Liminality and the Short Story
Boundary Crossings in American, Canadian, and British Writing

Edited by Jochen Achilles and Ina Bergmann
# Contents

*Acknowledgments*  

**PART I**  
Liminality *and* the Short Story

1. “Betwixt and Between”: Boundary Crossings in American, Canadian, and British Short Fiction  
   Jochen Achilles and Ina Bergmann  
   3

**PART II**  
The Liminality *of* the Short Story  

   Conceptualizations of Liminality

2. Modes of Liminality in American Short Fiction: Condensations of Multiple Identities  
   Jochen Achilles  
   35

3. Liminal and Liminoid Discourses in Modernist Women’s Short Fiction: Performance, Spectatorship, and Cinema  
   Claire Drewery  
   50

4. In the Generic Interzone: On the Liminal Character of William S. Burroughs’s Routines  
   Florian Zappe  
   63
Contents

Methods of Approach

5 Cognitive Liminality: On the Epistemology of the Short Story 77
MICHAEL BASSELER

6 Experiencing Short Stories: A Cognitive Approach Focusing on Reading Narrative Space 92
RENATE BROSCH

7 Between Story and Essay: Micro-Markers of Storyness 108
SUSAN LOHAFER

Conditions of Publication

8 “Small Tales”: Brevity and Liminality in Early American Magazines 121
OLIVER SCHEIDING

9 The Liminal Spaces of Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Short-Story Cycles: Rites of Passage in History and Storytelling 134
ALFRED BENDIXEN

10 Variety in Unity, Unity in Variety: The Liminal Space of the American Short-Story Anthology 145
KASIA BODDY

PART III
Liminality in the Short Story

Contexts of Writing

11 “I Have Heard Many Stranger Stories Than This, in the Villages Along the Hudson”: Magic Realism in Upstate New York 159
INA BERGMANN

12 Madness as a Liminal State in the American Short Story: Edgar Allan Poe’s Ratiocination and Charles Sanders Peirce’s Logic of Abduction 175
SUSANNE ROHR
13 Of Death, Dying, and Disease: The Short Story and American Heterotopian Illness Narratives 186
CARMEN BIRKLE

14 How Significant Food Can Make a Short Story into a Meal: The Hyphenated Immigrant Experience in Contemporary American Short Fiction 198
JEFF BIRKENSTEIN

Topics of Liminality

15 Liminal Subjects, Mixed Genre: Richard Wright and the African American Short Story 213
GLENDA R. CARPIO

16 “I Am Not That”: Liminality in the Writings of Joanna Russ 225
PAUL MARCH-RUSSELL

17 “Almost Like a Ghost”: Spectral Figures in Alice Munro’s Short Fiction 238
AILSA COX

18 Liminality, Metamorphic Experience, and the Short-Story Form: Alice Munro’s “Wenlock Edge” 251
KATHERINE ORR

19 Indigenous Interstitial Spaces: Liminality in Thomas King’s “Borders” 263
EVELYN P. MAYER

Contributors 275
Index 277