Eastern Europe Yuri Lotman's semiosphere in particular. Focused on the aesthetics of Complicite this study achieves a critical distance and undertakes multidimensional scrutiny of the available research material. By identifying the principles of Complicite's aesthetics the book attempts to grasp the company's artistic paradigm. It focuses on ways of creating preserving and decoding meanings rather than on the nuances of performance or contextual issues.

Ethical Sense and Literary Significance Donald R. Wehrs, 2023-07-31 This study blends together ethical philosophy neurocognitive evolutionary studies and literary theory to explore how imaginative discourse addresses a distinctively human deep sociality and by doing so helps shape cultural and literary history. Deep sociality arising from an improbable evolutionary history both entwines and leaves non reconciled what is felt to be significant for us and what ethical sense seems to call us to acknowledge as significant independent of ourselves. Ethical Sense and Literary Significance connects literary and cultural history without reducing the literary to a mere expression of something else. It argues that affective differences between non egocentric and egocentric registers of significance are integral to the bioculturally evolved deep sociality that verbal art addresses often in unsettling and socially critical ways. Much imaginative discourse in early societies as well as recent ones brings ethical sense and literary significance together in ways that reveal their intricate but non harmonized internal entwinement. Drawing on contemporary scholarship in the humanities and sciences Donald R Wehrs explores the implications of interdisciplinary approaches to topics central to a wide range of fields beyond literary studies including neuroscience anthropology phenomenological philosophy comparative history and social psychology.

Being Played: Gadamer and Philosophy's Hidden Dynamic Jeremy Sampson, 2019-09-02 Are we being played? Is our understanding of the traditionally fixed and static concepts of philosophy based on an oversimplification? This book explores some of the theories of the self since Descartes together with the rationalism and the empiricism that sustain these ideas and draws some startling conclusions using Gadamer's philosophical study of play as its starting point. Gadamer's ludic theory Sampson argues reveals a dynamic of play that exists at the deepest level of philosophy. It is this dynamic that could provide a solution in relation to the Gadamer Habermas hermeneutics debate and the Gadamer Derrida relativism debate together with a theory of totality. Sampson shows how ludic theory can be a game changer in understanding the relationship between philosophy and literature exploring the dynamic between the fictive and non fictive worlds. These worlds are characterized simultaneously by sameness univocity of Being and difference equivocality of Being. The book questions Heidegger's idea that the univocity of Being is universal instead maintaining that the relationship between the univocity of Being and equivocality of Being is real and that ontological mediation is required to present them as a unified whole. Using the works of Shakespeare Beckett and Wilde Sampson contends that such a mediation termed the ludicity of Being takes place.

between literature and its audience This literary example has profound implications not only for literature and its attendant theories but also for philosophy in particular ontology and hermeneutics

American Impersonal: Essays with Sharon Cameron Branka Arsic, 2014-02-27 American Impersonal brings together some of the most influential scholars now working in American literature to explore the impact of one of America's leading literary critics Sharon Cameron It engages directly with certain arguments that Cameron has articulated throughout her career most notably her late work on the question of impersonality In doing so it provides responses to questions fundamental to literary criticism such as the nature of personhood the logic of subjectivity in depersonalized communities the question of the human within the problematic of the impersonal how impersonality relates to the posthuman Additionally some essays respond to the current aesthetic turn in literary scholarship and engage with the lyric currently much debated as well as the larger questions of poetics and the logic of genre These crucial issues are addressed from the perspective of an American literary and philosophical tradition and progress chronologically starting from Melville and Emerson and moving via Dickinson Thoreau and Hawthorne to Henry James and Wallace Stevens This historical perspective adds the appeal of revisiting the American nineteenth century literary and philosophical tradition and even rewriting it

Ecocriticism and the Sense of Place Lenka Filipova, 2021-08-29 The book is an investigation into the ways in which ideas of place are negotiated contested and refigured in environmental writing at the turn of the twenty first century It focuses on the notion of place as a way of interrogating the socio political and environmental pressures that have been seen as negatively affecting our environments since the advent of modernity as well as the solutions that have been given as an antidote to those pressures Examining a selection of literary representations of place from across the globe the book illuminates the multilayered and polyvocal ways in which literary works render local and global ecological relations of places In this way it problematises more traditional environmentalism and its somewhat essentialised idea of place by intersecting the largely Western discourse of environmental studies with postcolonial and Indigenous studies thus considering the ways in which forms of emplacement can occur within displacement and dispossession especially within societies that are dealing with the legacies of colonialism neocolonial exploitation or international pressure to conform As such the work foregrounds the singular processes in which different local global communities recognise themselves in their diverse approaches to the environment and gestures towards an environmental politics that is based on an epistemology of contact connection and difference and as one moreover that recognises its own epistemological limits This book will appeal to researchers working in the fields of environmental humanities postcolonial studies Indigenous studies and comparative literature

Unbridled William Robert, 2022-02-14 A study of religion through the lens of Peter Shaffer's play Equus In Unbridled William Robert uses Equus Peter Shaffer's enigmatic play about a boy passionately devoted to horses to think differently about religion For several years Robert has used Equus to introduce students to the study of religion provoking them to conceive of religion in unfamiliar even uncomfortable ways In Unbridled

he is inviting readers to do the same A play like *Equus* tangles together text performance practice embodiment and reception Studying a play involves us in playing different roles as ourselves and others and those roles as well as the imaginative work they require are critical to the study of religion By approaching *Equus* with the reader turning the play around and upside down *Unbridled* transforms standard approaches to the study of religion engaging with themes including ritual sacrifice worship power desire violence and sexuality as well as thinkers including Judith Butler Sigmund Freud Karl Marx Friedrich Nietzsche and Jonathan Z Smith As *Unbridled* shows the way themes and theories play out in *Equus* challenges us to reimagine the study of religion through open questions contrasting perspectives and alternative modes of interpretation and appreciation

Reading and Responsibility Derek Attridge, 2011-09-14 Newly available in paperback this book traces a close engagement with Derrida's writing over two decades examining the relationship between deconstruction literature and ethics

Lyric in the Renaissance Ullrich Langer, 2015-06-17 Moving from a definition of the lyric to the innovations introduced by Petrarch's poetic language this study goes on to propose a new reading of several French poets Charles d'Orléans Ronsard and Du Bellay and a re-evaluation of Montaigne's understanding of the most striking poetry and its relation to his own prose Instead of relying on conventional notions of Renaissance subjectivity it locates recurring features of this poetic language that express a turn to the singular and that herald lyric poetry's modern emphasis on the utterly particular By combining close textual analysis with more modern ethical concerns this study establishes clear distinctions between what poets do and what rhetoric and poetics say they do It shows how the tradition of rhetorical commentary is insufficient in accounting for this startling effectiveness of lyric poetry manifest in Petrarch's *Rime Sparse* and the collections of the best poets writing after him

The Meaning of Form in Contemporary Innovative Poetry Robert Sheppard, 2016-10-05 This study engages the life of form in contemporary innovative poetries through both an introduction to the latest theories and close readings of leading North American and British innovative poets The critical approach derives from Robert Sheppard's axiomatic contention that poetry is the investigation of complex contemporary realities through the means meanings of form Analyzing the poetry of Rosmarie Waldrop Caroline Bergvall Sean Bonney Barry MacSweeney Veronica Forrest Thomson Kenneth Goldsmith Allen Fisher and Geraldine Monk Sheppard argues that their forms are a matter of authorial design and readerly engagement

Singularity Of Literature Book Review: Unveiling the Magic of Language

In an electronic digital era where connections and knowledge reign supreme, the enchanting power of language has become much more apparent than ever. Its power to stir emotions, provoke thought, and instigate transformation is really remarkable. This extraordinary book, aptly titled "**Singularity Of Literature**," written by a very acclaimed author, immerses readers in a captivating exploration of the significance of language and its profound effect on our existence. Throughout this critique, we will delve into the book's central themes, evaluate its unique writing style, and assess its overall influence on its readership.

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Table of Contents Singularity Of Literature

1. Understanding the eBook Singularity Of Literature
 - The Rise of Digital Reading Singularity Of Literature
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Singularity Of Literature
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an Singularity Of Literature
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Singularity Of Literature
 - Personalized Recommendations
 - Singularity Of Literature User Reviews and Ratings
 - Singularity Of Literature and Bestseller Lists

5. Accessing Singularity Of Literature Free and Paid eBooks
 - Singularity Of Literature Public Domain eBooks
 - Singularity Of Literature eBook Subscription Services
 - Singularity Of Literature Budget-Friendly Options
6. Navigating Singularity Of Literature eBook Formats
 - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - Singularity Of Literature Compatibility with Devices
 - Singularity Of Literature Enhanced eBook Features
7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Singularity Of Literature
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking Singularity Of Literature
 - Interactive Elements Singularity Of Literature
8. Staying Engaged with Singularity Of Literature
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers Singularity Of Literature
9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Singularity Of Literature
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Singularity Of Literature
10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Singularity Of Literature
 - Setting Reading Goals Singularity Of Literature
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Singularity Of Literature
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Singularity Of Literature
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
13. Promoting Lifelong Learning

- Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
- Exploring Educational eBooks

14. Embracing eBook Trends

- Integration of Multimedia Elements
- Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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