

Acknowledgments

For a number of reasons, some having to do with the subject matter and others with circumstance, this has been an especially challenging and difficult book to write. It has been reconceptualized numerous times, and several drafts have been produced and discarded along the way. The current version, however modest, is the most compelling narrative I can tell about the ways in which modern Western society, with its norms, iniquities, and structural neuroses, dreams the figure of the murderer as an exceptional outsider, rather than as a product of our own making.

Several organizations and individuals are owed thanks for the advice, help, and support they have provided over the six years in which this process has unfolded.

Firstly, the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) awarded me a Research Leave Scheme grant in 2006, which enabled me to draft several chapters of the book (in the form in which I originally imagined it: a study of the figure of the murderer in nineteenth-century France). Secondly, the award of a Philip Leverhulme Prize in 2009 enabled me to extend my institutional research leave from the University of Exeter in order to reformulate the book project as a more ambitious and historically wide-ranging study of the modern murdering subject. I am grateful to both of these funding bodies for the valuable research time they enabled, and to Queen Mary, University of London and the University of Exeter for granting periods of institutionally funded leave in, respectively, 2005 and 2009.

The following individuals provided—variously—ideas, references, source materials, discussion, opportunities to present work, and/or feedback on various aspects of the project and chapter drafts: Heike Bauer,

Chiara Beccalossi, Lara Cox, Peter Cryle, Richard Dyer, Alex Dymock, Michael Finn, Miranda Gill, Robert Gillett, Louise Hardwick, Peter Hegarty, Marian Hobson, Michael G. Kelly, Katherine Lunn-Rockliffe, Francesco Manzini, Rachel Mesch, Lorna Milne, Alison Moore, Douglas Morrey, Dany Nobus, Kyra Pearson, Dieter Rossi, Elizabeth Stephens, Ricarda Vidal, Caroline Warman, and Valerie Worth. I am indebted to them all for their kindness and valuable input.

An earlier version of part of chapter 2 was published as the article “Murder in the Feminine: Marie Lafarge and the Sexualization of the Nineteenth-Century Criminal Woman,” by Lisa Downing, in *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 18(1): 121–37, copyright ©2009 by the University of Texas Press. All rights reserved. One section of chapter 3 first appeared as part of “The Birth of the Beast: Death-Driven Masculinity in Monneret, Zola, Freud,” by Lisa Downing, in *Dix-Neuf*, the online journal of the Society of Dix-Neuviémistes, no. 5 (September 2005). I am grateful for the permissions received to reproduce this material.

Finally, I would like to thank Doug Mitchell, Tim McGovern, and the team at the University of Chicago Press for their kindness and efficiency, and the three expert readers, Keith Reader, Calvin Thomas, and David Schmid, for their invaluable feedback and advice on the manuscript.