

“post-modernized academic environment.” Currie further asserts that “it is in the context of this landscape that the contributors ... must be understood, though the authors do not necessarily address that landscape per se.” Context, as the separate chapters illustrate, is a key factor in the formation of knowledge. Currie’s statement could be construed as an act of appropriation but the willingness of the authors to be involved in the project defuses such a charge.

A broad range of approaches and material is located within this book. Architecture, advertising, technology, and tourism are addressed in the first section “Landscapes: Negotiating Space.” The four authors in this particular section (and indeed in each of the three sections) draw upon multiple disciplines. Despite their unique focus, the distinctive pieces explore surprisingly similar terrain. Subjectivity and space, these specific chapters illustrate, are intimately connected. Simplifications of spatial divisions, it becomes clear, do not reflect real world experiences of space. Space, place and identity are intertwined but the exchange is not one-sided. “Boundaries” can be blurred or obliterated, acquiesced to or contested. Recognition of that exchange is, however, crucial to the reconfiguring of oppressive spaces and social orders.

The second section enhances the parameters of the discussion while maintaining many of the theoretical threads of the opening pages. Continuity is achieved through proximity. While Currie deftly weaves the separate threads together in the “Introduction,” no such connective feature bridges the various sections. The reader is left to discover the common ground while moving through the expanding textual terrain. Gibb, Vallely, Rothenberg, and Arnstein consider subjectivity, space, and collective identities in terms of the productions of place and ethnoscapes. Personal and group identities incorporate both the real

and the symbolic body.

Theoretical concerns with actual and imagined spaces and their effect on subjectivity shape the third portion of the text. Reconceptualizing boundaries, exploring the discourses which produce conflicting spaces and competing subjectivities, Cheng, Subramanian and Whitmore, Armstrong, and Chen gesture towards theoretical bridges for diverse disciplines engaged in feminist inquiries. By drawing attention, from a variety of perspectives, to the interactions of space, place, subjectivity, and theory, *Feminist (Re) Visions of the Subject* opens new avenues for academic discussion. Highlighting the malleability (as opposed to the rigidity) of “boundaries,” the collection of essays illustrates the possibilities of, and need for, re-envisioning of actual and imagined spaces and subjectivities.

“The impetus for this collection was the desire to effect a challenge to contemporary feminist praxis.” So proclaims the “Preface” to *Feminist (Re) Visions of the Subject*. The collaborative efforts of the editors and contributors have thrown down the gauntlet. Whether or not the challenge will be met remains to be seen but Currie and Rothenberg have deftly identified a provocative and (potentially) rich approach to feminist praxis; for this reason alone the text merits attention.

## SITES OF VIOLENCE: GENDER AND CONFLICT ZONES

Wenona Giles and Jennifer Hyndman, Eds.

Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004

### REVIEWED BY HELENE MOUSSA

This volume draws on original research undertaken by feminist scholars from various disciplines and from different countries. The editors and contributors are members of the Women in Conflict Zones Network established in 1996 at York University (Toronto), and the book’s four sections reflect WICZNET’s original research mandate: (1) Feminist Approaches to Gender and Conflict; (2) Violence against Women in War and Post-War Times; (3) Feminist Analyses of International Organizations and Asylum; and (4) Feminist Futures: Negotiating Globalization, Security and Human Displacement. While the collection offers an important study of different methodological approaches, this review highlights the researchers’ analyses of gendered violence and their concern for human security in conflict zones.

The fourteen chapters focus on the politics of gender relations at specific sites of violence in Afghanistan, Ghana, Guatemala, Iraqi Kurdistan, Israel/Palestine, Sudan, Sri Lanka, and the former Yugoslavia and post-Yugoslavia states, and in the camps that shelter the internally displaced peoples (IDP) in these countries and refugees in the surrounding countries. The contributions offer important insights into violence and how it affects human lives by exploring how space and places are gendered through social, political, and economic processes. One of the underlying arguments is

that conflict resolution, reconciliation, and prevention of violence cannot begin until we have a comprehensive understanding of the gendered politics involved in the causes and perpetuation of violence and of the interweaving connections of systems of oppression that define today's globalized politics. This is one of the volume's most important contributions and why it must be read in its entirety.

In analysing the gendered, racialized, and economic dimensions of violent conflict, the researchers reveal how systems of oppression and domination interconnect, support, and complement each other. They also show how these systems shape sites of conflict and influence the way contemporary wars are waged. The analysis of the Canadian Corporation Talisman Energies in the Sudan (chapter 4) provides a particularly vivid example of the "symbiotic" relationship between government military strategy and corporate militarization that is used to achieve secure conditions for the profitable extraction of resources—in this case, oil. As each layer of power is peeled away, it becomes clearer that military and corporate "security" take precedence over human security and the rights of thousands of Sudanese who are uprooted from their land and of women and girls who are abducted and raped. The Talisman case study also illustrates how civilians are incorporated into the conflict and how the violation of basic human rights goes unquestioned. The concept of "human security" has clearly shifted from the early 1990s version that included peace initiatives, human rights, and human development to one that justifies the militarization of the state and international military intervention so as to protect political, economic, and strategic interests [e.g. NATO in the Balkans war and the "coalition of the willing" in the current Iraqi war]. In this study as in others, the analysis underlines that no person, society, country organi-

zation or corporate company can exist in isolation from the transnational web of power relations and networks in which they operate—"everyone is at the battlefield."

Another significant finding is the "continuum of violence" concept, through which are made connections to the gendered violence that occurs before, during, and after a conflict and even in the absence of one. For example, patriarchal ideology of "male honour" and the practice of "honour killings" existed before the Iraqi-Kurdistan war. During the war, however, nationalist ideologues and religious and tribal male leaders "forged alliances" to impose controls over women's sexuality and carry out such killings in the context of the new political reality (chapter 5). Similarly, inter-ethnic marriages in the former Yugoslavia were encouraged by the assimilation of minorities into the dominant group—that is minority women gained acceptance by abandoning their national identity, changing their given, and family names, and adopting the religion and cultural ways of the husband. During the conflict such marriages were perceived by nationalist ideologues as "polluting" national identity. Women in inter-ethnic marriages—who were easier to attack than their husbands—were victimized by men of their own nationality and by others who perceived them as the "enemy." Significantly, mixed-marriage families were the first to leave the country (chapter 6).

But women in conflict zones are not passive recipients of gendered violence as the media would often have us believe. They may be victimized because of their gender and in gender-specific ways but at some point in their socialization, prior to or during the conflict, they develop a critical consciousness. The Women in Black in Belgrade are but one of many examples of how women resist war and protest against a ruling regime (chapter 13). In Guatemala and Ghana (chapters 3 and 7), women opted for a "culture of si-

lence" during the wars and during the post-conflict period as an act of resistance. The struggle to survive is not a passive one under multiple systems of oppression, even during "peace." Memories of violence and violation of human rights are ever present when oppression and injustice continue to prevail, and discerning when it is safe to speak out publicly is the challenge facing women in these conflict zones.

In the concluding chapter, the authors question how human security or the security of people can be thought of as a rights-based issue so that it "can address the distinct social and geographical locations that situate men and women differently in different sites of violence." Human security has particular relevance today, especially since it has become so intricately woven into the discourse of "global war against terrorism," which too often relies on racial profiling and usurps citizens' rights. The necessity of analysing this issue within a critical race and feminist framework is vitally important if we are to challenge and re-direct current understandings of this term. *Sites of Violence* has laid the groundwork for this understanding and for continuing action in this direction.

## THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO GOTHIC FICTION

Jerrold E. Hogle, Ed.  
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002

### REVIEWED BY NATALIE NEILL

"There has never... been any period of Gothic English literature, but the list of Gothic revivalists stretches completely