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Troubling Tricksters

Revisioning Critical Conversations

Deanna Reder and Linda M. Morra, editors

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"From the opening question, 'What's the Trouble with the Trickster?' to the concluding imperative, 'Let's Be Our Own Tricksters, Eh,' the essays, interviews, poems, and stories in this collection signal an important new phase of trickster studies: one that is deeply historically and culturally grounded. Deanna Reder and Linda Morra have gathered the nineteen voices of scholars and artists, of storytellers and critics, of tricksters and troublemakers to reinvigorate critical conversations about Nanabush, Coyote, Rigoureau, Wesakecak, Raven, Glooscap, Naapi, and 'the trickster.' Often with a captivating sense of humour and in highly readable prose, *Troubling Tricksters* follows the shift from 'the trickster moment' of the 1980s to the ethical engagements of contemporary Indigenous theory. This timely intervention should become compulsory reading for anyone interested in literary studies in Canada today."

– **Laura Moss**, associate professor, Department of English; associate editor, *Canadian Literature*; and director, International Canadian Studies Centre, University of British Columbia

"The term 'trickster' has done much to illustrate the distinct nature of Indigenous literatures and narrative traditions. This volume examines the historical use of this term but also points out its limitations through the lens of Indigenous thought and philosophy. I will have all of my students read and study this important book."

– **Neal McLeod**, Trent University, Indigenous Studies

Troubling Tricksters is a collection of theoretical essays, creative pieces, and critical ruminations that provides a re-visioning of trickster criticism in light of recent backlash against it. The complaints of some Indigenous writers, the critique from Indigenous nationalist critics, and the changing of academic fashion have resulted in few new studies on the trickster. One of the objectives of this anthology is, then, to encourage scholarship that is mindful of the critic's responsibility to communities, and to focus discussions on incarnations of tricksters in their particular national contexts. *Troubling Tricksters* offers a timely counterbalance to this growing critical lacuna and proposes new approaches to trickster studies, approaches that have been clearly influenced by the nationalists' call for cultural and historical specificity.

Deanna Reder, a Cree-Métis scholar, holds a joint appointment as an assistant professor in Simon Fraser University's First Nations Studies Program and the Department of English. She recently published on Edward Ahenakew in *Studies in Canadian Literature*.

Linda M. Morra, an associate professor at Bishop's University, specializes in Canadian studies/literature, with a particular focus on twentieth-century Canadian writers. Her publications include a book on the letters of Emily Carr and Ira Dilworth (*Corresponding Influence*, 2006) and an anthology about Marshall McLuhan (*At the Speed of Light There Is Only Illumination*, 2004).

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