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978-1-107-02247-8 - Modernist Futures: Innovation and Inheritance in the Contemporary Novel

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## MODERNIST FUTURES

In *Modernist Futures*, David James examines the implications of modernism's continuity in late-twentieth- and twenty-first-century writing by tracing its political and ethical valences in emerging novelistic practices. Focusing on the work of J. M. Coetzee, Milan Kundera, Ian McEwan, Toni Morrison, Michael Ondaatje and Phillip Roth, James reconsiders the purpose of literary innovation as it relates to the artistic and cultural interventions such writers perform. By rethinking critical and disciplinary parameters, James brings scholarship on contemporary fiction into dialogue with modernist studies, offering a nuanced account of narrative strategies that sheds new light on the form of the novel today. An ambitious and incisive contribution to the field, this book will appeal especially to scholars of modernism and contemporary literary culture as well as those in American and postcolonial studies.

DAVID JAMES is Lecturer in Modern and Contemporary Literature at Queen Mary, University of London. Author of *Contemporary British Fiction and the Artistry of Space: Style, Landscape, Perception* (2008), his articles have appeared in such venues as *Modernism/Modernity*, *Journal of Modern Literature* and *Textual Practice*. He is editor of *The Legacies of Modernism: Historicising Postwar and Contemporary Fiction* (2011).

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DAVID JAMES

*Queen Mary, University of London*



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*For María*

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Learning from a comparatist can make you a more capacious reader; living with one is quite a different matter, especially when volumes in multiple languages vie for shelf space in an apartment that could hardly be described as capacious. This book bears the stamp of some of that learning and living; but more indelibly still, it bears witness to the love of a comparatist who became my companion. For her critical wisdom, her infinite patience, her sixth sense for what makes an argument ring true, and for the humour with which she reminded me to keep in mind our immediate futures whenever I was too absorbed in modernist ones, my final thanks are reserved for María del Pilar Blanco to whom this book is dedicated.