

"Gauthier's *9/11 Fiction, Empathy, and Otherness* makes a strong case for the cultural relevance of fiction within contemporary culture by examining an array of novels that address the 9/11 terrorist attacks—including texts that have not been discussed much by literary critics—and focusing on the ways in which they explore and reveal both the potential of empathy as a pathway toward reaching a cosmopolitan ideal and all the obstructions that limit such possibilities. The book is timely in that it actively participates in and contributes to current scholarly critical debates surrounding both empathy and cosmopolitanism."

MAGALI CORNIER MICHAEL, Duquesne University

"Tim Gauthier's brilliant exploration of the possibilities and pitfalls of empathy illuminates both 9/11 fiction's encounter with otherness and the terrorist attacks' polarizing but also unifying potential. Combining theoretical sophistication with fresh and thoughtful analysis, *9/11 Fiction, Empathy, and Otherness* is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the role of empathy and cosmopolitan engagement in the fiction that emerged after those traumatic events."

SONIA BAELO-ALLUÉ, University of Zaragoza

"None of the currently available critical literature on 9/11 fiction can match Tim Gauthier's combination of theoretical sophistication and analytical rigor. His exciting study furnishes new readings of the established canon of 9/11 texts, as well as provides ingenious encounters with less familiar texts, such as graphic novels and fiction from France. Gauthier's study is now the place to begin for students and others interested in getting to grips with this body of work."

ROBERT SPENCER, University of Manchester

9/11 Fiction, Empathy, and Otherness analyzes recent works of fiction whose principal subject is the attacks of September 11, 2001. These readings question and assess the validity and potential effectiveness of both the subsequent calls for a cosmopolitan outlook and the related, but no less significant, emphasis now placed on empathy. This study examines the proliferation of "us" and "them" narratives after 9/11 and the degree to which calls for greater empathy and a renewed emphasis on cosmopolitan values served to counterbalance an apparent movement toward increased polarization, encapsulated in the oft-mentioned "clash of civilizations." Whether it is the challenge of connecting with the inhabitants of a traumatized city, or with a hyperpower experiencing its own vulnerability for the first time, or even with the terrorist who seeks to commit violent acts, these novels afford us the means of examining the complex dynamics (local and global) involved in any exhibition of fellow-feeling for the other and the ever-present potential failure of that engagement.

TIM GAUTHIER is director of interdisciplinary studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.



LEXINGTON BOOKS

A wholly owned subsidiary of
Rowman & Littlefield

800-462-6420 • www.rowman.com

ISBN 978-0-7391-9345-7

