Contents

1	Introduction: Family Matters in Contemporary British Migration Literature —— 1
1.1	Family and Migration —— 2
1.2	The Family as a (New?) Field for Literary Studies: Aims and Methodology —— 7
1.3	Family and Migration in Literature: State of Research ——12
2	Family Practices and Cultures of Relatedness —— 20
2.1	Family and Identity: Related and Relational Selves —— 22
2.1.1	Doing Family: The Social Construction of Relatedness —— 23
2.1.2	Family and the Social Development of the Self —— 37
2.2	Family (Hi)Stories and the Genealogical Imagination —— 48
2.2.1	Family Memory and Narrative —— 50
2.2.2	Genes and Genealogies —— 70
2.3	Doing Family as a New Field for Literary Analysis —— 77
3	Uncovering Family History: The Intergenerational Construction of
	Identity through Family Memory —— 81
3.1	"Divided loyalties": In-Betweenness and British-Asian Identity in
	Meera Syal's Anita and Me (1996) —— 82
3.1.1	Family Cultures and Differences —— 83
3.1.2	The Past Is a Foreign Country: Memory and Longing in the Diasporic Family —— 85
3.1.3	Anita Rutter: Meena's "passport to acceptance" —— 90
3.1.4	"Help from overseas": Meena's Initiation into Family History —— 95
3.2	"Everyone should know where they come from": Genealogical Identity in Andrea Levy's <i>Fruit of the Lemon</i> (1999) —— 102
3.2.1	The Family Tree Stub: Migration as a Narrative of Arrival and Beginning —— 103
3.2.2	Models of 'Rooted' Englishness: Genealogies, Family Traditions and Cultural Identity —— 110
3.2.3	The Fruit of the Family Tree: Appropriating Family History and Reclaiming Englishness ——117
3.3	"Past tense, future imperfect": Breaking Free from Tangled Family



VIII — Contents

3.3.1	Root Canals: The Inescapability of (Family) History —— 123
3.3.2	Families of Choice: Irie's Search for 'Pure' Englishness —— 126
3.3.3	"The perfect blankness of the past": Claiming Family History as a
	Chance for New Beginnings —— 131
3.4	Concluding Thoughts: Family History and Genealogy as a
	Framework for Narratives of the Self —— 138
4	Family Secrets and Religious Conflict in the Muslim Diaspora —— 141
4.1	Migration and Loss: Family Relationships under the Burden of
	Cultural Trauma in Nadeem Aslam's Maps for Lost Lovers
	(2004) —— 143
4.1.1	Mapping Loss: Inside and Outside of the 'Desert of
	Loneliness' —— 147
4.1.2	A House "full of disappearances": Memories and Silences —— 154
4.1.3	Body and Self: The Disintegration of Family——159
4.2	Discovering Secrets, Unsettling Scripts: (Family) Identity and Islam
	in Robin Yassin-Kassab's <i>The Road from Damascus</i> (2008) —— 166
4.2.1	Self-Fashioning and Postmodern Identities in the Multicultural
	Sphere —— 168
4.2.2	Family Legacy as Life Script: Setting a 'Straight Path' —— 173
4.2.3	Memory, Narrative, and Family Secrets —— 177
4.3	Concluding Thoughts: Trauma and Silence —— 185
5	Family Memoirs: Relational Life Writing —— 188
5.1	"An ongoing story": Hanif Kureishi's Collective Family Memoir My
	Ear at His Heart: Reading My Father (2004) —— 191
5.1.1	Affiliation and Disaffiliation: Becoming a Writer in Fulfilment of and
	through Rebellion against the Family Ideal —— 193
5.1.2	"Dad is speaking to me again": The Memoir as a Multi-voiced (and
	Multi-modal) Transgenerational Family Dialogue —— 200
5.1.3	"Trying to bring everything together": The Multifarious Voices of
	the Relational Self —— 205
5.2	"Made up from a mixture of myth and gene": Family and
	Relatedness in Jackie Kay's Adoption Memoir Red Dust Road
	(2010) — 210
5.2.1	Family Storytelling as a Way of Doing Family —— 212
5.2.2	"What makes us who we are": Stories as Inheritance —— 218
5.2.3	Searching for "the place I come from": Locating the Diasporic
	Self 223

- 5.3 Concluding Thoughts: Narratives of Filiation —— 232
- 6 Four Topoi of 'Doing Family': Food, Home, Photography, and the Body —— 235
- 6.1 Food 236
- 6.2 Home 242
- 6.3 Photography —— **248**
- 6.4 The Body —— 253

Works Cited — 263

Index —— 285