



Postcolonial Fiction and Disability: Exceptional Children, Metaphor and Materiality

Dr Clare Barker

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Postcolonial Fiction and Disability explores the politics and aesthetics of disability in postcolonial literature. The first book to make sustained connections between postcolonial writing and disability studies, it focuses on the figure of the exceptional child in well-known novels by Grace, Dangarembga, Sidhwa, Rushdie, and Okri. While the fictional lives of disabled child characters are frequently intertwined with postcolonial histories, providing potent metaphors for national 'damage' and vulnerability, Barker argues that postcolonial writers are equally concerned with the complexity of disability as lived experience. The study focuses on constructions of normalcy, the politics of medicine and healthcare, and questions of citizenship and belonging in order to demonstrate how progressive health and disability politics often emerge organically from writers' postcolonial concerns. In reframing disability as a mode of exceptionality, the book assesses the cultural and political insights that derive from portrayals of disability, showing how postcolonial writing can contribute conceptually towards building more inclusive futures for disabled people worldwide.

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