

# Table of Contents

---

List of Illustrations | 7

**Acknowledgement** | 9

**Introduction: Urban Narratives And Bruno Latour's Empiricism** | 11

**I. Contextualizing Contemporary Urban Narratives  
as Literary Documentary** | 21

The Postmodern Crisis of Realism and Representation | 21

The Documentary Impulse in Literature | 26

Referential Narratives and their Empirical Anchorage | 30

**II. Bruno Latour's 'New Empiricism'** | 37

Shaking the Modern Foundation of Epistemology | 39

Modifying the 'Scenography', Renewing Empiricism | 47

Clearing Obstacles, 'Translating' Latour for Literary Studies | 56

**III. The Poetics and Politics of Rambling in Iain Sinclair's  
*Hackney, That Rose-Red Empire*** | 65

Strategies of Literary Documentary: The 'Art of Describing' | 68

Maps and Mappability: A 'Not Telling' in Hackney's 'Space War' | 93

What is There and Which is Here? That is Fact and this Concern! | 108

#### **IV. Strategies, Spatial Trajectories and Scenography: Micro-Mapping the Megacity in Suketu Mehta's *Maximum City* | 113**

Mehta's Strategies for an ANT Methodology | 118

Tracing Spatial Ecologies: Mumbai 'Unfolding' | 133

Mehta's Metaphors and Matters of Concern | 144

#### **V. Of Spirals and Capitals: Sam Miller's *Delhi, Adventures in a Megacity* | 151**

Sam Miller's Strategies of Literary Documentary | 153

SIM-City, Sam's City: Cities in Crisis and Unforeseen Spatial Trajectories | 166

Mimesis of Process and Self-Reflexivity in Miller's ANT:

Revising Preconceptions, Enabling Ethical Encounters? | 176

#### **Conclusion: Actor-Network Theory and Literary Criticism | 181**

Looking Back | 181

Reading Networks as a Form of Literary Criticism:

The Affordances of Networks and Narratives | 190

#### **Works Cited | 199**