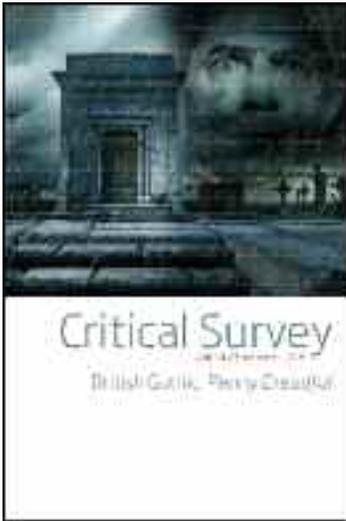


CRITICAL SURVEY

Call for Papers: Narrating Football in Literary Texts & Films



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In the 2014/2015 Barclays Premier League season, Leicester City were likely to be relegated, but a run of six wins, a draw and a solitary defeat in the last eight matches secured them a berth in the Premier League for another season. They started the 2015/2016 season as 5000/1 outsiders to win the Premier League and were contenders for relegation. The Foxes however outsmarted everyone and on May 7th, 2016 they were crowned champions for the first time in their history. Pundits described Leicester's win as a fairytale. Indeed, an incredible narrative was unfolding every week, the heroes of which are a squad worth £54.4m who rubbed shoulders with some of the world's most expensive players. At the heart of this miraculous win is the club's goal-scoring machine, Jamie Vardy, whose life is set to be documented in a Hollywood production.

But Leicester's story is just one of a number of thrilling tales involving football and footballers. Over the past thirty years or so, football and football players have made headlines for all sorts of reasons. In fact, football has become a site over which socioeconomic, political, historical and cultural discourses converge. Recent FIFA scandals and the terrorist attacks on Stade de France are just examples of how football has become an increasingly serious topic rather than an entertaining stock.

Football has always been a raw material that screenwriters and novelists have utilised with cherish, bringing football matches into literary plots. To some extent, one may argue that films and novels have been converted into football pitches over which teams battled, won, lost and drew. Authors have frequently drawn on footballing jargon to portray their characters' inner feelings, expectations, aspirations and disillusionments among other things.

An advertisement by beIN Sports for the English Premier League makes the link between football and literary works clear as the advertisement features an actor on a theatre stage soliloquising what appears to be a comparison between a football match and a play. The advertisement puns on the word "play" as it starts with "Even the greatest plays begin with a single word on page" and continues to employ words that are frequently used in discussing a football match and a dramatic performance such as "heroes", "perform", "timing", "rehearsal", "improvisation", "inspiration", "characters", "entrance", "plots", "the greatest show of all" and "the ultimate stage".

In this context, *Critical Survey* is planning a special issue on football and literature to give interested researchers an opportunity to explore how the two fields of football and literature intersect and to examine how football has inspired authors to write great literary works and screen scripts at different times and in different cultures. Innovative approaches are strongly encouraged and welcomed. Manuscripts should be between 5,000 and 7,000 words in length including the abstract (up to 150 words), keywords (6 to 8 in alphabetical order), notes, captions and tables, acknowledgements (if any), biographical details (taken from the cover page), and references. Images in a text count for 200 words each. If images are used, authors are expected to secure the copyright themselves. Please refer to the Style Guide which can be accessed at (<http://journals.berghahnbooks.com/critical-survey/info-for-authors/>).

Article Submissions

Please direct inquiries to the Editor, Bryan Loughrey (bloughrey@mac.com) and send expressions of interest and/or abstracts to him by **31 July 2016**.

Authors should provide a cover page giving brief biographical details (up to 100 words), institutional affiliation(s) and full contact information, including an email address.

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