CONTENTS

PROLOGUE • TOGETHERNESS  1

Vingt ans après; or, No Place to Hide  1
Approach, Focus, Structure  5
Acknowledging Others  11

INTRODUCTION • THE COSMODERN IMAGINARY  15

1. Relatedness
   The Relational Scene  15
   Cosmodern, Cosmodernism, Cosmodernity  18
   Appositions: The Scandal of “We” and the New Authenticity  20
   Of Allergy: Ontology, Ethics, and a Cosmodern Brief  25
   Late Globalization and the Cosmodern Double-Bind  33
   The Contest of Orders  37

2. Cosmodern Environmentalism: A Code of Worldly Conduct  41
   Il n’y a pas d’hors risque  41
   Culture of Risk, Culture at Risk: The “Indeterminate
   Cosmos” and the Egological  44
   Egology into Ecology  48
   “Only the ‘with’”: “Globe,” mundus, and the
   Ethos of Collegiality  51

3. With-ness and the Epistemological Imaginary  57
   Collegiality, Episteme, Cultural History  58
   Fragments of an Interdisciplinary Genealogy  62

PART 1 • IDIOMATICS  77

1. Cosmodernism and Vernacularism  77
   The “New Linguistic Order” and the
   Murmur of Foreignness  77
X • CONTENTS

Language, Ownership, and the “Monolingualism of the Other” 79
Norm, Mastery, and the Vernacular 82

2. Glossolalia: Chang-rae Lee’s Native Speaker and Cosmodern Nativity 86
   Legends, Spies, and “Ethnic Coverage” 86
   The Whitman Code 91
   The Face, the Voice, and the Voice-over 95
   Vocation and Calling: From Gaze to Language 100

3. Cacophony: Federman the Lingovert 108
   The Grammar of Betrayal 108
   The Repetitive, the Patrimonial, and the Ethical:
     Return to Manure 112
   Being, Speaking, and the Unspeakable 114
   The Voice and the Name 118

PART 2 • ONOMASTICS

1. The Names of the World 121
   Heritage, Contingence, Cosmonomastics 121
   Patrimony, Patronymy, Heteronomy 123

2. Namesakes 127
   Global Gogol: Jhumpa Lahiri’s The Namesake 127
   Paronomasia; or, Embracing the World 130

3. “Through a filter of associations and links”:
   The Name of Homeness 134
   A Gesture Life and the Onomastic Contest 134
   Relations, Relatives, Realty: Belonging and the Ethics of Naming 138

4. The “Infamous Other”: Onomachy 145
   Alofi’s Embattled Names 145
   Benjamin Franklin to Roland Barthes 148
   Onomastic Transference 153
   Naming, Translating 155
PART 3 • TRANSLATIONS

1. The Translational, the Relational, and the Cosmodern 157
   No Joking Matter: The Chasm and the Chiasma 157
   The Un/translatable; or, Founded in Translation 162
   Philology, History, Critique 164
   Culturalism, “Relational Semantics,” Cosmodernism:
      Translation and Difference 168
   Lost and Found: Translation, Self-Translation,
      and the Production of the Human 170

2. Geopolitics of Desire 175
   Remade in China: Nicole Mones, Lost in Translation 175
   La planétisation: A grand récit? 177
   Paleontology, Totality, Diversity 182
   “The natural mutation of things” 186

3. Translation, Mistranslation, Countertranslation 190
   Cognition, Cognition, Re-cognition 190
   Fudging the Answers: Suki Kim’s The Interpreter;
      or, Translation as Hubris 192
   Lolita in the Bronx 195
   Translatability and Readability 200

PART 4 • READINGS

1. Cosmodern Interpretive Communities 203
   Other-Reading 203
   Call, Response, Transaction 206
   Cultural Studies without Cultures? Cosmopolitan Reading 209
   Cultural Studies with Cultures: Cosmodern Reading 213

2. Against Solipsism 219
   Meteorology of Reading: Lolita in Tehran 219
   Traveling in Books 224
   Solipsism, Egology, Autocracy 228

3. “Each was the hidden key to the other”:
   Reading the Sufis in California 233
   Bright Ardor 233
XII • CONTENTS

Ruminations: Pico Iyer’s Abandon 235
“Falling into a new relation”: The World of Symbols 238

4. Friendships across Death: Alice Randall’s Pushkin 242
   The Russian Shakespeare 242
   Politics of Friendship 245

PART 5 • METABOLICS

1. The Metastatic 253
   Cosmodernism, Inc.: The Body, the World, and the Haptic 253
   The Perfect Crime 258
   Underworld’s Dietrology; or, Know Thy Garbage 261
   Heterology: The Decalogue of Waste 264
   The Aura of Reproduction 267
   Montage and “Ethical Strength” 272

2. The Metamorphic 275
   Performance 275
   “Engineered Transpositions”; or, Updike’s Tropical Romance 279
   Tropics, Tropisms, Allotropes 283
   Tropical Tilt: Karen Tei Yamashita’s Tropic of Orange 286
   DeLillo’s Body Art: Cosmetics and Cosmoderns 290

EPILOGUE • POSTMODERNISM INTO COSMODERNISM? 295
   Time, Achrony, and “Furtive Sameness” 295
   Future and Futures: The Digital Imperative 299
   Time and Its Others, History before Time:
      The Cosmodern Imperative 303
      The Cosmodern Turn 307

NOTES 317
BIBLIOGRAPHY 361
INDEX 389