Contents

Acknowledgments — V

Wilfried Raussert and Susana Rocha Teixeira

Introduction: Life Narratives, Creativity, and the Social in the Americas —— 1

Part I: Life Narratives

Alfred Hornung

Audre Lorde and Jack Kerouac in Mexico and the Creation of Transnational Life Writing —— 23

Frank Mehring

Prismatic Life Writing: Drawing the Schwarzwald in Desierto de los Leones. The German American Artist, Designer, and Teacher Winold Reiss in Mexico —— 35

Susana Rocha Teixeira

The Makeover Genre, Life Writing, Men, and Masculinities —— 69

Part II: Creativity

Wilfried Raussert

Playing it Cool, or when Experience Meets Creativity: 'An Aesthetics of the Cool' in Life Writings by Olaudah Equiano and Zora Neale Hurston —— 95

Astrid Haas

Black Narrative Self-Making in a Changing Scene: The *Life and Adventures* of James Beckwourth as Western Borderlands Autobiography —— 113

Ines E. Veauthier

Bridging Worlds: Individual and Collective Reflections —— 129



Sofie Behluli

Lonely Descriptions of Art and Life: Olivia Laing's *The Lonely City* (2016) —— 145

Part III: The Social

Atalie Gerhard

Womanist Awakenings in the Multicultural North: How Fatuma Adar's and Méshama Eyob-Austin's Life Writings Represent Black Girlhood in Canada —— 163

Sabrina Völz

Exposing Sexual Abuse among the Amish and Seeking Social Change: Misty Griffin's *Tears of the Silenced* —— 183

Mita Banerjee

Biomediality in the Andes: Life Writing and Disability in Violeta Ayala's and Dan Fallshaw's *The Fight* —— 201

Anna Ferrari

Dancing at the Border of Fiction and Fact: David B. Feinberg's Life on the Page between Activism and Literature —— 221

Notes on Contributors —— 235

Index —— 239