

# Conversations With David Foster Wallace Stephen J Burn

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**David Foster Wallace: Fiction and Form** David Hering 2016-09-08 In David Foster Wallace: Fiction and Form, David Hering analyses the structures of David Foster Wallace's fiction, from his debut *The Broom of the System* to his final unfinished novel *The Pale King*. Incorporating extensive analysis of Wallace's drafts, notes and letters, and taking account of the rapidly expanding field of Wallace scholarship, this book argues that the form of Wallace's fiction is always inextricably bound up within an ongoing conflict between the monologic and the dialogic, one strongly connected with Wallace's sense of his own authorial presence and identity in the work. Hering suggests that this conflict occurs at the level of both subject and composition, analysing the importance of a number of provocative structural and critical contexts – ghostliness, institutionality, reflection – to the fiction while describing how this argument is also visible within the development of Wallace's manuscripts, comparing early drafts with published material to offer a career-long framework of the construction of Wallace's fiction. The final chapter offers an unprecedentedly detailed analysis of the troubled, decade-long construction of the work that became *The Pale King*.

**David Foster Wallace's Infinite Jest, Second Edition** Stephen J. Burn 2012-04-26 A fully revised and expanded edition of Burn's influential guide to a central postmodern novel.

**David Foster Wallace and the Body** Peter Sloane 2019-05-17 *David Foster Wallace and the Body* is the first full-length study to focus on Wallace's career-long fascination with the human body and the textual representation of the body. The book provides engaging, accessible close readings that highlight the importance of the overlooked, and yet central theme of all of this major American author's works: having a body. Wallace repeatedly made clear that good fiction is about what it means to be a 'human being'. A large part of what that means is having a body, and being conscious of the conflicts that arise, morally and physically, as a result; a fact with which, as Wallace forcefully and convincingly argues, we all desire 'to be reconciled'. Given the ubiquity of the themes of embodiment in Wallace's work, this study is an important addition to an expanding field. The book also opens up the themes addressed to interrogate aspects of contemporary literature, culture, and society more generally, placing Wallace's works in the history of literary and philosophical engagements with the brute fact of embodiment.

**New Media and the Transformation of Postmodern American Literature** Casey Michael Henry 2019-02-07 How has American literature after postmodernism responded to the digital age? Drawing on insights from contemporary media theory, this is the first book to explore the explosion of new media technologies as an animating context for contemporary American literature. Casey Michael Henry examines the intertwining histories of new media forms since the 1970s and literary postmodernism and its aftermath, from William Gaddis's *J R* and Bret Easton Ellis's *American Psycho* through to David Foster Wallace's *Infinite Jest*. Through these histories, the book charts the ways in which print-based postmodern writing at first resisted new mass media forms and ultimately came to respond to them.

**David Foster Wallace's Toxic Sexuality** Edward Jackson 2020-06-11 *David Foster Wallace's*

*Toxic Sexuality: Hideousness, Neoliberalism, Spermatics* is the first full-length study of perhaps the most controversial aspect of Wallace's work – male sexuality. Departing from biographical accounts of Wallace's troubled relationship to sex, the book offers new and engaging close readings of this vexed topic in both his fiction and non-fiction. Wallace consistently returns to images of sexual toxicity across his career to argue that, when it comes to sex, men are immutably hideous. He makes this argument by drawing on a variety of neoliberal logics and spermatic metaphors, which in their appeal to apparently neutral economic processes and natural bodily facts, forestall the possibility that men can change. The book therefore provides a revisionist account of Wallace's attitudes towards capitalism, as well as a critical dissection of his approach to masculinity and sexuality. In doing so, *David Foster Wallace's Toxic Sexuality* shows how Wallace can be considered a neoliberal writer, whose commitment to furthering male sexual toxicity is a disturbing but undeniable part of his literary project.

**The Moral Worlds of Contemporary Realism** Mary K. Holland 2020-06-11 Literature has never looked weirder--full of images, colors, gadgets, and footnotes, and violating established norms of character, plot, and narrative structure. Yet over the last 30 years, critics have coined more than 20 new "realisms" in their attempts to describe it. What makes this decidedly unorthodox literature "realistic"? And if it is, then what does "realism" mean anymore? Examining literature by dozens of writers, and over a century of theory and criticism about realism, *The Moral Worlds of Contemporary Realism* sorts through the current critical confusion to illustrate how our ideas about what is real and how best to depict it have changed dramatically, especially in recent years. Along the way, Mary K. Holland guides the reader on a lively tour through the landscape of contemporary literary studies--taking in metafiction, ideology, posthumanism, postmodernism, and poststructuralism--with forays into quantum mechanics, new materialism, and Buddhism as well, to give us entirely new ways of viewing how humans use language to make sense of--and to make--the world.

**Conversations with David Foster Wallace** Stephen J. Burn 2012-03-08 Across two decades of intense creativity, David Foster Wallace (1962-2008) crafted a remarkable body of work that ranged from unclassifiable essays, to a book about transfinite mathematics, to vertiginous fictions. Whether through essay volumes (*A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again*, *Consider the Lobster*), short story collections (*Girl with Curious Hair*, *Brief Interviews with Hideous Men*, *Oblivion*), or his novels (*Infinite Jest*, *The Broom of the System*), the luminous qualities of Wallace's work recalibrated our measures of modern literary achievement. *Conversations with David Foster Wallace* gathers twenty-two interviews and profiles that trace the arc of Wallace's career, shedding light on his omnivorous talent. Jonathan Franzen has argued that, for Wallace, an interview provided a formal enclosure in which the writer "could safely draw on his enormous native store of kindness and wisdom and expertise." Wallace's interviews create a wormhole in which an author's private theorizing about art spill into the public record. Wallace's best interviews are vital extra-literary documents, in which we catch him thinking aloud about his signature concerns—irony's magnetic hold on contemporary language, the pale last days of

postmodernism, the delicate exchange that exists between reader and writer. At the same time, his acute focus moves across MFA programs, his negotiations with religious belief, the role of footnotes in his writing, and his multifaceted conception of his work's architecture. Conversations with David Foster Wallace includes a previously unpublished interview from 2005, and a version of Larry McCaffery's influential Review of Contemporary Fiction interview with Wallace that has been expanded with new material drawn from the original raw transcript.

**De bleke koning** David Foster Wallace 2020-08-06 De werknemers van een belastingkantoor in Peoria, Illinois, komen in eerste instantie redelijk normaal over op David Wallace. Als tijdelijke kracht maakt hij zijn entree op een moment dat de directie hun ook het laatste greintje menselijke waardigheid dat het werk te bieden heeft wil afnemen. Wanneer hij zich met de moed der wanhoop onderdompelt in de geestdodende routine ontdekt hij met welke uitzonderlijke persoonlijkheden hij op kantoor zit. De bleke koning was nog niet voltooid toen David Foster Wallace overleed. Het is een originele, hilarische en onverschrokken roman, die belangrijke vragen aansnijdt door middel van krachtige personages. De bleke koning dwingt in alle opzichten grote bewondering af.

**Ontwenning** Leslie Jamison 2018-06-25 Alle verhalen over verslaving lijken op elkaar, maar iedere verslaafde gelooft dat hij op zijn eigen manier ongelukkig is. Dat is wat Leslie Jamison beseft als ze haar eerste bijeenkomsten voor anonieme alcoholisten bijwoont: ze drinkt omdat ze haar tekortkomingen wil verbergen en ten koste van alles bijzonder wil zijn. Ze zou alleen herstellen als ze haar obsessie voor originaliteit zou kunnen loslaten. Op indringende wijze vertelt ze over haar afhankelijkheid van alcohol en spiegelt zij zichzelf aan de populaire mythes van verslaafde genieën zoals Raymond Carver, Billie Holiday, David Foster Wallace en vele anderen. Door de ongepolijste stijl is Ontwenning ook een boek over een ander soort afhankelijkheid: de manier waarop onze verlangens ons allemaal kunnen veranderen in 'lekkende kranen van hunkering', zoals zij het zelf formuleert. Het gaat over de specifieke eenzaamheid van de menselijke beleving - het verlangen naar liefde dat ons verslindt en ons maakt tot degenen wie we zijn. Ontwenning is daarmee zowel een diep persoonlijk boek als een cultuurgeschiedenis en literaire kritiek - slim, ontroerend, oprecht en van onverwachte schoonheid.

Een hologram voor de koning Dave Eggers 2012-06-28 Alan Clay heeft alles verloren door de crisis: zijn bedrijf, zijn huis, zijn vrouw, zijn kind. hij reist af naar Saoedi-Arabië, om daar - in een gloednieuwe, nog onvoltooide stad midden in de woestijn - een deal te maken met koning Abdullah: samen met enkele medewerkers van een bedrijf gespecialiseerd in holografische presentaties wacht hij op de koning en zijn entourage, in een laatste poging beslag op zijn huis te voorkomen, de studie van zijn dochter te betalen, en eindelijk - eindelijk! - iets groots tot stand te brengen. Een hologram voor de koning is een aangrijpend verslag van een man die zich staande probeert te houden in een turbulente fase in zijn leven, en die vecht voor zijn dochter - en zichzelf.

Korte gesprekken met afgrijselijke mannen David Foster Wallace 2016-11-04 David Foster Wallace weet lezers moeiteloos mee te voeren naar plekken waar geen enkele andere schrijver ook maar in de buurt komt, zo ook in Korte gesprekken met afgrijselijke mannen. Deze uitbundig geprezen reeks verhalen is een opeenvolging van ingebeelde vraaggesprekken met mannen over hun relaties met vrouwen. Wallace stelt onderwerpen als vervreemding en onconventionele seks met zwarte, droge humor in een nieuw daglicht. Hij toont mannen verstrikt in zelfrechtvaardiging, spraakzaam maar onwetend. Op schrijnende en hilarische wijze worden de kwellingen van hun seksuele relaties blootgelegd, waarbij duidelijk wordt hoe mannen echt denken over vrouwen. De verhalen spreken zo tot de verbeelding dat er meerdere toneelbewerkingen van het boek zijn gemaakt, en het werd bovendien succesvol verfilmd. De pers over Korte gesprekken met afgrijselijke mannen: 'Het beste, meest toegankelijke boek van David Foster Wallace. Er is geen boek in de recente wereldliteratuur dat zo nauwgezet de wanhoop tot uitdrukking brengt van datende mannen op zoek naar een lief, en naar een consequent en waardevol leven.' De Standaard 'Hilarisch en zeer indrukwekkend.' New York Observer 'Net als Nabokov, de auteur met

wie hij het meest gemeen heeft, beschikt Wallace over een onuitputtelijk arsenaal aan literaire spitsvondigheden.' Chicago Tribune 'Een zinderende satire op de intellectuele leegte en de egoïstische aard van de hedendaagse therapiecultuur.' Seattle Times

**Wallace and I** Jamie Redgate 2019-01-17 Though David Foster Wallace is well known for declaring that "Fiction's about what it is to be a fucking human being," what he actually meant by the term "human being" has been quite forgotten. It is a truism in Wallace studies that Wallace was a posthumanist writer, and too theoretically sophisticated to write about characters as having some kind of essential interior self or soul. Though the contemporary, posthuman model of the embodied brain is central to Wallace's work, so is his critique of that model: the soul is as vital a part of Wallace's fiction as the bodies in which his souls are housed. Drawing on Wallace's reading in the science and philosophy of mind, this book gives a rigorous account of Wallace's dualism, and of his humanistic engagement with key postmodern concerns: authorship; the self and interiority; madness and mind doctors; and free will. If Wallace's fiction is about what it is to be a human being, this book is about the human 'I' at the heart of Wallace's work.

**Dit moet je weten** Hanif Kureishi 2010-10-01 Hanif Kureishi beschrijft in Dit moet je weten op briljante wijze de opwindende rond de seksuele vrijheid en de drugcultuur van de jaren zeventig. De revolutie van toen vormt de levendige achtergrond voor het drama dat zich voltrekt in deze roman. Het is een komische, wijze en bruisende kijk op de verhouding tussen mannen en vrouwen, ouders en kinderen. Jamal is een man van middelbare leeftijd, alhoewel hij moeite heeft dat toe te geven. Hij is gescheiden, heeft een zoon waar hij dol op is en een succesvolle carrière als psychotherapeut. Dagelijks luistert hij naar de geheimen van anderen, maar hij heeft zelf ook een verborgen verleden. Hij wordt nog altijd achtervolgd door Ajita, zijn eerste echte liefde, en door een uiterst gewelddadige gebeurtenis die hem nooit meer los heeft

**Het punt Omega** Don DeLillo 2010-10-20 Het punt Omega is een strak gecomponeerde, verontrustende en krachtige roman over de organisatie van de Amerikaanse oorlogsvoering en de eenzaamheid van het bestaan. De kamergeleerde en einzelgänger Richard Elster woonde in het verleden bijeenkomsten bij van defensiedeskundigen, waar troepenopstellingen, het organiseren van anti-oproerbekämpfung en bevelen tot terugtrekking werden besproken. Het was Elsters opdracht de ideeën van de oorlogsstrategen uit te werken en hij had toegang tot geheime documenten en vergaderingen. Nu heeft hij zich teruggetrokken in een vervallen huis in de woestijn. Jim Finley, een jonge documentairemaker, ziet een verhaal in hem en zoekt hem op. De mannen drinken en praten over het leven en de kunst terwijl de weken verstrijken. Dan komt Elsters dochter Jennie op bezoek. Haar komst zorgt voor een nieuwe dynamiek, tot er een dramatische gebeurtenis volgt. De vertrouwelijke band tussen de drie maakt plaats voor een onbevattelijk, hevig gevoel van verlies.

The Moving Text Garrick V. Allen 2018-06-30 Drawing upon the pioneering work of the British theologian David Brown who argues for a non-static, 'moving text' that reaches beyond the biblical canon, this volume brings together twelve interdisciplinary essays, as well as a response from Brown. With essays ranging from New Testament textual criticism to the fiction of David Foster Wallace, The Moving Text provides an introduction to Brown and the Bible that will be of interest to undergraduate and postgraduate students, as well as specialists in a wide range of fields. Contributions include: Ian Boxall (The Catholic University of America) "From the Magi to Pilate's Wife: David Brown, Tradition and the Reception of Matthew's Text," Robert MacSwain (The University of the South) "David Brown and Eleonore Stump on Biblical Interpretation," Aaron Rosen (Rocky Mountain College) "Revisions of Sacrifice: Abraham in Art and Interfaith Dialogue," Dennis F. Kinlaw III (Houston Baptist University) "The Forms of Faith in Contemporary American Fiction".

A Companion to David Foster Wallace Studies M. Boswell 2013-03-20 Criticism of the work of David Foster Wallace has tended to be atomistic, focusing on a single aspect of individual works. A Companion to the Work of David Foster Wallace is designed as a professional study of all of Wallace's creative work. This volume includes both thematic essays and focused examinations of

each of his major works of fiction.

**Global Wallace** Lucas Thompson 2016-12-01 David Foster Wallace is invariably seen as an emphatically American figure. Lucas Thompson challenges this consensus, arguing that Wallace's investments in various international literary traditions are central to both his artistic practice and his critique of US culture. Thompson shows how, time and again, Wallace's fiction draws on a diverse range of global texts, appropriating various forms of world literature in the attempt to craft fiction that critiques US culture from oblique and unexpected vantage points. Using a wide range of comparative case studies, and drawing on extensive archival research, *Global Wallace* reveals David Foster Wallace's substantial debts to such unexpected figures as Jamaica Kincaid, Julio Cortázar, Jean Rhys, Octavio Paz, Leo Tolstoy, Zbigniew Herbert, and Albert Camus, among many others. It also offers a more comprehensive account of the key influences that Wallace scholars have already perceived, such as Fyodor Dostoevsky, Franz Kafka, and Manuel Puig. By reassessing Wallace's body of work in relation to five broadly construed geographic territories -- Latin America, Russia, Eastern Europe, France, and Africa -- the book reveals the mechanisms with which Wallace played particular literary traditions off one another, showing how he appropriated vastly different global texts within his own fiction. By expanding the geographic coordinates of Wallace's work in this way, *Global Wallace* reconceptualizes contemporary American fiction, as being embedded within a global exchange of texts and ideas.

*Gesturing Toward Reality: David Foster Wallace and Philosophy* Robert K. Bolger 2014-06-19 Asked in 2006 about the philosophical nature of his fiction, the late American writer David Foster Wallace replied, "If some people read my fiction and see it as fundamentally about philosophical ideas, what it probably means is that these are pieces where the characters are not as alive and interesting as I meant them to be." *Gesturing Toward Reality* looks into this quality of Wallace's work--when the writer dons the philosopher's cap--and sees something else. With essays offering a careful perusal of Wallace's extensive and heavily annotated self-help library, re-considerations of Wittgenstein's influence on his fiction, and serious explorations into the moral and spiritual landscape where Wallace lived and wrote, this collection offers a perspective on Wallace that even he was not always ready to see. Since so much has been said in specifically literary circles about Wallace's philosophical acumen, it seems natural to have those with an interest in both philosophy and Wallace's writing address how these two areas come together.

**The Art of Editing** Tim Groenland 2019-02-21 The place of the editor in literary production is an ambiguous and often invisible one, requiring close attention to publishing history and (often inaccessible) archival resources to bring it into focus. In *The Art of Editing*, Tim Groenland shows that the critical tendency to overlook the activities of editors and to focus on the solitary author figure neglects important elements of how literary works are acquired, developed and disseminated. Focusing on selected works of fiction by Raymond Carver and David Foster Wallace, authors who represent stylistic touchstones for US fiction of recent decades, Groenland presents two case studies of editorial collaboration. Carver's early stories were integral to the emergence of the Minimalist movement in the 1980s, while Wallace's novels marked a generational shift towards a more expansive, maximal mode of narrative. The role of their respective editors, however, is often overlooked. Gordon Lish's part in shaping the form of Carver's early stories remains under-explored; analyses of Wallace's fiction, meanwhile, tend to minimise Michael Pietsch's role from the creation of *Infinite Jest* during the mid-1990s until the present day. Drawing on extensive archival research as well as interviews with editors and collaborators, Groenland illuminates the complex and often conflicting forms of agency involved in the genesis of these influential works. The energies and tensions of the editing process emerge as essential factors in the creation of fictions more commonly understood within the paradigm of solitary authorship. The mediating role of the editor is, Groenland argues, inseparable from the development, form, and reception of these works.

*The Unspeakable Failures of David Foster Wallace* Clare Hayes-Brady 2016-02-25 This book examines the writing of David Foster Wallace, hailed as the voice of a generation on his death.

Critics have identified horror of solipsism, obsession with sincerity and a corresponding ambivalence regarding postmodern irony, and detailed attention to contemporary culture as the central elements of Wallace's writing. Clare Hayes-Brady draws on the evolving discourses of Wallace studies, focusing on the unifying anti-teleology of his writing, arguing that that position is a fundamentally political response to the condition of neo-liberal America. She argues that Wallace's work is most unified by its resistance to closure, which pervades the structural, narrative and stylistic elements of his writing. Taking a broadly thematic approach to the numerous types of 'failure', or lack of completion, visible throughout his work, the book offers a framework within which to read Wallace's work as a coherent whole, rather than split along the lines of fiction versus non-fiction, or pre- and post-*Infinite Jest*, two critical positions that have become dominant over the last five years. While demonstrating the centrality of 'failure', the book also explores Wallace's approach to sincere communication as a recurring response to what he saw as the inane, self-absorbed commodification of language and society, along with less explored themes such as gender, naming and heroism. Situating Wallace as both a product of his time and an artist *sui generis*, Hayes-Brady details his abiding interest in philosophy, language and the struggle for an authentic self in late-twentieth-century America.

**#MeToo and Literary Studies** Mary K. Holland 2021-09-23 Literature has always recorded a history of patriarchy, sexual violence, and resistance. Academics have been using literature to expose and critique this violence and domination for half a century. But the continued potency of #MeToo after its 2017 explosion adds new urgency and wider awareness about these issues, while revealing new ways in which rape culture shapes our everyday lives. This intersectional guide helps readers, students, teachers, and scholars face and challenge our culture of sexual violence by confronting it through the study of literature. *#MeToo and Literary Studies* gathers essays on literature from Ovid to Carmen Maria Machado, by academics working across the United States and around the world, who offer clear ways of using our reading, teaching, and critical practices to address rape culture and sexual violence. It also examines the promise and limitations of the #MeToo movement itself, speaking to the productive use of social media as well as to the voices that the movement has so far muted. In uniting diverse voices to enable the #MeToo movement to reshape literary studies, this book is also committed to the idea that the way we read and write about literature can make real change in the world.

**Scale in Literature and Culture** Michael Tavel Clarke 2017-12-04 This collection emphasizes a cross-disciplinary approach to the problem of scale, with essays ranging in subject matter from literature to film, architecture, the plastic arts, philosophy, and scientific and political writing. Its contributors consider a variety of issues provoked by the sudden and pressing shifts in scale brought on by globalization and the era of the Anthropocene, including: the difficulties of defining the concept of scale; the challenges that shifts in scale pose to knowledge formation; the role of scale in mediating individual subjectivity and agency; the barriers to understanding objects existing in scalar realms different from our own; the role of scale in mediating the relationship between humans and the environment; and the nature of power, authority, and democracy at different social scales.

**The Matter of High Words** Robert Chodat 2017-08-18 In a world of matter, how can we express what matters? When the explanations of the natural sciences become powerfully precise and authoritative, what is the status of our highest words, the languages that articulate our norms and orient our lives? *The Matter of High Words* examines a constellation of American writers who in the decades since World War II have posed these questions in distinctive ways. Walker Percy, Marilynne Robinson, Ralph Ellison, Stanley Cavell, and David Foster Wallace are all self-consciously post-WWII authors, attuned to the fragmentation and skepticism that have defined so much of the literary and critical culture of the last century and more. Yet they also attempt to reach back to older forms of thought and writing that are often thought to have dried up--the traditions of prophecy, of wisdom literature, of the sage. Working within this dual inheritance, these authors are drawn equally to both art and argument, "showing" and "telling," shifting

continually between narrative and discursive genres. In their essays they act as moralists, promoting the broad, abstract concepts that might inspire action in the face of naturalistic reduction: community, family, courage, fraternity, marriage, friendship, temperance, judgment. In their narratives, they offer particular lives in particular settings, thick descriptions that give flesh to such high words. Rarely do these movements between genres generate a tidy equilibrium; where their essays speak of cooperation and redemption, their narratives display alienation, loss, and failure. But in pursuing such risky, unorthodox strategies, these postwar sages are not only able to challenge some of the dominant naturalistic theories of the last several decades: cognitive science, neo-Darwinian theory, social science, the fact-value divide in analytic philosophy. Through five chapters of detailed analysis and close reading, Chodat explores the question of whether vocabularies of ought and ought-not can still emerge today, and how these concepts might be embodied, and whether such ideas might be found in things.

**Text & Presentation, 2017** Jay Malarcher 2018-03-08 Presenting some of the best work from the 2017 Comparative Drama Conference at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida, this collection highlights the latest research in comparative drama, performance and dramatic textual analysis. Contributors cover a broad range of topics, from the “practical ethnography” of directing foreign language productions to writing for theoretical stages to the “radical deaf theater” of Aaron Sawyer’s *The Vineyard*. A full transcript of the keynote conversation with American playwright and screenwriter Lisa Loomer is included.

**The Cambridge Companion to David Foster Wallace** Ralph Clare 2018-08-31 Best known for his masterpiece *Infinite Jest*, David Foster Wallace re-invented fiction and non-fiction for a generation with his groundbreaking and original work. Wallace's desire to blend formal innovation and self-reflexivity with the communicative and restorative function of literature resulted in works that appeal as much to a reader's intellect as they do emotion. As such, few writers in recent memory have quite matched his work's intense critical and popular impact. The essays in this Companion, written by top Wallace scholars, offer a historical and cultural context for grasping Wallace's significance, provide rigorous individual readings of each of his major works, whether story collections, non-fiction, or novels, and address the key themes and concerns of these works, including aesthetics, politics, religion and spirituality, race, and post-humanism. This wide-ranging volume is a necessary resource for understanding an author now widely regarded as one of the most influential and important of his time.

**Wallace's Dialects** Mary Shapiro 2020-05-14 Mary Shapiro explores the use of regional and ethnic dialects in the works of David Foster Wallace, not just as a device used to add realism to dialogue, but as a vehicle for important social commentary about the role language plays in our daily lives, how we express personal identity, and how we navigate social relationships. Wallace's *Dialects* straddles the fields of linguistic criticism and folk linguistics, considering which linguistic variables of Jewish-American English, African-American English, Midwestern, Southern, and Boston regional dialects were salient enough for Wallace to represent, and how he showed the intersectionality of these with gender and social class. Wallace's own use of language is examined with respect to how it encodes his identity as a white, male, economically privileged Midwesterner, while also foregrounding characteristic and distinctive idiolect features that allowed him to connect to readers across implied social boundaries.

**The Palgrave Handbook of Literature and Mathematics** Robert Tubbs 2020-12-30 This handbook features essays written by both literary scholars and mathematicians that examine multiple facets of the connections between literature and mathematics. These connections range from mathematics and poetic meter to mathematics and modernism to mathematics as literature. Some chapters focus on a single author, such as mathematics and Ezra Pound, Gertrude Stein, or Charles Dickens, while others consider a mathematical topic common to two or more authors, such as squaring the circle, chaos theory, Newton's calculus, or stochastic processes. With appeal for scholars and students in literature, mathematics, cultural history, and history of mathematics, this important volume aims to introduce the range, fertility, and complexity of the connections

between mathematics, literature, and literary theory.

**Approaches to Teaching the Works of David Foster Wallace** Stephen J. Burn 2019-08-01 David Foster Wallace's works engage with his literary moment--roughly summarized as postmodernism--and with the author's historical context. From his famously complex fiction to essays critical of American culture, Wallace's works have at their core essential human concerns such as self-understanding, connecting with others, ethical behavior, and finding meaning. The essays in this volume suggest ways to elucidate Wallace's philosophical and literary preoccupations for today's students, who continue to contend with urgent issues, both personal and political, through reading literature. Part 1, “Materials,” offers guidance on biographical, contextual, and archival sources and critical responses to Wallace's writing. The essays in part 2, “Approaches,” discuss teaching key works and genres in high school settings, first-year undergraduate writing classes, American literature surveys, seminars on Wallace, and world literature courses. They examine Wallace's social and philosophical contexts and contributions, treating topics such as gender, literary ethics, and the culture of writing programs.

**Conversations with David Foster Wallace** Stephen Burn 2012-03-08 Collection of interviews that profiles Wallace's career of twenty years, from 1987 until his suicide in 2008, that provides insight into his development as a writer and complicated persona.

**Cool Characters** Lee Konstantinou 2016-03-07 Lee Konstantinou examines irony in American literary and political life, showing how it migrated from the countercultural margins of the 1950s to the 1980s mainstream. Along the way, irony was absorbed into postmodern theory and ultimately become a target of recent writers who have moved beyond its limitations with a practice of “postirony.”

**Suicide Century** Andrew Bennett 2017-10-05 *Suicide Century* investigates suicide as a prominent theme in twentieth-century and contemporary literature. Andrew Bennett argues that with the waning of religious and legal prohibitions on suicide in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and the increasing influence of medical and sociological accounts of its causes and significance in the twentieth century, literature responds to the act and idea as an increasingly normalised but incessantly baffling phenomenon. Discussing works by a number of major authors from the long twentieth century, the book explores the way that suicide makes and unmakes subjects, assumes and disrupts meaning, induces and resists empathy, and insists on and makes inconceivable our understanding of ourselves and of others.

**David Foster Wallace's Balancing Books** Jeffrey Severs 2017-01-03 What do we value? Why do we value it? And in a neoliberal age, can morality ever displace money as the primary means of defining value? These are the questions that drove David Foster Wallace, a writer widely credited with changing the face of contemporary fiction and moving it beyond an emotionless postmodern irony. Jeffrey Severs argues in *David Foster Wallace's Balancing Books* that Wallace was also deeply engaged with the social, political, and economic issues of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. A rebellious economic thinker, Wallace satirized the deforming effects of money, questioned the logic of the monetary system, and saw the world through the lens of value's many hidden and untapped meanings. In original readings of all of Wallace's fiction, from *The Broom of the System* and *Infinite Jest* to his story collections and *The Pale King*, Severs reveals Wallace to be a thoroughly political writer whose works provide an often surreal history of financial crises and economic policies. As Severs demonstrates, the concept of value occupied the intersection of Wallace's major interests: economics, work, metaphysics, mathematics, and morality. Severs ranges from the Great Depression and the New Deal to the realms of finance, insurance, and taxation to detail Wallace's quest for balance and grace in a world of excess and entropy. Wallace showed characters struggling to place two feet on the ground and restlessly sought to “balance the books” of a chaotic culture. Explaining why Wallace's work has galvanized a new phase in contemporary global literature, Severs draws connections to key Wallace forerunners Don DeLillo, Thomas Pynchon, and William Gaddis, as well as his successors—including Dave Eggers, Teddy Wayne, Jonathan Lethem, and Zadie Smith—interpreting Wallace's legacy in terms of finance, the

gift, and office life.

**Depression and Dysphoria in the Fiction of David Foster Wallace** Rob Mayo 2021-01-03 Depression and Dysphoria in the Fiction of David Foster Wallace is the first full-length study of this critically overlooked theme, addressing a major gap in Wallace studies. Wallace has long been recognised as a 'depression laureate' inheriting a mantle previously held by Sylvia Plath due to the frequent and remarkable depictions of depressed characters in his fiction. However, this book resists taking Wallace's fiction at face value and instead situates close reading of his complex fictions in theoretical dialogue both with philosophical and theoretical texts and with contemporary authors and influences. This book explores Wallace's complex engagement with philosophical and medical ideas of emotional suffering and demonstrates how this evolves over his career. The shifts in Wallace's thematic focus on various forms of dysphoria, including heartache, loneliness, boredom, and anxiety, as well as depression, correspond to an increasingly pessimistic philosophy underlying his fiction.

**Succeeding Postmodernism** Mary K. Holland 2013-04-25 While critics collect around the question of what comes "after postmodernism," this book asks something different about recent American fiction: what if we are seeing not the end of postmodernism but its belated success? *Succeeding Postmodernism* examines how novels by DeLillo, Wallace, Danielewski, Foer and others conceptualize threats to individuals and communities posed by a poststructural culture of mediation and simulation, and possible ways of resisting the disaffected solipsism bred by that culture. Ultimately it finds that twenty-first century American fiction sets aside the postmodern problem of how language does or does not mean in order to raise the reassuringly retro question of what it can and does mean: it finds that novels today offer language as solution to the problem of language. Thus it suggests a new way of reading "antihumanist" late postmodern fiction, and a framework for understanding postmodern and twenty-first century fiction as participating in a long and newly enlivened tradition of humanism and realism in literature.

**Mixed Media in Contemporary American Literature** Joelle Mann 2021-06-28 *Mixed Media in Contemporary American Literature: Voices Gone Viral* investigates the formation and formulation of the contemporary novel through a historical analysis of voice studies and media studies. After situating research through voices of nineteenth- and twentieth-century American literature, this book examines the expressions of a multi-media vocality, examining the interactions among cultural polemics, aesthetic forms, and changing media in the twenty-first century. The novel studies shown here trace the ways in which the viral aesthetics of the contemporary novel move language out of context, recontextualizing human testimony by galvanizing mixed media forms that shape contemporary literature in our age of networks. Through readings of American authors such as Claudia Rankine, David Foster Wallace, Jennifer Egan, Junot Díaz, Michael Chabon, Joseph O'Neill, Michael Cunningham, and Colum McCann, the book considers how voice acts as a site where identities combine, conform, and are questioned relationally. By listening to and tracing the spoken and unspoken voices of the novel, the author identifies a politics of listening and speaking in our mediated, informational society.

**Literature and the Encounter with Immanence** Brynnar Swenson 2017-06-21 *In Literature and the Encounter with Immanence* Brynnar Swenson collects nine original essays that approach the relationship between literature and immanence through methodologies grounded in the philosophy of Spinoza.

**Besluiteloos** Benjamin Kunkel 2011-04-13 Dwight Wilmerding is pas achtentwintig jaar oud,

maar zit al midden in een midlifecrisis. Op zich niet vreemd: hij woont met wat vage vrienden in een klein appartement en zijn baan als helpdeskmedewerker bij de farmaceutische gigant Pfizer is niet bepaald sfeerverhogend. Daarbovenop lijdt hij ook nog eens aan aboulie: chronische besluiteloosheid die zo ver gaat dat hij enkel een besluit kan nemen door erom te tossen. Aangemoedigd door een van zijn kamergenoten onderwerpt hij zich aan een farmaceutisch experiment dat hem van zijn besluiteloosheid moet genezen. Wanneer hij pfiereerd wordt door Pfizer en uitgenodigd door een vriendinnetje van de middelbare school om naar Ecuador te komen, reist hij abrupt af naar Zuid-Amerika. Probleem is alleen dat Dwight maar niet kan besluiten of de pillen die hij slikt werken of niet. Diep in de jungle wordt zijn romantische ontsnapping een hilarische reis, op zoek naar verantwoordelijkheid, kennis en liefde.

**David Foster Wallace's Infinite Jest** Stephen J. Burn 2012-04-19 *Infinite Jest* has been hailed as one of the great modern American novels and its author, David Foster Wallace, who committed suicide in 2008, as one of the most influential and innovative authors of the past 20 years. Don DeLillo called *Infinite Jest* a "three-stage rocket to the future," a work "equal to the huge, babbling spin-out sweep of contemporary life," while *Time Magazine* included *Infinite Jest* on its list of 100 Greatest Novels published between 1923-2006. *David Foster Wallace's Infinite Jest: A Reader's Guide* was the first book to be published on the novel and is a key reference for those who wish to explore further. *Infinite Jest* has become an exemplar for difficulty in contemporary Fiction-its 1,079 pages full of verbal invention, oblique narration, and a scattered, nonlinear, chronology. In this comprehensively revised second edition, Burn maps Wallace's influence on contemporary American fiction, outlines Wallace's poetics, and provides a full-length study of the novel, drawing out the most important themes and ideas, before surveying Wallace's post-*Infinite Jest* output, including *The Pale King*.

**The Resounding Soul** Samuel Kimbriel 2016-09-29 It is surely not coincidental that the term 'soul' should mean not only the centre of a creature's life and consciousness, but also a thing or action characterised by intense vivacity ('that bike's got soul!'). It also seems far from coincidental that the same contemporary academic discussions that have largely cast aside the language of 'soul' in their quest to define the character of human mental life should themselves be so bloodless, or so lacking in soul. *The Resounding Soul* arises from the opposite premise: that the task of understanding human nature is bound up with the more critical task of learning to be fully human. The papers collected here are derived from a conference in Oxford sponsored by the Centre of Theology and Philosophy and explore the often surprising landscape that emerges when human consciousness is approached from this angle. Drawing upon literary, philosophical, theological, historical, and musical modes of analysis, these essays remind the reader of the power of the ancient language of soul over against contemporary impulses to reduce, fragment, and overly determine human selfhood.

**Rereading the Machine in the Garden** Eric Erbacher 2014-11-06 The volume reexamines the trope of the intrusive machine and the regenerative pastoral garden, laid out fifty years ago by Leo Marx in *The Machine in the Garden*, one of the founding texts of American Studies. Contributions explore the lasting influence of the trope in American culture and the arts, rereading it as a dialectics where nature is as much technologized as technology is naturalized. They trace this dialectic trope in filmic and literary representations of industrial, bureaucratic, and digital gardens; they explore its function in the aftermath of the civil war, the rural electrification during the New Deal, in landscape art, and in ethnic literatures; and they discuss the historical premises and lasting influence of Leo Marx's seminal study.