## **Contents**

1 Introduction   7
1.1 Transforming Supernaturalism   7
1.2 Contextualising Daniel Defoe's Work on the Supernatural   10
1.3 Jane Wenham: A Case in Point   13
1.4 Defoe's Supernatural Tracts   16
1.5 How to Qualify the "Supernatural"   20
1.6 Seeking Certainty of Self   26
1.7 Chapter Overview   31

## PART I: DANIEL DEFOE'S SUPERNATURALISM REVISITED: JUDGMENT AND THE BURDEN OF PROOF

2	Daniel Defoe's Supernatural Tracts and Contemporary	
	Supernaturalism: Problems of Language and Evidence	37

- 2.1 Introduction | 38
- 2.2 The Idea of Being Able to Study the Supernatural | 41
- 2.3 Analysing the Supernatural | 45
- 2.4 Disengagement from Demonological Debates | 49
- 2.5 The Question of Evidence | 53
- 2.6 Defoe's Treatment of Evidence of the Supernatural | 58
- 2.7 Defoe's Lines of Argumentation in his Supernatural Tracts | 64
- 2.8 Summary | 68

## PART II: TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE SUPERNATURAL: PROPHECY AND DELUSION

- 3 Defoe's Play with the "As If": Fiction, Delusion and Imagination  $\mid 71$
- 3.1 Introduction | 72
- 3.2 Disruptive Imagination | 76
- 3.3 Imagination and Uncertainty | 83
- 3.4 "Deluded" Imagination | 88
- 3.5 Error or Delusion? Discrediting Testimonies | 94
- 3.6 Delusion as a Motif | 99



4 Describing Emotional Conflict and Continuity of Experience in Defoe's Narratives <i>Journal of the Plague Year, Robinson Crusoe</i> and <i>Roxana</i>   107
4.1 Introduction   107
4.2 Transformations of the Prophetic Voice: The Case of <i>Robinson Crusoe</i>   110
4.3 Transformations of the Magical: The Case of Fear
in A Journal of the Plague Year   117
4.4 Transformations of the Demonic: The Case of Roxana;
or, The Fortunate Mistress   122
4.5 Summary   130
PART III: SINGULAR EXPERIENCE AND COLLECTIVE KNOWLEDGE
5 Frames of Knowledge in Daniel Defoe's Story-Telling   133
5.1 Introduction   133
5.2 Offering an Aetiological Myth of Knowledge   136
5.3 Dialogic Stories   140
5.4 Fact and Fiction: Embedded Story-Telling in
A Journal of the Plague Year   145
5.5 The Failure of Dialogic Interaction   161
<ul><li>5.5 The Failure of Dialogic Interaction   161</li><li>5.6 Enacting Knowledge: Self-Fashioning in <i>Roxana</i>   164</li></ul>
5.5 The Failure of Dialogic Interaction   161
<ul><li>5.5 The Failure of Dialogic Interaction   161</li><li>5.6 Enacting Knowledge: Self-Fashioning in <i>Roxana</i>   164</li></ul>