

# *Entanglement and Entropy: The Weave of Claire Messud's Novels*

Collection Editor: Sandra Singer  
Contact Email: [ssinger@uoguelph.ca](mailto:ssinger@uoguelph.ca)

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## **Description:**

American fiction writer, essayist, and professor Claire Messud explores the embodied contingency of lived experience—in history, politics, philosophy, and culture—through her characters' interactions and adjustments. From the beginning, in *When the World Was Steady* (1994), her intricate work has followed intimate, cosmopolitan affiliations. Human attachments located precisely in time and space, primarily between women or girls, set in motion unanticipated calamities.

## **What should the Submitted Chapters Consider?**

Focus of chapters will be determined by a combination of the characteristics of the specific novel under discussion and the critic's own interests. Each chapter will address one novel in the light of existing criticism and issues raised by the text. For example, primarily set in colonial Algeria and the south of France, *The Last Life* (1999) examines French-Algerian emigrant identities; *The Emperor's Children* (2006) invites interpretation as a "9-11 novel"; and *The Woman Upstairs* (2013) intertextually and thematically probes the workings of installation art. These suggested critical approaches speak to the variety of themes and narrative strategies in Messud's corpus. Chapters should be conversant with Messud's recent "autobiography in essays," *Kant's Little Prussian Head and Other Reasons Why I Write* (2020).

## **About the Editor:**

Sandra Singer is Professor in the School of English and Theatre Studies of the University of Guelph, Canada. Her publications include the edited collections *Doris Lessing: Interrogating the Times* and *Doris Lessing's The Golden Notebook after Fifty*, as well as *J.J. Steinfeld: Essays on His Works*. Most recently, she published the monograph *Stock Characters in 9/11 Fiction: Homosexuality and Nihilist Performance*, which includes a chapter on Messud's *The Emperor's Children*.

## **Submission Requirements:**

**Word count: 6000 words.**

All chapters submitted should conform to the grammar and formatting guidelines provided by Cambridge Scholars Publishing, which can be viewed here: <https://www.cambridgescholars.com/pages/forms-guidelines>.



Unless agreed with the Editor prior to submission, referencing should be in Chicago style.

Any work submitted for publication should be free of copyright restrictions, and a statement should be submitted in support of this.

Contributions should be scholarly based, rather than anecdotal or unverifiable.

Contributions must be wholly in English, excluding footnotes, appendices, and short extracts for translation.

While we will perform pre-press evaluations on the collection, we do not provide full copyediting services, so we ask that works are submitted to us in their final, 'ready-to-go' form.

### How to Submit?

You should submit to the Editor a completed proposal form, alongside a copy of your work for their review. This submission should be made directly to the email address at the top of this page.

You can also contact the author at: Sandra Singer, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON, Canada, N1G2W1.

If you have any questions about the collection, prior to your submission, please contact the Editor.

### Timeline:

All works should be submitted to the Editor, at the address provided at the top of this document, by **20 August 2021**.

The Editor will review these personally to consider their inclusion in the work. Should the Editor approve the chapters, you will then be asked to complete an agreement for the publication of these chapters. **It is essential that this agreement is completed in order for your work to be printed.**

Once the Editor has approved the chapter, and has received your contributor agreement, these will then be sent to Cambridge Scholars as a complete collection for pre-press reviews and publication. **As such, it is essential that the work you submit to the Editor is finalised and has been thoroughly proofread.**

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