

Contents

1 Introduction | 7

- 1.1 Transforming Supernaturalism | 7
- 1.2 Contextualising Daniel Defoe's Work on the Supernatural | 10
- 1.3 Jane Wenham: A Case in Point | 13
- 1.4 Defoe's Supernatural Tracts | 16
- 1.5 How to Qualify the "Supernatural" | 20
- 1.6 Seeking Certainty of Self | 26
- 1.7 Chapter Overview | 31

PART I: DANIEL DEFOE'S SUPERNATURALISM REVISITED: JUDGMENT AND THE BURDEN OF PROOF

2 Daniel Defoe's Supernatural Tracts and Contemporary Supernaturalism: Problems of Language and Evidence | 37

- 2.1 Introduction | 38
- 2.2 The Idea of Being Able to Study the Supernatural | 41
- 2.3 Analysing the Supernatural | 45
- 2.4 Disengagement from Demonological Debates | 49
- 2.5 The Question of Evidence | 53
- 2.6 Defoe's Treatment of Evidence of the Supernatural | 58
- 2.7 Defoe's Lines of Argumentation in his Supernatural Tracts | 64
- 2.8 Summary | 68

PART II: TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE SUPERNATURAL: PROPHECY AND DELUSION

3 Defoe's Play with the "As If": Fiction, Delusion and Imagination | 71

- 3.1 Introduction | 72
- 3.2 Disruptive Imagination | 76
- 3.3 Imagination and Uncertainty | 83
- 3.4 "Deluded" Imagination | 88
- 3.5 Error or Delusion? Discrediting Testimonies | 94
- 3.6 Delusion as a Motif | 99

4 Describing Emotional Conflict and Continuity of Experience in Defoe's Narratives *Journal of the Plague Year*, *Robinson Crusoe* and *Roxana* | 107

4.1 Introduction | 107

4.2 Transformations of the Prophetic Voice: The Case of *Robinson Crusoe* | 110

4.3 Transformations of the Magical: The Case of Fear in *A Journal of the Plague Year* | 117

4.4 Transformations of the Demonic: The Case of *Roxana*; or, *The Fortunate Mistress* | 122

4.5 Summary | 130

PART III: SINGULAR EXPERIENCE AND COLLECTIVE KNOWLEDGE

5 Frames of Knowledge in Daniel Defoe's Story-Telling | 133

5.1 Introduction | 133

5.2 Offering an Aetiological Myth of Knowledge | 136

5.3 Dialogic Stories | 140

5.4 Fact and Fiction: Embedded Story-Telling in *A Journal of the Plague Year* | 145

5.5 The Failure of Dialogic Interaction | 161

5.6 Enacting Knowledge: Self-Fashioning in *Roxana* | 164

5.7 Summary | 170

6 Conclusion | 173

7 Bibliography | 1779

7.1 Primary Literature | 179

7.2 Secondary Literature | 186