The Erotics Of Talk: Womens Writing And Feminist Paradigms

The Erotics Of Talk: Carla Kaplan 1996-12-12 Is feminism in crisis? With many feminists now questioning identification and focusing on differences between women, what is the fate of feminist criticism’s traditional imperative to rescue women’s voices and make their voices heard? In this provocative rereading of the classic texts of the feminist literary canon, Carla Kaplan takes a hard look at the legacy of feminist criticism and argues that important features of feminist canon have been overlooked in the rush to rescue and identify texts. African-American women’s texts, she demonstrates, often dramatize their distrust of their readers, their lack of faith in “the cultural conversation,” through strategies of self-silencing and “self-talk.” At the same time, she argues, the homoerotics of women’s writing has too often gone unremarked. Not only does longing for an ideal listener draw women’s texts into a romance with the reader, but there is an erotic excess which is part of feminist critical recuperation itself. Drawing on a wide range of resources, from sociolinguistics and anthropology to literary theory, Kaplan’s highly readable study proposes a new model for understanding and representing “talk.” She supplies fresh readings of such feminist classics as Jane Eyre, “The Yellow Wallpaper,” Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, Their Eyes Were Watching God, and The Color Purple, revealing how their “erotics of talk” work as a rich political allegory and form of social critique.

The Erotics Of Talk: Assistant Professor of English Carla Kaplan 1996-African-American women’s texts, she demonstrates, often dramatize their distrust of their readers, their lack of faith in “the cultural conversation,” through strategies of self-silencing and “self-talk.” At the same time, she argues, the homoerotics of women’s writing has too often gone unremarked. Not only does longing for an ideal listener draw women’s texts into a romance with the reader, but there is an erotic excess which is part of feminist critical recuperation itself.

Talking Gender and Sexuality
Paul McVernon 2002-01-01 This edited volume brings together scholars from psychology, linguistics, sociology and communication science to investigate how performative notions of gender and sexuality can be fruitfully explored with the rich set of tools that have been developed by conversation analysis and discursive psychology for analyzing everyday practical language use, agency and identity in talk. Contributors re-examine the foundations of earlier research on gender in spoken interaction, critically appraise this research to see if and how it translates’ successfully into the study of sexuality in talk, and also provide innovative alternative tools that integrate the insights of recent feminist and queer theory with qualitative studies of talk and conversation. Detailed empirical analyses of naturally occurring talk are used to uncover how gender and sexual identities, agencies and desires are contingently accomplished in conversational practices. Collectively, they pose the important question of what a critical theory of talk, gender and sexuality ought to look like if it is to be sensitive to a politics of conversation analysis.

A Multitude of Women
Stefania Lucamante 2008-09-15 A Multitude of Women looks at the ways in which both Italian literary tradition and external influences have assisted Italian women writers in rethinking the theoretical and aesthetic ties between author, text, and readership in the construction of the novel. Stefania Lucamante discusses the valuable contributions that Italian women writers have made to the contemporary novel and illustrates the relevance of the novelistic examples set by their predecessors. She addresses various discursive communities, reading works by Di Lascia, Ferrante, Vinci, and others with reference to intersubjectivity and the theories of Elsa Morante and Simone de Beauvoir. This study identifies a positive deviation from literary and ideological orthodoxy, a deviation that helps giving meaning to the Italian novel and to transform the traditional notions of the canon in Italian literature. Lucamante argues that this is partly due to the merits of women writers and their ability to eschew obsolete patterns in narrative while favours forms that are more attuned to the ever-changing needs of society. She shows that contemporary novels by women authors mirror a shift from previous trends in which the need for female emancipation interfered with the actual literary and aesthetic significance of the novel. A Multitude of Women offers a new epistemology of the novel and will appeal to those interested in women’s writing, readership, Italian studies, and literary studies in general.

It’s a End-Sean Zwagerman 2010 It’s a End, Sean Zwagerman offers an original perspective on women’s use of humor as a performative strategy as seen in works of twentieth-century American literature. He argues that women whose direct, explicit performative speech has been traditionally denied, or not taken seriously, have often turned to humor as a means of communicating with men. The book examines both the potential and limits of women’s humor as a rhetorical strategy in the writings of James Thurber, Zora Neale Hurston, Dorothy Parker, Edward Albee, Louise Erdrich, and others. For Zwagerman, these texts “talk back” to important arguments in humor studies and speech-act theory. He reconstructs the use of humor in select passages by employing the theories of J. L. Austin, John Lyons, and John Searle. These scholars argue and Zwagerman argues both for and against these approaches while advancing new thinking on humor as the “end” – both the goal and the limit – of a performative strategy, and as a means of expressing a full range of serious purposes. Zwagerman contends that women’s humor is not solely a subversive act, but instead it should be viewed in the total speech situation through context, motives, and intended audience. Not strictly a transgressive influence, women’s humor is seen as both a source and a reinforcement of established ideologies. Humor has become an epistemology, an “attitude” or slant on one’s relation to society. Zwagerman seeks to broaden the scope of performativity theory beyond the logical pragmatism of deconstruction and looks to the use of humor in literature as a deliberate stylization of experiences found in real-world social structures, and as a tool for change.

Women Filmmakers
Jacqueline Levitin 2003 What difference does it make when a woman wields the camera? Has the gender issue been eclipsed by questions of race and class? Does feminism still make a contribution to a political struggle? This volume brings together the thoughts of interested women filmmakers and critics on what has changed over the past twenty years.

Transformations of Domesticity in Modern Women’s Writing
T. Foster 2002-11-05 Transformations of Domesticity in Modern Women’s Writing makes new connections between feminist criticism of domestic ideology in the nineteenth century, modernist women’s experiments with literary form, contemporary feminist debates about the politics of location, and postmodern theories of social space. The book identifies a coherent transition of women’s writing that transforms domestic ideologies of ‘woman’s place’ by redefining the ideas about space that underlie that ideology. The result is to open the space of gender identity to new relations of class and race.

Old Wives’ Tales and Other Women’s Stories
Tania Modlesi 1998-11-01 Tania Modlesi redraws in Old Wives’ Tales the perimeter of popular culture. A critical analysis of films such as The Ballad of Little Jo, The Piano and Dogfight, Old Wives ‘Tales also takes up performances, autobiographical experience, and contemporary issues to illustrate how women’s genres mediate between us and reality. Modlesi examines the changes occurring in traditional women’s genres, such as romances and melodrama, and explores the phenomenon of female authors and performers who “cross-dress” — women, that is, who are moving into male genres and staking out territory declared off-limits by men and by many feminists.

Skeptic Feminism
Carolyn Dever 2004 In this major work, Carolyn Dever considers the ambivalence or outright hostility many feminists feel toward theory, arguing that a fundamental skepticism toward abstraction has been vital to the development of the movement. Dever analyzes the politics of feminist theory by looking at its popular, activist, and academic modes, from the liberation movements of the 1970s to gender and queer studies now. Using key moments in the history of modern feminisms-conciousness-raising, best-selling books like Sexual Politics by Kate Millett and The Women’s Room by Marilyn French, and media representations of women’s struggle for equality—Dever outlines heated debates over psychoanalysis, sexuality, and activism. The abstract and the social corrective and a reinforcement of established ideologies. Humor has become an epistemology, an “attitude” or slant on one’s relation to society. Zwagerman seeks to broaden the scope of performativity theory beyond the logical pragmatism of deconstruction and looks to the use of humor in literature as a deliberate stylization of experiences found in real-world social structures, and as a tool for change.

Double Talk
Wayne Koestenbaum 2017-10-06 Sigmund Freud and Josef Breuer on hysteria, J.A. Symonds and Havelock Ellis on sexuality, a novel by Ford Madox Ford and Joseph Conrad, The Waste Land of T.S. Eliot (and Ezra Pound), even the Lyrical Ballads of Wordsworth and Coleridge: men making books together. Wayne Koestenbaum’s startling interpretation of literary collaboration focuses on homosexual desire: men who write together, he argues, in order either to express or to evade homosexual feelings. Their writing becomes a textual intercourse, the book at once a female body they can inscribe, and the text a kind of plugging of the vagina. Koestenbaum demonstrates, often dramatize their distrust of their readers, their lack of faith in “the cultural conversation,” through strategies of self-silencing and “self-talk.” At the same time, she argues, the homoerotics of women’s writing has too often gone unremarked. Not only does longing for an ideal listener draw women’s texts into a romance with the reader, but there is an erotic excess which is part of feminist critical recuperation itself. Drawing on a wide range of resources, from sociolinguistics and anthropology to literary theory, Kaplan’s highly readable study proposes a new model for understanding and representing “talk.” She supplies fresh readings of such feminist classics as Jane Eyre, “The Yellow Wallpaper,” Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, Their Eyes Were Watching God, and The Color Purple, revealing how their “erotics of talk” work as a rich political allegory and form of social critique.

Alice Walker - The Color Purple
Rachel Lister 2010-06-30 Since its publication in 1982, The Color Purple has polarized critics and generated controversy while delighting many readers around the world. Rachel Lister offers a clear, stimulating and wide-ranging exploration of the critical history of Alice Walker’s best-selling novel, from contemporary reviews through to twenty-first-century readings. This Reader’s Guide - -Opens with an overview of Walker’s work - Provides a detailed consideration of the conception and reception of The Color Purple - Examines coverage of key critical issues and debates such as Walker’s use of generic conventions, linguistic and narrative strategies, race, class, gender and sexual politics - Covers the reception and cultural impact of cinematic and musical adaptations, including Steven Spielberg’s 1985 film and the recent Broadway production Lively and insightful, this is an indispensable volume for anyone studying, or simply interested in, Alice Walker and her most famous work.

Talk, Talk, Talk-S.I. Salamensky 2013-10-04 Before media, before the Internet…there was talk itself. Talk Talk Talk is an incisive, exhilarating collection of essays by some of the best thinkers – and talkers – of our time. These stellar contributors locate everyday chatter as the basis of a stunning range of artistic and cultural forms: from Antigone’s speech-acts to Freud’s “talking cure”, from seventeenth-century demon possession to the Marx Brothers’ “immigrant talk”; literature, theatre, standup comedy, “ethnic” talk, technologized talk and much, much more. Contributors include: Homi Bhabha, Judith Butler, Stanley Cavell, Marjorie Garber, Sherry Turkle.
Zora Neale Hurston-Cynthia Davis 2013-03-09 Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960), the most prominent of the Harlem Renaissance women writers, was unique because her social and professional profile was that of an outsider: she was African American, a woman, and a lesbian. The body of her work, which included novels, short stories, essays, and poems, is a fascinating exploration of African American culture and identity. Her writing reflects a deep understanding of the complexities of race, gender, and sexuality, and her work continues to influence and inspire readers today.

Life-Writing, Genre and Criticism in the Texts of Sylvia Townsend Warner and Valentine Ackland-Alisa T. Granne 2020-02-27 Sylvia Townsend Warner has increasingly become recognized as a significant and distinctive trendsetter amongst twentieth-century authors. This volume explores her remarkable relationship with genre and criticism by examining the relationship between her work and the development of modern suffragist print culture as a demonstrable link between the Progressive Era's political campaign for a voice in the public sphere and the modern era's efforts to re-imagine literary voice. Chapman charts a study of modernist women writers and modern suffragist print culture "noise" and what literary modernists understood by "making it new," asserting that the experimental tactics of U.S. suffrage print culture contributed to, and even anticipated, the formal innovations of U.S. literary modernism. Drawing on little-known archives and featuring over二十五 illustrations, Making Noise, Making News provides startling documentation of Marianne Moore's cloistered career as a suffrage propagandist, the persuasive effects of Alice DuBois Miller's popular poetry column, Asian American author Sun Si-Fan's challenge to the racism and classicism of suffrage modernism, and Gertrude Stein's misadventure with the "make-up, style, and humor" of modernist feminism.

Unbuttoning America-Ardis Cameron 2015-04-30 In this lively account of the writing, publication, and legacy of the 1956 bestselling novel, "Peyton Place," Ardis Cameron tells how the story of a patricide in a small New England village became a cultural phenomenon.

Zora Neale Hurston: Their Eyes Were Watching God-Cheryl A. Wall 2000 The rediscovery of Zora Neale Hurston's Their Eyes Were Watching God, first published in 1937 but subsequently out-of-print for decades, marks one of the most dramatic and important moments in the reclamation of women's and African American literature that has occurred in recent years.

Janet K. Boles 2004 This Second Edition is an essential resource for librarians, scholars, and students. This succinct handbook includes more than 1,000 entries on the life and works of African American authors, arranged alphabetically. The entries provide brief bibliographies and are accompanied by a list of the principal themes, so that users can quickly find the works they need.

Americanized Bibliography of Works and Criticism consists of reviews of recent historical interpretations of Hurston’s work. In addition to publication information, each selection is carefully crafted to capture the author’s thesis in a short, pithy, analytical framework. Also included are original essays by eminent Hurston scholars that contextualize the bibliographic entries. Metricorously researched but accessible, these essays focus on gaps in Hurston criticism and outline new directions for Hurston scholarship in the twenty-first century. Comprehensive and up-to-date, this volume contains analytical summaries of the most important critical writings on Zora Neale Hurston from the 1970s to the present. In addition, entries from difficult-to-locate sources, such as small academic presses or international journals, can be found here.

The Cambridge Companion to the Harlem Renaissance-Gail Honey 2007-04-16 This is the most comprehensive guide on the market to the key authors and works of the African American literary movement of the 1920s.

Betrayal and Other Acts of Subversion-Leonie Bow 2011-10-16 Asian American women have long dealt with charges of betrayal within and beyond their communities. Images of their "disloyal" presence pervade American culture, from the daughter who is branded a traitor to family for adopting American ways, to the war bride who immigrates in defiance of her countrymen, to a figure such as Yoko Ono, accused of breaking up the Beatles with her "seduction" of John Lennon. Leonie Bow here explores how representations of females transgressing the social order play out in literature by Asian American women. Questions of belonging, sexuality, identity, and political allegiance are among the themes raised by such works as James Watanuki's House, Bharati Mukherjee's, Jade Snow Wong, Amy Tan, Sky Lee, Le Ly Hayslip, Wendy Law-Yone, Fiona Cheong, and Nellie Wong. Beginning with the notion that feminist and Asian American identity are mutually exclusive, Bow analyzes how women serve as boundary markers between ethnic or national collectives in order to reveal the male-based nature of social cohesion. In exploring the relationship between feminism and citizenship, liberal feminism and Asian American racial discourse, and women's domestic abuse and human rights, the author suggests that Asian American women not only mediate sexuality's construction as a determiner of loyalty but also manipulate that construction as a tool of political persuasion in their writing. The language of betrayal, she argues, offers a potent rhetorical means of signaling how belonging is policed by individuals and by the state. Bow's bold analysis exposes the stakes behind maintaining ethnic, feminist, and national alliances, particularly for women who claim multiple loyalties.

Mary Chapman 2014-03-20 For most people, the U.S. suffrage campaign is encapsulated by images of iconic nineteenth-century orators like the tightly coiffed Susan B. Anthony or the wimpled Elizabeth Cady Stanton. However, as Mary Chapman shows, the campaign to secure the vote for U.S. women was also a modern and print-cultural phenomenon, waged with humor, creativity, and style. Making Noise, Making News also understands modern suffragist print culture as a demonstrable link between the Progressive Era's political campaign for a voice in the public sphere and the modern era's efforts to re-imagine literary voice. Chapman charts a study of modernist women writers and modern suffragist print culture "noise" and what literary modernists understood by "making it new," asserting that the experimental tactics of U.S. suffrage print culture contributed to, and even anticipated, the formal innovations of U.S. literary modernism. Drawing on little-known archives and featuring over二十五 illustrations, Making Noise, Making News provides startling documentation of Marianne Moore's cloistered career as a suffrage propagandist, the persuasive effects of Alice DuBois Miller's popular poetry column, Asian American author Sun Si-Fan's challenge to the racism and classicism of suffrage modernism, and Gertrude Stein's misadventure with the "make-up, style, and humor" of modernist feminism.

Unbuttoning America-Ardis Cameron 2015-04-30 In this lively account of the writing, publication, and legacy of the 1956 bestselling novel, "Peyton Place," Ardis Cameron tells how the story of a patricide in a small New England village became a cultural phenomenon.

Risks associated with an unhealthy lifestyle, both personal and social, can have far-reaching consequences. For the individual, this might manifest as increased susceptibility to illness, reduced quality of life, or even premature death. On a societal level, these risks can lead to higher healthcare costs, decreased productivity, and social strife. Understanding the patterns and drivers of risky behaviors is crucial for developing effective prevention strategies and improving public health outcomes. This article reviews the current state of research on the determinants of risk-taking behavior, methods for assessing risk, and interventions for reducing risk. It also highlights the importance of addressing risk in diverse populations and contexts, emphasizing the need for culturally sensitive and tailored approaches.
Intimate Violence and Victorian Print Culture
Suzanne Rintoul 2016-01-12 Suzanne Rintoul identifies an important contradiction in Victorian representations of abuse: the simultaneous compulsion to expose and to obscure brutality towards women in intimate relationships. Through case studies and literary analysis, this book illustrates how intimate violence was both spectacular and unspeakable in the Victorian period.

The Victorian Novel and Masculinity
P. Mallett 2015-01-22 What did it mean, in the rapidly changing world of Victorian England, to 'be a man'? In essays written specially for this volume, nine distinguished scholars from Britain and the USA show how Victorian novelists from the Brontës to Conrad sought to discover what made men, what broke them, and what restored them.

Writing the Pioneer Woman
Janet Floyd 2002 Focusing on a series of autobiographical texts, published and private, well known and obscure, Writing the Pioneer Woman examines the writing of domestic life on the nineteenth-century North American frontier. In an attempt to determine the meanings found in the pioneer woman's everyday — from records of descriptions to washings floors — Janet Floyd explores domestic details in the autobiographical writing of British and Anglo-American female emigrants.

Compelling Engagements
Wendy Lacrome 2005 After decades of rape law reform, it is still being argued that the criminal justice system fails rape victims, that too few cases are prosecuted and too few convictions are achieved. Compelling Engagements is a landmark exploration of the narratives of rape law and of feminism, and explores the important and strikingly similar depictions of their normative female subjects. This book is for all who are not only vulnerable but also evidently worthy of the protections or rewards promised: punishment of the rapist and the hero's love. Lacrome's analysis explores the definitions of "rape" in the criminal law and "romance" in Harlequin Mills and Boon fiction; the feminine subject positions the texts produce: the rape complainant and the romance reader; particular fictionalisations of the rape complainant and the romance reader: the false rape complainant and the ideal romance reader; and how these fictionalisations serve the interests of the criminal justice system and the romance publishing industry. Lacrome shows how the legal construction of gender and subjectivity in rape law is still working to disempower victims. She suggests feminism's failure to accommodate women's investment in heroines of romance fiction has limited their effectiveness in transforming rape law. Compelling Engagements is an original and engaging analysis, and fascinating reading for anyone who deals with rape as part of the criminal justice system.

Jane Eyre (Fourth Edition) (Norton Critical Editions)
Charlotte Brontë 2016-06-27 "The Brontës" gifted biographer provides us with another superlative Norton Critical Edition of Charlotte Brontë's classic novel. For the classroom and for the general reader, there's no better way to experience the context in which Jane Eyre was written, illuminating modern commentary, and the novel itself in an authoritative text. —Fred Kaplan, Queens College and The Graduate Center, City University of New York This Norton Critical Edition includes: The third-edition text (1848), the last corrected by Charlotte Brontë, accompanied by revised and expanded explanatory footnotes. "Contexts," highlighting Jane Eyre as a problematic through diary entries and letters by the author about her experiences as a student, teacher, and governess as well as her feelings about friendship, love, and writing. Five major critical interpretations by Virginia Woolf, Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar, Susan Meyer, Carla Kaplan, and Kelly A. Marsh. A Chronology and a Selected Bibliography.

Women's Narrative and Film in 20th Century Spain
Kathleen Glenn 2017-09-25 Women's Narrative and Film in 20th Century Spain examines the development of the feminine cultural tradition in Spain and how this tradition reshaped and defined a Spanish national identity. Each chapter focuses on representation of autobiography, alienation and exile, marginality, race, eroticism, political activism, and feminism within the ever-changing nationalisms in different regions of Spain. The book describes how concepts of gender and difference shaped the individual, collective, and national meanings of Spanish women and significantly modified the representation of femininity.

The Female Complaint
Lauren Berlant 2008-02-25 The Female Complaint is part of Lauren Berlant's groundbreaking "national sentimentality" project charting the emergence of the U.S. popular culture as an affective space of attachment and identification. In this book, Berlant chronicles the origins and conventions of the first mass-cultural "intimate public" in the United States, a "women's culture" that evolved in the nineteenth century and which feels intimate and revelatory. As Berlant explains, "women's" book, film, and television shows exact a fantasy that a woman's life is not just her own, but an experience understood by other women, no matter how dissimilar they are. The commodified genres of intimacy, such as "chick lit," circulate among strangers, enabling inside help and sharing to flourish in an intimate and public sphere. Sentimentality and complaint are central to this commercial convention of critique; their relation to the politics of control pervade. "The Female Complaint" is an important revision of the usual sentimental melodrama and its historical and social analysis. Berlant explores the territory of this intimate public sphere through close readings of U.S. women's literary works and their stage and film adaptations. Her interpretation of Uncle Tom's Cabin's and its literary descendants reaches from Harriet Beecher Stowe to Toni Morrison's Beloved, touching on Shirley Temple, James Baldwin, and The Bridges of Madison County along the way. Berlant illuminates different permutations of the women's intimate public through her readings of Edna Ferber's Show Boat; Fannie Hurst's Immolation of Life; Olive Higgins Prouty's feminist melodrama Now, Voyager; Dorothy Parker's poetry, prose, and Academy Award-winning screenplay for A Star Is Born, the Fay Weldon novel and Roseanne Barr film The Life and Loves of a She-Devil; and the queer, avant-garde film Showboat 1988-The Remake. The Female Complaint makes a significant contribution from a leading Americanist.

Hope and Feminist Theory
Rebecca Coleman 2013-12-16 Hope is central to marginal politics which speak of desires for equality or simply for a better life. Feminism might be characterised as a politics of hope, a movement underpinned by a utopian drive for equality. This version of hope has been used, for example in Barack Obama's phrase the 'audacity of hope' — a mobilisation of an affirmative politics which nevertheless implies that we are living in hopeless times. Similarly, in recent years, feminism has seen the production of a prevailing mood of hopelessness around an imagined generational gap, of which is widely imagined to have failed. However, as a number of feminist theorists have pointed out, the temporality of feminism cannot be conceived as straightforwardly linear: feminism can only be imagined as having failed if it is understood as a particular set of relations and things. This collection grapples with the question of hope: what is the role of hope in feminism? How is it possible to sustain certain opportunities for social change? What is the role of theory and the political analysis Berlant explores the territory of this intimate public sphere through close readings of U.S. women's literary works and their stage and film adaptations. Her interpretation of Uncle Tom's Cabin's and its literary descendants reaches from Harriet Beecher Stowe to Toni Morrison's Beloved, touching on Shirley Temple, James Baldwin, and The Bridges of Madison County along the way. Berlant illuminates different permutations of the women's intimate public through her readings of Edna Ferber's Show Boat; Fannie Hurst's Immolation of Life; Olive Higgins Prouty's feminist melodrama Now, Voyager; Dorothy Parker's poetry, prose, and Academy Award-winning screenplay for A Star Is Born, the Fay Weldon novel and Roseanne Barr film The Life and Loves of a She-Devil; and the queer, avant-garde film Showboat 1988-The Remake. The Female Complaint makes a significant contribution from a leading Americanist.

Correspondence and American Literature, 1770-1865
Elizabeth Hewitt 2004-11-25 Elizabeth Hewitt uncovers the centrality of letter-writing to antebellum American literature. She argues that many canonical American authors turned to the epistolary form as an idealised genre through which to consider the challenges of American democracy before the Civil War. The letter was the vital technology of social intercourse and was adopted as an exemplary genre in which authors from Crewecombe and Adams through Jefferson, to Emerson, Melville, Dickinson and Whitman, could theorise the social and political themes that were so crucial to their respective literary projects. They interrogated the political possibilities of social intercourse through the practice and analysis of correspondence. Hewitt argues that although correspondence is generally only conceived as a biographical archive, it is also best understood as an significant genre through which these early authors made sense of social and political relations in the nation.

Keywords for American Cultural Studies
Second Edition
Bruce Burget 2014-12-19 The latest vocabulary of key terms in American Studies Since its initial publication, scholars and students alike have looked to Keywords for American Cultural Studies as an invaluable resource for understanding important terms and debates in the fields of American studies and cultural studies. As scholarship has turned to Keywords for American Cultural Studies as an invaluable resource for understanding key terms and debates in the fields of American studies and cultural studies. As scholarship has
"America," "culture," "law," and "religion." Alongside "community," "prison," "queer," "region," and many others, these words are the nodal points in many of today's most dynamic and vexed discussions of political and social life, both inside and outside of the academy. The Keywords website, which features 33 essays, provides pedagogical tools that engage the entirety of the book, both in print and online. The publication brings together essays by scholars working in literary studies and political economy, cultural anthropology and ethnic studies, African American history and performance studies, gender studies and political theory. Some entries are explicitly argumentative; others are more descriptive. All are clear, challenging, and critically engaged. As a whole, Keywords for American Cultural Studies provides an accessible A-to-Z survey of prevailing academic buzzwords and a flexible tool for carving out new areas of inquiry.

Provoking Agents
Judith Kegan Gardiner 1995
"A major contribution in women's studies and in other disciplines dealing with issues of agency. The authors raise issues that are very important . . . and they raise them as they must be raised—by bridging theory and action." – Kathryn Pine Addelson, author of Moral Passages: Toward a Collectivist Moral Theory Both the women's liberation movement and those who have studied it characterize agency as the capacity to make change in individual consciousness, personal lives, and society. The seventeen contributors to Provoking Agents explore whether—and how—feminist theory, writing, and other social practices can help readers move beyond seeing women as a powerless group to effecting changes in their own lives and, ultimately, becoming social activists. Topics in this multi-disciplinary collection range from maternal surrogacy to writing, from consciousness-raising to AIDS activism, from pornography to local organizing.

Edinburgh Companion to Atlantic Literary Studies
Leslie Eckel 2016-09-20
New and original collection of scholarly essays examining the literary complexities of the Atlantic world system This Companion offers a critical overview of the diverse and dynamic field of Atlantic literary studies, with contributions by distinguished scholars on a series of topics that define the area. The essays focus on literature and culture from first contact to the present, exploring fruitful Atlantic connections across space and time, across national cultures, and embracing literature, culture and society. This research collection presents the analysis of literature and culture does not depend solely upon geographical setting to uncover textual meaning. Instead, it offers Atlantic connections based around migration, race, gender and sexuality, ecologies, and other significant ideological crossovers in the Atlantic World. The result is an exciting new critical map written by leading international researchers of a lively and expanding field. Key Features: Offers an introduction to the growing field of Atlantic literary studies by showcasing current work engaged in debate around historical, cultural and literary issues in the Atlantic World Includes 26 newly-commissioned scholarly essays by leading experts in Atlantic literary studies Fuses breadth of historical knowledge with depth of literary scholarship Considers the full range of intercultural encounters around and across the Atlantic Ocean.

Downwardly Mobile
Andrew Lawson 2012-04-19
In the unstable economy of the nineteenth-century, few Americans could feel secure. Paper money made values less tangible, while a series of financial manias, panics, and depressions clouded everyday life with uncertainty and risk. In this groundbreaking study, Andrew Lawson traces the origins of American realism to a new structure of feeling: the desire of embattled and aspiring middle class for a more solid and durable reality. The story begins with New England authors Susan Warner and Rose Terry Cooke, whose gentry-class families became insolvent in the wake of the 1837 Panic, and moves to the western frontier, where the early careers of Rebecca Harding Davis and William Dean Howells were shaped by a constant struggle for social position and financial security. We see how the pull of downward social mobility affected even the outwardly successful, bourgeois family of Henry James in New York, while the drought-stricken wheat fields of Iowa and South Dakota produced the most militant American realist, Hamlin Garland. For these writers, realism offered to stabilize an uncertain world by capturing it with a new sharpness and accuracy. It also revealed a new cast of social actors—factory workers, slaves, farm laborers, the disabled, and the homeless, all victims of an unregulated market. Combining economic history and literary analysis to powerful effect, Downwardly Mobile shows how the fluctuating fortunes of the American middle class forced the emergence of a new kind of literature, while posing difficult political choices about how the middle class might remedy its precarious condition.
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