



# EXPERIENCE and EXPERIMENTAL WRITING

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LITERARY PRAGMATISM  
from EMERSON to the JAMESES

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PAUL GRIMSTAD

# Experience Experimental Writing Literary Pragmatism

**Richard Poirier**



## **Experience Experimental Writing Literary Pragmatism:**

**Experience and Experimental Writing** Paul Grimstad, 2013-08-15 The book traces connections between the literary experiments of Emerson Poe Melville and Henry James and the emergence of classical American pragmatism Nineteenth Century Prose, 2016 **Rethinking the North American Long Poem** Ridvan Askin, Julius Greve, 2024-12-15 For centuries critics poets poet scholars and philosophers have either openly proclaimed or tacitly assumed the long poem as the highest expression of literary ambition and excellence Rethinking the North American Long Poem focuses on the North American variant of this notorious form notorious because of its often forbidding and difficult character particularly with respect to the dialectics of content and form aesthetics and politics matter and genre In nine essays and a contextual introduction the editors and contributors scrutinize seminal long poems by North American writers including Walt Whitman's Song of Myself Ezra Pound's The Cantos Muriel Rukeyser's The Book of the Dead and Charles Olson's The Maximus Poems They also explore recent efforts that have redefined or reopened the case of the long poem including Rachel Blau DuPlessis's Drafts M NourbeSe Philip's Zong and Claudia Rankine's Citizen Taking the categories of form matter and experiment as frames of conceptual reference the book examines the ways in which material and immaterial aspects of literary practice and the philosophically and politically inscribed duality of experience and experiment are negotiated in and by North American long poems from the nineteenth century to the present Melville's Philosophies Branka Arsic, K. L. Evans, 2017-05-18 Melville's Philosophies departs from a long tradition of critical assessments of Melville that dismissed his philosophical capacities as ingenious but muddled Its contributors do not apply philosophy to Melville in order to detect just how much of it he knew or understood To the contrary they try to hear the philosophical arguments themselves often very strange and quite radical that Melville never stopped articulating and reformulating What emerges is a Melville who is materialistically oriented in a radical way a Melville who thinks about life forms not just in the context of contemporary sciences but also ontologically Melville's Philosophies recovers a Melville who is a thinker of great caliber which means obliquely but dramatically reversing the way the critical tradition has characterized his ideas Finally as a result of the readings collected here Melville emerges as a very relevant thinker for contemporary philosophical concerns such as the materialist turn climate change and post humanism

Veteran Poetics Catherine Mary McLoughlin, 2018-05-24 Illustrates how war veterans have been used in British literature since the 1790s to explore being knowing and storytelling A New Companion to Herman Melville Wyn Kelley, Christopher Ohge, 2022-08-29 Discover a fascinating new set of perspectives on the life and work of Herman Melville A New Companion to Herman Melville delivers an insightful examination of Melville for the twenty first century Building on the success of the first Blackwell Companion to Herman Melville and offering a variety of tools for reading writing and teaching Melville and other authors this New Companion offers critical technological and aesthetic practices that can be employed to read Melville in exciting and revelatory ways Editors Wyn Kelley and Christopher Ohge create a framework that reflects a pluralistic model

for humanities teaching and research In doing so the contributing authors highlight the ways in which Melville himself was concerned with the utility of tools within fluid circuits of meaning and how those ideas are embodied enacted and mediated In addition to considering critical theories of race gender sexuality religion transatlantic and hemispheric studies digital humanities book history neurodiversity and new biography and reception studies this book offers A thorough introduction to the life of Melville as well as the twentieth and twenty first century revivals of his work Comprehensive explorations of Melville s works including Moby Dick Pierre Piazza Tales and Israel Potter as well as his poems and poetic masterpiece Clarel Practical discussions of material books print culture and digital technologies as applied to Melville In depth examinations of Melville s treatment of the natural world Two symposium sections with concise reflections on art and adaptation and on teaching and public engagement A New Companion to Herman Melville provides essential reading for scholars and students ranging from undergraduate and graduate students to more advanced scholars and specialists in the field

**Facing the Abyss** George Hutchinson, 2018-01-23 Mythologized as the era of the good war and the Greatest Generation the 1940s are frequently understood as a more heroic uncomplicated time in American history Yet just below the surface a sense of dread alienation and the haunting specter of radical evil permeated American art and literature Writers returned home from World War II and gave form to their disorienting experiences of violence and cruelty They probed the darkness that the war opened up and confronted bigotry existential guilt ecological concerns and fear about the nature and survival of the human race In Facing the Abyss George Hutchinson offers readings of individual works and the larger intellectual and cultural scene to reveal the 1940s as a period of profound and influential accomplishment Facing the Abyss examines the relation of aesthetics to politics the idea of universalism and the connections among authors across racial ethnic and gender divisions Modernist and avant garde styles were absorbed into popular culture as writers and artists turned away from social realism to emphasize the process of artistic creation Hutchinson explores a range of important writers from Saul Bellow and Mary McCarthy to Richard Wright and James Baldwin African American and Jewish novelists critiqued racism and anti-Semitism women writers pushed back on the misogyny unleashed during the war and authors such as Gore Vidal and Tennessee Williams reflected a new openness in the depiction of homosexuality The decade also witnessed an awakening of American environmental and ecological consciousness Hutchinson argues that despite the individualized experiences depicted in these works a common belief in art s ability to communicate the universal in particulars united the most important works of literature and art during the 1940s Hutchinson s capacious view of American literary and cultural history masterfully weaves together a wide range of creative and intellectual expression into a sweeping new narrative of this pivotal decade

**Ariel** ,2016 *The Henry James Review* ,2017 *Athenaeum and Literary Chronicle* ,1907 *Fulcrum* ,2006

**Introducing Literary Studies** Richard Bradford, 1996 A single volume comprehensive introduction to English literature Brings together 30 units of study organized into three major parts the basics of structure and criticism chronology

and critical theories and perspectives This is the first book to fill the gap between introductory studies of single authors genres and periods and standard references such as handbooks and glossaries Students of English literature     Where the World is Not Kim Savelson,2009 How do novels that literally discuss invention and inventors engage through such discussions an array of critically important conversations and issues beyond invention And to where and how can we trace and follow such discourses In Where the World Is Not Cultural Authority and Democratic Desire in Modern American Literature Kim Savelson examines the ways in which resoundingly popular U S novels by Frank Norris Willa Cather F Scott Fitzgerald and Ralph Ellison host the tug of war between thought and action between the democratic agenda of the pragmatist movement and the aristocratic idea of aesthetics Savelson argues for and reads these novels as a way of thinking through the implications for the meaning and making of culture brought about by the ongoing social revolution of democratic modernity She thus expands the scope of the current work being done on pragmatism as well as the work being done on literature and democracy carving out an intersection of these two fields Savelson demonstrates that the questions under her consideration appeared at different key moments over the course of the first half of the twentieth century embodying and deepening the struggle between the abstract and the practical the cultural and the commercial a struggle that turned into a dilemma and a period of growth for modern democratic desire In so doing she offers a historical recontextualization of selected literary texts analyzing them as a way of thinking about intellectual history with subtlety and particularity

Contemporary Literary Criticism Jeffery Hunter,2001-03 Each volume profiles about six to eight novelists poets playwrights short story writers and other creative and nonfiction writers who are currently active or who died after Dec 31 1999 A biographical and critical introduction to each author prefaces a collection of reprinted critical essays and reviews A cumulative title index to the entire series is available separately included in subscription     **Modernist Missions, Cultural Transmissions** Douglas Charles Kerr,2006     **Twentieth-century Literary Criticism** Gale Research Company,1996 Excerpts from criticism of the works of novelists poets playwrights and other creative writers 1900 1960     *Humanities Index* ,2000     **The Antipolitics of Friedrich Nietzsche** Peter Edward Bergmann,1983     Poetry and Pragmatism Richard Poirier,1992 Richard Poirier one of America s most eminent critics reveals in this book the creative but mostly hidden alliance between American pragmatism and American poetry He brilliantly traces pragmatism as a philosophical and literary practice grounded in a linguistic skepticism that runs from Emerson and William James to the work of Robert Frost Gertrude Stein and Wallace Stevens and on to the cultural debates of today More powerfully than ever before Poirier shows that pragmatism had its start in Emerson the great example to all his successors of how it is possible to redeem even as you set out to change the literature of the past Poirier demonstrates that Emerson and later William James were essentially philosophers of language and that it is language that embodies our cultural past an inheritance to be struggled with and transformed before being handed on to future generations He maintains that in Emersonian pragmatist writing any loss

personal or cultural gives way to a quest for what he calls superfluity a kind of rhetorical excess by which powerfully creative individuals try to elude deprivation and stasis In a wide ranging meditation on what James called the vague Poirier extols the authentic voice of individualism which he argues is tentative and casual rather than aggressive and dogmatic The concluding chapters describe the possibilities for criticism created by this radically different understanding of reading and writing which are nothing less than a reinvention of literary tradition itself Poirier's discovery of this tradition illuminates the work of many of the most important figures in American philosophy and poetry His reanimation of pragmatism also calls for a redirection of contemporary criticism so that readers inside as well as outside the academy can begin to respond to poetic language as the source of meaning not to meaning as the source of language      **Science** John Michels, 1921

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