



# Postmodern Utopias and Feminist Fictions

By Professor Jennifer A. Wagner-Lawlor

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**Postmodern Utopias and Feminist Fictions** By Professor Jennifer A. Wagner-Lawlor

This study examines feminist speculative fiction from the late twentieth- and early twenty-first century, and finds within it a new vision for the future. Rejecting notions of postmodern utopia as exclusionary, Jennifer A. Wagner-Lawlor advances one defined in terms of hospitality, casting what she calls "imaginative sympathy" as the foundation of utopian desire. Tracing these themes through the works of Atwood, Butler, Lessing, and Winterson, as well as those of well-known Muslim feminists such as El Saadawi, Parsipur, and Mernissi, Wagner-Lawlor balances literary analysis with innovative extensions of feminist philosophy to show how inclusionary utopian thinking can inform and promote political agency. Examining these contemporary fictions reveals the rewards of attending to a community that acknowledges difference, diversity, and the imaginative potential of every human being.

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## Postmodern Utopias and Feminist Fictions By Professor Jennifer A. Wagner-Lawlor Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #3453363 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Cambridge University Press
- Published on: 2013-07-31
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.98" h x .67" w x 5.98" l, 1.20 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 250 pages

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **About the Author**

Jennifer A. Wagner-Lawlor is an associate professor of Women's Studies and English at Penn State University. She is author/editor of four books, the most recent of which are this volume, and *The Scandal of Susan Sontag* (co-edited with Barbara Ching, 2009). She has published numerous articles on nineteenth- and twentieth-century literature.

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