

Contents

1 Introduction: Rewriting the Past – Memory, History and the Indo-English Novel of the 1980s and 1990s — 1

Part One

2 Memory and Transculturality — 15

- 2.1 From cultural memory to transcultural memory — 15
- 2.2 Transcultural memory as a social practice in the age of globalised modernity/modernities — 20
- 2.3 Rethinking memory and modernity/modernities — 29
- 2.4 Towards a theory of transcultural memory — 37

3 Literature and Transcultural Memory — 39

- 3.1 Rethinking memory and literature — 39
- 3.2 The ‘novel of memory’ and East-West encounters — 42
- 3.3 The transcultural novel of memory — 54

Part Two

4 Novels of Political Memories: Partition and Reconciliation — 59

- 4.1 ‘Chutneyfying’ Memory and History: Mapping transcultural India in Salman Rushdie’s *Midnight’s Children* (1981) — 59
 - 4.1.1 Introduction: Re-membering private and public histories — 59
 - 4.1.2 ‘Pickling Time’: The transcultural saga of India — 60
 - 4.1.3 Between history and memory: Re-collecting cultural plurality in the subcontinent — 65
 - 4.1.4 Pakistan and purity: partition and beyond — 68
 - 4.1.5 The art of chutney, history, memory and autobiography — 70
 - 4.1.6 Conclusion: ‘Chutney’ as a commemorative trope — 72
- 4.2 ‘Imaginary nations’: Storytelling and transcultural recollection in Bapsi Sidhwa’s *Cracking India* (1988) — 73
 - 4.2.1 Introduction: Partition as a historical predicament — 73
 - 4.2.2 Ethnic divisions in the name of nationalism: The role of storytelling and transcultural memory — 74

- 4.2.3 Storytelling as a mode of intertwined memories and histories of India's dispersed ethnicities — 77
- 4.2.4 Religious and ethnic fissures: 'Cracking' as leitmotif in Lenny's transcultural recollections — 79
- 4.2.5 Stories from rural areas in the wake of the national movement in the cities — 83
- 4.2.6 Caught in the myths of 'national borders': Genocide, eviction and loot as the order of the day — 86
- 4.2.7 Beyond the borders of 'imaginary nations': The triumph of the Ice-Candy Man over political barriers — 88
- 4.2.8 Conclusion: Re-membering as reconciliation — 90
- 4.3 Inventing or recalling the contact Zones? Transcultural spaces in Amitav Ghosh's *The Shadow Lines* (1988) — 91
 - 4.3.1 Introduction: Shadows of imaginary and remembered spaces — 91
 - 4.3.2 A trip down memory lane: Representation of space in the vicissitudes of time — 93
 - 4.3.3 Cross-cultural practices of imagining space and place — 95
 - 4.3.4 Tracking the past in the present: The events of 1964 as a struggle with silence — 99
 - 4.3.5 'Going Away' and 'Coming Home' – Seeking transcultural spaces on a disintegrating subcontinent — 103
 - 4.3.6 Conclusion: Beyond the spatial metaphors of ethnic hatred — 106
- 5 Novels of Private Memories: Through the Looking Glass — 108**
 - 5.1 Fictions of transcultural memory: Zulfikar Ghose's *The Triple Mirror of the Self* (1992) as an imaginative reconstruction of the self in multiple worlds — 108
 - 5.1.1 Introduction: An autobiographical novel of individual and collective memory — 108
 - 5.1.2 Exile and return and the literary imagination of Ghose — 109
 - 5.1.3 The fictions of transcultural memory: Reconstructing the self in a world-within-a-world — 111
 - 5.1.4 Phase one: Recollecting entangled histories of the self — 114
 - 5.1.5 Phase two: Translating the self amid cultural diversity and interdependence — 119
 - 5.1.6 Phase three: Re-discovering India as a landmark of time and memory — 123
 - 5.1.7 Conclusion: Modernity, memory and self-identity — 129

- 5.2 Phantoms of generational memory: A transcultural portrait of family histories in Ruth Praver Jhabvala's *Shards of Memory* (1995) — **130**
- 5.2.1 Introduction: India and Ruth Praver Jhabvala — **130**
- 5.2.2 Travelling into the past of four generations — **132**
- 5.2.3 Spectres of generational memory: The construction of generation in the age of travelling cultures — **134**
- 5.2.4 The Master as myth and memory over generations — **137**
- 5.2.5 The location of transcultural memory in Henry's family chronicle — **142**
- 5.2.6 Conclusion: The riddle of generational memory — **145**
- 5.3 Between Calcutta and London: The ambivalence of transcultural remembering in Sunetra Gupta's *Memories of Rain* (1992) — **146**
- 5.3.1 Introduction: A tale of two cities — **146**
- 5.3.2 'Ambivalence of things past' — **147**
- 5.3.3 'Countries of the mind': Imaginary homelands and beyond — **151**
- 5.3.4 From the prism of transcultural memories: The enigma of the arrival and departure — **158**
- 5.3.5 Conclusion: Travel and cultural translation — **162**

Part Three

- 6 Rerouting and Remapping: The Indo-English Novel of Transcultural Memory after 2000 — 167**
- 6.1 Dialectics of 'roots and routes' in Siddhartha Deb's *The Point of Return* (2002) — **169**
- 6.2 Mnemonic maps and scraps in Kamila Shamsie's *Kartography* (2002) — **174**
- 7 Conclusion: 'Overlapping Territories, Intertwined Histories' — 182**

Bibliography — 185

- Primary Sources — **185**
- Secondary Sources — **186**
- Online Sources — **202**
- Film Sources — **202**

Index — 203

