

Edited by Jayjit Sarkar, Jagannath Basu

The Portrait of an Artist as a Pathographer

On Writing Illnesses and Illnesses in Writing

SERIES IN LITERARY STUDIES

About the editor

Jayjit Sarkar is Assistant Professor in the Department of English, Raiganj University, India. He is the author of the book 'Illness as Method: Beckett, Kafka, Mann, Woolf and Eliot' (Vernon Press, 2019). He is also the co-editor of 'Border and Bordering: Poetics, Politics, Precariousness' (ibidem Press, 2020).

Jagannath Basu is Assistant Professor in the Department of English, Sitalkuchi College, India. He is the co-editor of 'Geographia Literaria: Studies in Earth, Ethics and Literature' (ibidem Press, forthcoming, 2021).

The volume of essays offers a broad literary landscape to get to the heart of the difference between illness and disease. The essays cover an interesting range of writers and genres from around the world to explore the poetics and ethics of illness. Novels, short stories, plays, poems, both canonical and non-canonical, allow the volume to encompass an interesting corpus that will help provide an engaging and timely intervention in the growing field of literature and medicine.

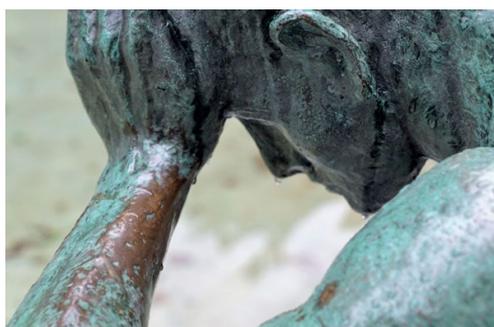
Prof. Sangeeta Ray
University of Maryland

Summary

Focusing on the various intersections between illness and literature across time and space, *The Portrait of an Artist as a Pathographer* seeks to understand how ontological, phenomenological and epistemological experiences of illness have been dealt with and represented in literary writings and literary studies. In this volume, scholars from across the world have come together to understand how the pathological condition of being ill (the sufferers), as well as the pathologists dealing with the ill (the healers and caregivers), have shaped literary works.

The language of medical science, with its jargon, and the language of the every day, with its emphasis on utility, prove equally insufficient and futile in capturing the pain and suffering of illness. It is this insufficiency and futility that makes us turn towards the canonical works of Joseph Conrad, Samuel Beckett, William Carlos Williams, Virginia Woolf, Kazuo Ishiguro, Miroslav Holub as well as the non-canonical António Lobo Antunes, Yumemakura Baku, Wopko Jensma and Vaslav Nijinsky. This volume helps in understanding and capturing the metalanguage of illness while presenting us with the tradition of 'writing pain'. In an effort to expand the definition of pathography to include those who are on the other side of pain, the essays in this collection aim to portray the above-mentioned pathographers as artists, turning the anxiety and suffering of illness into an art form. Looking deeply into such creative aspects of illness, this book also seeks to evoke the possibility of pathography as world literature.

This book will be of particular interest to undergraduate, postgraduate and research students, as well as scholars of literature and medical humanities who are interested in the intersections between literary studies and medical science.



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