Theoretical Perspectives on Human Rights and Literature

Edited by Elizabeth Swanson Goldberg and Alexandra Schultheis Moore

Foreword by Joseph R. Slaughter
Contents

Foreword: Rights on Paper
JOSEPH R. SLAUGHTER xi

Acknowledgments xv

Introduction: Human Rights and Literature:
The Development of an Interdiscipline 3
ELIZABETH SWANSON GOLDBERG AND ALEXANDRA SCHULTHEIS MOORE

PART I:
Histories, Imaginaries, and Paradoxes
of Literature and Human Rights

1 "Literature," the "Rights of Man," and Narratives of Atrocity:
   Historical Backgrounds to the Culture of Testimony 19
   JULIE STONE PETERS

2 Enabling Fictions and Novel Subjects:
The Bildungsroman and International Human Rights Law 41
   JOSEPH R. SLAUGHTER

3 Top Down, Bottom Up, Horizontally:
   Resignifying the Universal in Human Rights Discourse 65
   DOMNA C. STANTON

4 The Social Imaginary as a Problematic for Human Rights 87
   MEILI STEELE
Contents

5 Intimations of What Was to Come: Edwidge Danticat’s The Farming of Bones and the Indivisibility of Human Rights 103
   ELIZABETH SWANSON GOLDBERG

6 Paradoxes of Neoliberalism and Human Rights 120
   GREG MULLINS

PART II:
Questions of Narration, Representation, and Evidence

7 Reading the Living Archives: The Witness of Literary Art 135
   CAROLYN FORCHÉ

8 Narrating Human Rights and the Limits of Magic Realism in Salman Rushdie’s Shalimar the Clown 149
   ELIZABETH S. ANKER

9 Complicities of Witnessing in Joe Sacco’s Palestine 165
   WENDY KOZOL

10 Dark Chamber, Colonial Scene: Post-9/11 Torture and Representation 180
   STEPHANIE ATHEY

PART III
Rethinking the “Subject” of Human Rights

11 Human Rights as Violence and Enigma: Can Literature Really Be of Any Help with the Politics of Human Rights? 201
   NICK MANSFIELD

12 Imagining Women as Human 215
   HEPHZIBAH ROSKELLY

13 “Disaster Capitalism” and Human Rights: Embodiment and Subalternity in Indra Sinha’s Animal’s People 231
   ALEXANDRA SCHULTHEIS MOORE
| 14 | Do Human Rights Need a Self?   |
|    | Buddhist Literature and the Samsaric Subject | 247 |
|    | GREGORY PRICE GRIEVE |

| Epilogue | 261 |
| ELIZABETH SWANSON GOLDBERG AND ALEXANDRA SCHULTHEIS MOORE |

| List of Contributors | 265 |
| Bibliography | 269 |
| Index | 293 |