

Contents

Acknowledgements | 7

1. Introduction | 9

CONTEXTUAL AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2. Illness and Disability in Contemporary Memoirs | 29

2.1 Illness and Disability on the Literary Market:

The Age of the Memoir | 29

2.2 The Personal and the Theoretical:

Memoirs of Well-Being as Academic Memoirs | 36

2.3 Narrating Illness and Disability:

Conventional Scripts and Their Revisions | 40

3. Approaching 'Well-Being' | 49

3.1 Health Problems and the Problem with 'Health' | 49

3.2 Rewriting Cure: The Remission Society | 60

3.3 Recovering the Body: Embodiment and the Remission Society | 68

THE 'CASE STUDIES'

4. Healing Beyond Reconstruction:

Ampu-Narration in Audre Lorde's *The Cancer Journals* | 75

4.1 Against Linearity, Certainty, and Closure:

Deconstructing the Triumph Narrative in *The Cancer Journals* | 83

4.2 Subverting the (Silent) War on Breast Cancer:

Lorde's Vision of the 'Warrior' | 93

4.3 Exposing the Post-Mastectomy Body:

Lorde's Rejection of (Narrative) Prosthesis | 103

5. Musical Cu[r]e:

Reconnection in Oliver Sacks's *A Leg to Stand On* | 119

5.1 "Bringing the Body Back In":

Embodiment in Sacks's Memoir | 125

5.2 Encountering the Doctor:

Sacks, Dr. Swan, and the Disappointment with the Biomedical Cure | 130

5.3 Recovery in Action: Sacks's "Muscle Music" | 142

5.4	Merging the Objective and the Subjective: Sacks's 'Neurology of Identity' 148
6.	"She Rides It Like an Untamed Pony": The Politics of Well-Being in Simi Linton's <i>My Body Politic</i> 157
6.1	<i>My Body Politic</i> and the 'New Disability Memoir' 162
6.2	From Cure to Accommodation: Introducing Disability Rights into the Progress Narrative 167
6.3	Becoming Disabled: Community, Sexuality, and the "Body Politic" 177
6.4	Beholding (the Pleasures of) Disabled Bodies 189
7.	Variation and Well-Being: Rethinking The Impaired Body in Kenny Fries's <i>The History of My Shoes and the Evolution of Darwin's Theory</i> 199
7.1	Rethinking Impairment beyond the Medical and Social Model 205
7.2	Rewriting the (Hi)Story of the Impaired Body in Fries's Memoir 214
7.3	Variation and Contingency: Deconstructing Dis/Ability 223
7.4	"Everything an Adaptation": Alternative Ways of Coping with Impairment 230
8.	Rewriting the Diagnostic Narrative: Siri Hustvedt's <i>The Shaking Woman or A History of My Nerves</i> 239
8.1	The Personal Meets the Scientific: The 'Brain Memoir' 244
8.2	Beyond Diagnosis: The Case of The Shaking Woman 251
8.3	"A Woman is Shaking:" Hysteria and the Discourse of Disease 257
8.4	<i>The Shaking Woman</i> as Therapeutic Narrative 269
9.	Conclusion 281
	Bibliography 295