

# Diseases and Disorders in Contemporary Fiction

This collection addresses the current preoccupation with neurological conditions and disorders in contemporary British and American literature. The book places these fictional treatments within a broader cultural and historical context, exploring such topics as the two cultures debate, the neurological turn, postmodernism and the 'post-postmodern', and transatlantic responses to September 11. Considering a variety of materials including mainstream literary fiction, graphic novels, popular fiction, autobiographical writing, film, and television, contributors consider the interface between the sciences and humanities. They also develop the debate about 'post-postmodernism' as a new humanism or a return to realism and investigate questions of form and genre. The essays in this collection discuss contemporary writers' engagements with the relation between the individual and the social, exploring connections between the 'syndrome syndrome' (referring to the prevalence in contemporary literature of neurological phenomena evident at the biological level) and existing work in the field of trauma studies (where explanations tend to take a psychoanalytical form), going on to question the assumptions that have marked these fields. The current preoccupation with neurological conditions presents us with a new and distinctive form of trauma literature, one concerned less with psychoanalysis than with the physical and evolutionary status of human beings.