The Cosmopolitan Novel
Berthold Schoene

April 2010
Pb 978 0 7486 4003 4  £19.99
216pp  234 x 156 mm

Globalisation, the modern novel and the global community

Description
While traditionally the novel has been seen as tracking the development of the nation state, Schoene queries if globalisation might currently be prompting the emergence of a new sub-genre of the novel that is adept at imagining global community. The book introduces a new generation of contemporary British writers - Rachel Cusk, Kiran Desai, Hari Kunzru, Jon McGregor and David Mitchell - whose work is read against that of established novelists Arundhati Roy, James Kelman and Ian McEwan and through Jean-Luc Nancy’s work on community and creative world-formation. Each chapter explores a different theoretical key concept, including ‘glocality’, ‘glomicity’, ‘tour du monde’, ‘connectivity’ and ‘compearance’.

Key Features
• Defines the new genre of the ‘cosmopolitan novel’ by reading contemporary British fiction as responsive to new global socio-economic formations
• Expands knowledge of world culture, national identity, literary creativity and political agency by introducing concepts from globalisation and cosmopolitan theory into literary studies
• Explores debates on Britishness and ‘the contemporary’ with close reference to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the World Trade Centre attacks in 2001

The Author
Berthold Schoene is Professor of English and Director of the English Research Institute at Manchester Metropolitan University. He is the editor of The Edinburgh Companion to Contemporary Scottish Literature (EUP, 2007) and author of Writing Men: Literary Masculinities from Frankenstein to the New Man (EUP, 2000).

Readership