Milton’s Modernities

Poetry, Philosophy, and History from the Seventeenth Century to the Present

Edited by Feisal G. Mohamed and Patrick Fadely

The phrase “early modern” challenges readers and scholars to explore ways in which that period expands and refines contemporary views of the modern. *Milton’s Modernities* is a collection of eleven original essays undertaking such exploration with a focus on John Milton, a poet whose prodigious energies simultaneously point to the past and future.

Bristling with insights on Milton's major works, *Milton’s Modernities* offers fresh perspectives on the thinkers central to our theorizations of modernity: from Lucretius and Spinoza, Hegel and Kant, to Benjamin and Deleuze. At the core of this volume is an embrace of the possibilities unleashed by current trends in philosophy, variously styled as the return to ethics, or metaphysics, or religion. These make all the more visible Milton’s dialogues with later modernity, dialogues that promise to generate much critical discussion in early modern studies and beyond.

Such approaches necessarily challenge many prevailing assumptions that have guided recent Milton criticism—assumptions about context and periodization, for instance. In this way, *Milton’s Modernities* powerfully broadens the historical archive beyond the materiality of events and things, incorporating as well intellectual currents, hybrids, and insights.

“What is exciting about the recent wave of Milton scholarship—and I include *Milton’s Modernities* in that category—is that it builds on foundational new critical and historicist work to rethink the boundaries of Milton studies more generally. This timely and innovative volume will appeal not only to dyed-in-the-wool Miltonists, but also to scholars who may not think of themselves as Miltonists at all.”

—Melissa E. Sanchez, author of *Erotic Subjects: The Sexuality of Politics in Early Modern English Literature*