

# Contents

---

## Acknowledgements | 7

### Introduction

- Whiteness and the C Word | 9
- Critical Whiteness Studies and the European-British Context | 15
- Tainted Whiteness, Class, Neoliberalism | 20
- (Tainted) Whiteness in Contemporary British Literature | 23
- Chapter Overview | 28

### I What Happened to the British (White) Working Class?

- Theoretical and Methodological Framework | 31
- The Disappearance and Return of Class | 31
- Being Too White? The Murder of Stephen Lawrence | 40
- Becoming Black: The 2011 English Riots | 44
- Figurations and Inscriptions of Race and Class | 50
- Literary Figurations of Race and Class | 73

### II “The trash ay Europe”

- Abject Working-Class Whiteness in the Novels of Irvine Welsh | 77
- II.1 *Trainspotting* | 81
  - Challenges to the White Self in Multicultural Britain | 86
  - Uncanny Thatcherism: The Past in the Present | 91
- II.2 *Marabou Stork Nightmares* | 96
  - A “Genetic Disaster”: The Strang Family | 97
  - Spectres of Thatcher | 100
  - The Continuum of White Privilege | 105
  - Masculinity, Abject Sexuality and Whiteness | 115
- II.3 *Filth* | 125
  - From the Pits to the Top | 126
  - The Uncanny Politics of Passing | 130
  - “Chasing Dirt”: The Unruly Body | 141

### **III How Southern Gothic Came to Wales**

Race, Class and Post-Britishness in the Novels of Niall Griffiths | 149

#### **III.1 *Grits* | 156**

Post-British Plurality of Voices | 156

Race in the Devolutionary Discourse | 161

White Trash and the Trans-British Community | 165

The Body, Decay and Grotesque Poetics | 173

#### **III.2 *Sheepshagger* | 181**

Postcolonial Monstrosity | 181

Hybrid Bodies | 192

Transatlantic Southern Gothic: Niall Griffiths and Cormac McCarthy | 199

From Pastoral to Capitalism | 202

Race, Gothic, Politics | 210

### **IV Trashing the National Centre**

England's Human Waste in the Novels of John King | 219

#### **IV.1 *The Football Factory* | 224**

Ways of Looking at Trash | 224

The Aftermath of Empire | 241

White Male Impotence | 252

#### **IV.2 *White Trash* | 258**

Policing the Underclass | 258

Social Contamination | 269

Adapting the American White Trash Aesthetic | 283

### **Conclusion | 293**

### **Works Cited | 297**

Primary Sources | 297

Literary Texts | 297

Films | 297

Secondary Sources | 298