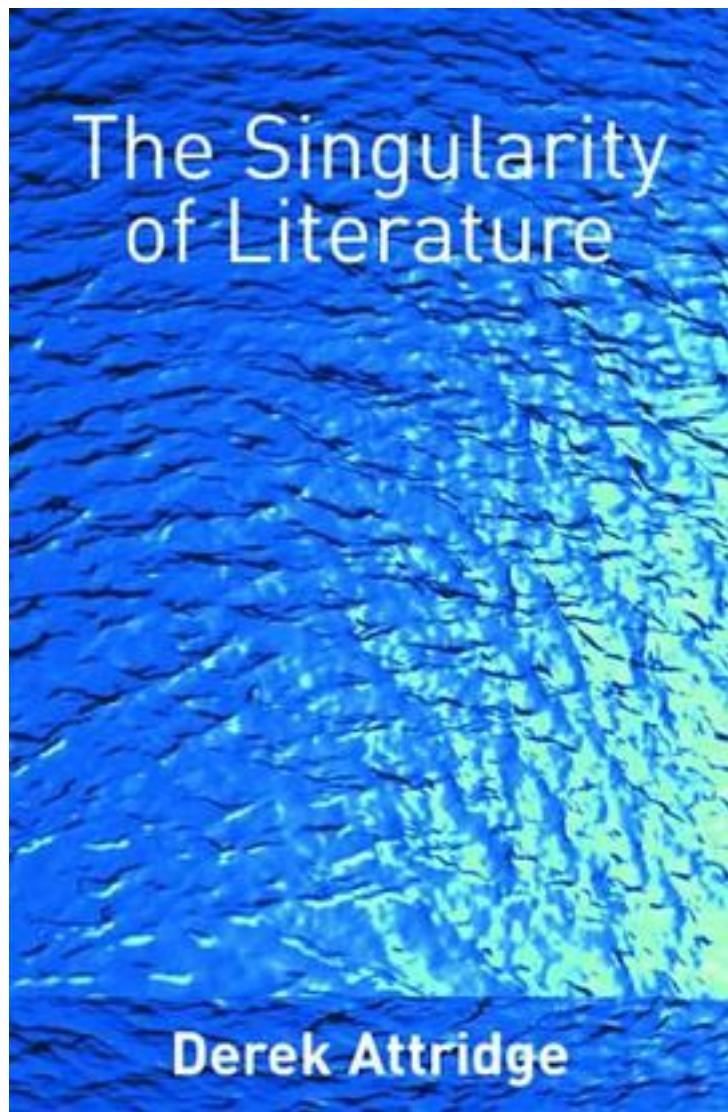


# The Singularity of Literature



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What is literature? What is the quality in a text that leads a reader to call it 'literary'? What is the 'certain way' of reading that calls into being the literary potential of a text? Why have we been unable to definitively answer these questions, and where does that leave us? Derek Attridge argues that the impossibility of definition leaves us at a beginning. From the point where literature resists definition, we can begin afresh to explore its workings. Rethinking aspects of the literary that have too long been taken for granted, this volume: considers literature's evasion from definition in light of the practice and institution of Western art; provides a rich new vocabulary for discussions of the literary, reworking such terms as invention, singularity, otherness, alterity, the event, performance and form; returns literature to the realm of ethics, and argues the ethical value of the literary institution to a culture; demonstrates how a new understanding of the literary might be applied in a 'responsible', creative mode of reading. The Singularity of Literature is a brilliant contribution to the theory of literature.

作者介绍:

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标签

文学理论

文论

DerekAttridge

学科史

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LiteraryandCulturalTheory

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## 评论

之前阅读了德诺拉的《阿多诺之后》，对其中的“音乐事件”很感兴趣。该书讲述了作为事件的文学，于是趁机阅读了该书。尽管两者都谈论“事件”，多有相似之论，但读后发现此“事件”非彼“事件”：前者是社会学的，呈现了具体的民族志案例；后者则是文学理论的，思辨色彩浓郁，相对不太容易理解。前者的提出，主要是为了将审美等因素重新纳入社会学的图景，后者的意图则还是基本围绕着“文学性”这个问题。

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言辞恳切深厚，像一阵清风拂面。

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## 书评

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