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978-1-107-02082-5 - Antarctica in Fiction: Imaginative Narratives of the Far South

Elizabeth Leane

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ANTARCTICA IN FICTION

This comprehensive analysis of literary responses to Antarctica examines the rich body of texts that the continent has provoked over the last three centuries, focussing particularly on narrative fiction. Novelists as diverse as Edgar Allan Poe, James Fenimore Cooper, Jules Verne, H. P. Lovecraft, Ursula Le Guin, Beryl Bainbridge and Kim Stanley Robinson have all been drawn artistically to the far south. The continent has also inspired genre fiction, including a Mills and Boon novel, a Phantom comic and a Biggles book, as well as countless lost-race romances, espionage thrillers and horror-fantasies. *Antarctica in Fiction* draws on these sources, as well as film, travel narratives and explorers' own creative writing. It maps the far south as a space of the imagination and argues that only by engaging with this space, in addition to the physical continent, can we understand current attitudes towards Antarctica.

Elizabeth Leane is a senior lecturer in English literature at the University of Tasmania. She is author of *Reading Popular Physics: Disciplinary Skirmishes and Textual Strategies* (2007) and editor of *Considering Animals: Contemporary Studies in Human-Animal Relations* (2011) with Carol Freeman and Yvette Watt.

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ELIZABETH LEANE

University of Tasmania



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Acknowledgements

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Nineteenth-Century Antarctic Utopias', *ACH: The Journal of the History of Culture in Australia* 23 (2004): 147–71, and 'Antarctica as a Scientific Utopia', *Foundation: The International Review of Science Fiction* 32.3 (Autumn 2003): 27–35. The analysis of 'Who Goes There?' in Chapter 2 was originally published in 'Locating the Thing: The Antarctic as Alien Space in John W. Campbell's "Who Goes There?"', *Science Fiction Studies* 32.2 (2005): 225–39. The section on Oates in Chapter 3 appears in a slightly different form in *Imagining Antarctica: Cultural Perspectives on the Southern Continent*, ed. Ralph Crane, Elizabeth Leane and Mark Williams (Hobart: Quintus, 2011), 42–54. Chapter 4 incorporates small sections of 'Isolation, Connectedness and the Uses of Text in Heroic-Era Antarctica: The Cases of Inexpressible and Elephant Islands', *Island Studies Journal* 2.1 (2007): 47–56, and the discussion of the performance of *Ticket of Leave* is drawn from 'Antarctic Theatricals: The Frozen Farce of Scott's First Expedition', *Theatre Notebook: A Journal of the History and Technique of the British Theatre* 57 (2003): 143–57. Sections of Chapter 6 first appeared in 'The Land that Time Forgot: Fictions of Antarctic Temporality' in *Futurescapes: Space in Utopian and Science Fiction Discourses*, ed. Ralph Pordzik (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2009), 199–223. I am grateful to the publishers and editors of these works for giving me permission to reprint this material.