

# Race in Modern Irish Literature and Culture

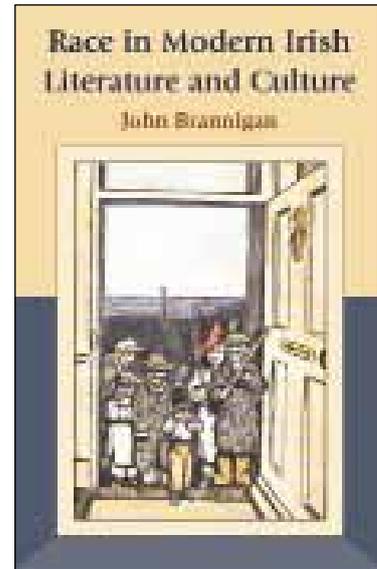
John Brannigan

July 2009

Hb 978 0 7486 3883 3 £60.00

272pp 234 x 156 mm

16 b&w illustrations



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Sets out to expose the fictive nature of Irish monoculturalism and to probe figurations of racial identity, racial difference, and foreignness in Irish culture

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## Description

*Race in Modern Irish Literature and Culture* presents a radical re-reading of the cultural history of the Irish state, by demonstrating through original historical research and insightful new readings of key literary and artistic works that race has been central to the ways in which modern Ireland has defined itself. John Brannigan examines the tropes of racial identity and racist distinction that underpin modern expressions of Irishness, and shows how a persistent concern with racial ideologies can be traced through twentieth-century Irish culture. In this study, *Ulysses* is read anew in the context of the gathering of the Irish Race Congress in Paris, and the formation of the Irish Free State in 1922. The works of Liam O'Flaherty, Samuel Beckett, W.B. Yeats and Jack Yeats are shown to engage critically with anthropological representations of 'the Irish face'. Brannigan reads a wide range of mid-century fiction as part of a public discourse about 'foreign bodies', and goes on to examine the critical conversations taking place in the sixties and seventies about figurations of blackness in Irish culture.

A provocative revision of modern Irish cultural history, this book makes challenging interventions in Irish studies, literary and cultural studies, and critical race studies.

## Key Features

- Provides new research on the social history of racial ideologies and racist expressions in the Irish state since 1922
- Offers new readings of Irish cultural productions and literary texts (by James Joyce, W.B. Yeats, Samuel Beckett, Liam O'Flaherty, Kate O'Brien, Edna O'Brien, Brendan Behan, James Plunkett, Paul Durcan, Austin Clarke, Aidan Higgins, Denis Johnston, and others) emphasising how they engage with the histories of Irish racism and raciology
- Demonstrates how a new understanding of the constitutive role of race and racism in modern Irish culture might necessitate a revision of the dominant precepts and trends in contemporary Irish studies
- Addresses the significance of the social and cultural history of race and racism in twentieth-century Ireland for the post-'Celtic Tiger' era

## The Author

John Brannigan teaches English at University College Dublin. He is the author of several books on modern British and Irish literature, including *Literature, Culture and Society in Postwar England, 1945-1965* (2002), *Brendan Behan* (2002), *Orwell to the Present: Literature in England, 1945-2000* (2003), and *Pat Barker* (2005). He has also published widely on contemporary critical theories, including a book on *New Historicism and Cultural Materialism* (1998).

## Readership

Academics, postgraduates and upper level undergraduates in English Studies, Irish Studies and Postcolonial Studies.

## Literary Studies

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Read the full-text online edition of *Race in Modern Irish Literature and Culture* (2009).<sup>Â</sup> Brannigan reads a wide range of mid-century fiction against a public discourse on "foreign bodies" and examines critical conversations on figurations of blackness in Irish culture. A provocative revision of modern Irish cultural history. Excerpt. Quite suddenly, or so it seemed, Ireland became a multi-cultural society.