

## CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS	<i>page</i>	viii
PREFACE		xi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS		xxii
INTRODUCTION Singular or specific?		1
<b>1 Postcolonial theory</b>		20
i Postcolonial singularity		22
ii Postcolonial specifications		35
iii The Marxist counter-attack		41
iv Towards a concept of the specific		48
v Edward Said, between territory and de-territorialisation		51
<i>Excursus I A postcolonial world?</i>		62
<b>2 Edouard Glissant: from nation to Relation</b>		66
i The critical consensus		70
ii Original and outcome: Glissant's <i>totalité</i>		71
iii National redundancy, dialectical <i>dépassemment</i>		76
iv Against folklore, against Creole		79
v <i>La Lézarde</i> (1958): the promise of national consciousness		81
vi <i>Malemort</i> (1975): the dialectic <i>en panne</i>		87

vii	<i>La Case du commandeur</i> (1981): despair and transition	91
viii	<i>Mahagony</i> (1987), <i>Tout-monde</i> (1993): beyond national consciousness	100
ix	Beyond specificity: <i>Poétique de la Relation</i> (1990) and after	118
	<i>Excursus II On the nation and its alternatives</i>	126
	<b>3 Charles Johnson and the transcendence of place</b>	133
i	Critical contexts	137
ii	Johnson and the Good Thing	143
iii	Phenomenological implications	148
iv	Allmuseri immanence	151
v	Becoming-impersonal	155
vi	Writing on the plane of immanence	168
vii	The costs of singularisation	171
	<i>Excursus III The universal and the transcendental</i>	176
	<b>4 Mohammed Dib and the ‘alam al-mithâl: between the singular and the specific</b>	188
i	Models of development	190
ii	Territory deferred	194
iii	Toward the limits of the specific	206
iv	Tâ’wil, Ishraq and the ‘alam al-mithâl	215
v	Towards extinction	223
vi	And then?	235
	<i>Excursus IV Return to the specific</i>	247
	<b>5 Severo Sarduy: <i>sunyata</i> and beyond</b>	254
i	Territorial beginnings	265
ii	<i>Gestos</i> (1963): toward paralysis of the ‘sensory-motor schema’	266
iii	Organisation by frame	270
iv	Sarduy’s neo-baroque	274
v	<i>De donde son los cantantes</i> (1967): at the limits of <i>lo cubano</i>	276
vi	Empty foundations	281

vii The Buddhist path	284
viii <i>Cobra</i> (1972)	290
ix <i>Maitreya</i> (1978)	295
x Sarduy's singular univocity	298
xi <i>Colibri</i> (1984) and the renewal of situation	306
xii <i>Cocuyo</i> (1990) and disorientation	312
xiii From death to dying	318
xiv <i>Pájaros de la playa</i> (1993)	322
CONCLUSION	329
NOTES	336
BIBLIOGRAPHY	394
INDEX	426