Contents

An Embodied Introduction 1


2. Character Designation: Normate Reductionism and Nominal Displacement 35

3. Come-to-Bed Eyes: Ophthalmocentrism, Ocularcentrism, and Symbolic Castration 51

4. “A Hand of the Blind Ventures Forth”: The Grope, the Grip, and Haptic Perception 67

5. Social Friction and Science Fiction: Alterity, Avoidance, and Constructs of Contagiousness 80

6. Visual Violation: Staring, Panopticism, and the Unseen Gazer 95

7. Culturally Assisted Suicide: The Mourning and Melancholia of Blindness Deconstructed 111

Epilogue 126

Notes 133

Works Cited 155

Index 163