



Empire and the Animal Body

Violence, Identity and Ecology in Victorian Adventure Fiction
John Miller

Pub Date: October 2012

Binding: Hardback

Price: £60 / \$99

ISBN: 9780857285348

Extent: 244 pages

Size: 229 x 152mm / 9 x 6

Illustrations: 10+ bw images

Category: LITERARY CRITICISM / European / English, Irish, Scottish, Welsh

BISAC code: LIT004120

BIC code: DSK

Rights Held: World

Description

A critical reassessment of the significance of exotic animals in Victorian adventure literature.

Empire and the Animal Body: Violence, Identity and Ecology in Victorian Adventure Fiction develops recent work in animal studies, eco-criticism and postcolonial studies to reassess the significance of exotic animals in Victorian adventure literature. Depictions of violence against animals were integral to the ideology of adventure literature in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. However, the evolutionary hierarchies on which such texts relied were complicated by developing environmental sensitivities and reimaginings of human selfhood in relation to animal others. As these texts hankered after increasingly imperilled areas of wilderness, the border between human and animal appeared tense, ambivalent and problematic.

‘An excellent inquiry into the inscription of environmental violence in imperial adventure fiction and its bearings on the genre’s popularity. Lucid, rigorous and assured, it promises to be a foundational text at the juncture of Victorian studies, ecocriticism and colonial history.’ —*Dr Anthony Carrigan, Keele University*

Readership: This book will benefit students and academics studying nineteenth- and twentieth-century and children’s literature, postcolonial studies, animal studies and environmental history.

Contents

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About the Author

John Miller is currently a lecturer in nineteenth-century literature at the University of Sheffield. He has published widely on animal studies and ecocriticism, particularly in relation to British Empire writing and postcolonial studies.

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