Directions in Empirical Literary Studies

In honor of Willie van Peer

Edited by Sonia Zyngier, Marisa Bortolussi, Anna Chesnokova and Jan Auracher

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Directions in Empirical Literary Studies is on the cutting edge of empirical studies and is a much needed volume. It both widens the scope of empirical studies and looks at them from an intercultural perspective by bringing together renowned scholars from the fields of philosophy, sociology, psychology, linguistics and literature, all focusing on how empirical studies have impacted these different areas. Theoretical issues are discussed and solid methods are presented. Some chapters also show the relation between empirical studies and new technology, examining developments in computer science and corpus linguistics. This book takes a global perspective, with contributors from many different countries, both senior and junior researchers. Broad in scope and interdisciplinary in nature, it contributes with the state-of-the-art developments in the field.

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“Here is a volume that treats readers to a discovery tour in empirical studies of literature. Words like fragility, sympathy, imagining, metaphors, and novelty sound in this volume. They police the scope of studies of literature. Stories make us more aware of the real world than any documentary truth. Only through literature can we enter somebody else’s feelings. The name for it is compassion. Many of the international experts who contribute here share that goal of unpacking the mechanisms of compassion in stories, often through experiments and text manipulations. Nothing they write is without interest. In this sense, this is more than a Festschrift, and for good reason. You come away from the book with the sense of having caught sight of a beacon.”

Robert Hogenraad, Catholic University of Louvain

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