

Edited by Angela R. Hooks

# Diary as Literature

*Through the Lens of Multiculturalism in America*

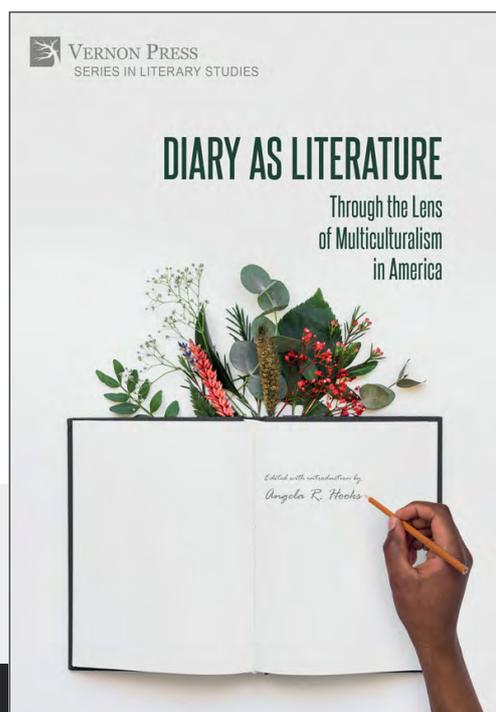
SERIES IN LITERARY STUDIES

## Summary

Meandering plots, dead ends, and repetition, diaries do not conform to literary expectations, yet they still manage to engage the reader, arouse empathy and elicit emotional responses that many may be more inclined to associate with works of fiction. Blurring the lines between literary genres, diary writing can be considered a quasi-literary genre that offers a unique insight into the lives of those we may have otherwise never discovered.

This edited volume examines how diarists, poets, writers, musicians, and celebrities use their diary to reflect on multiculturalism and intercultural relations. Within this book, multiculturalism is defined as the sociocultural experiences of underrepresented groups who fall outside the mainstream of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and language. Multiculturalism reflects different cultures and racial groups with equal rights and opportunities, equal attention and representation without assimilation. In America, the multicultural society includes various cultural and ethnic groups that do not necessarily have engaging interaction with each other whereas, importantly, intercultural is a community of cultures who learn from each other, and have respect and understand different cultures. Presented as a collection of academic essays and creative writing, *The Diary as Literature Through the Lens of Multiculturalism in America* analyses diary writing in its many forms from oral diaries and memoirs to letters and travel writing. Divided into three sections: Diaries of

the American Civil War, Diaries of Trips and Letters of Diaspora, and Diaries of Family, Prison Lyrics, and a Memoir, the contributors bring a range of expertise to this quasi-literary genre including comparative and transatlantic literature, composition and rhetoric, history and women and gender studies.



## All the authors

- Angela R. Hooks;
- Corey D. Greathouse;
- Daniel P. Kotzin;
- Anthony David Franklin;
- Kelsey Paige Mason;
- Suzy Woltmann;
- Chimene Jackson;
- Philip Krummrich;
- Alexa Potts;
- Aisha Z. Cort;
- Sumaira Ahammed;
- Virginia Maresca;
- Rachel Wagner.

## About the editor

**Angela R. Hooks**, Ph.D., MFA, is an active practitioner and theorist of diary and journaling techniques for writing and everyday life. She has taught writing and literature since 2006 in both public and private institutions, community college, and four-year universities. Her writing both scholarly and creative has appeared online and in print.

The idea for this book derived from a roundtable session of the same name for the 2019 NeMLA Conference. Notably, the roundtable was the result of a literature course Dr. Hooks teaches. Teaching diary as literature sprouted from her passion for diary writing. For three decades, she progressed from writing in a diary to teaching others to write in a diary, to bringing the diary into the classroom to researching the lives of other diary-keepers, and reading other people's diaries—published and unpublished—to writing her dissertation about Black women diary writers because their diaries had been “lost through sabotage” and “rarely published.”

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