

# Contents

## Acknowledgements — V

- 1 Introduction: Realms of Privacy and Agency — 1**
  - 1.1 Memory, and forgetting and remembering the past — 4
  - 1.2 Writing the self and communism — 12
  - 1.3 Agency and privacy: From communist reality to life writing — 17
  - 1.4 Structure of the book — 20
- 2 The Political Regime, Gender, and Paradigms of Memory — 27**
  - 2.1 Abusive regimes of power — 27
  - 2.2 Dealing with the past: Life writing and the master narrative of the communist past — 32
  - 2.3 Recollecting the past: Intersectional dimensions — 35
- 3 Life Writing and Realms of Privacy — 41**
  - 3.1 Life writing, mediation, and performativity — 41
  - 3.2 Intimacy and redefining the private self — 44
  - 3.3 Women's narratives addressing the Romanian communist past — 49
- 4 Traumatic Experiences: Privacy as Communicative Agency — 55**
  - 4.1 Trauma, life writing, forms of agency, and censorship — 56
  - 4.2 Romanian communist prisons and women's testimony — 58
  - 4.3 Intertwined narratives of trauma, agency, and resilience — 62
- 5 Knowing the Past: Ana Blandiana and Privacy as Shared Agency — 72**
  - 5.1 Transitional justice and "memory as truth" — 74
  - 5.2 Worlds of privacy: Constructions and forms of resistance — 79
  - 5.3 Self-expression and public image — 84
- 6 Everyday Communicative Responsibility: Privacy as Endurance — 88**
  - 6.1 The history of everyday life, agency, and nostalgia — 89
  - 6.2 Shared narratives of everyday life — 91
  - 6.3 Life challenges: A portrait of Romanian women's everyday life experience — 94
    - 6.3.1 Private and everyday life under communism — 95
    - 6.3.2 Privacy, gender, and sexual relationships — 100

**7 The Public Revelation of the Self: Mihaela Miroiu and Privacy as a Shared Responsibility — 105**

- 7.1 Shared responsibility and privacy in life writing — 106
- 7.2 The extended prison of the 1980s and feminism — 108
- 7.3 Autobiographical self-reflection and shared responsibility — 115

**8 Re-Working the Past through Life Writing: Herta Müller and the (Im)Possibility of Privacy — 120**

- 8.1 Surveillance and the Securitate's files — 121
- 8.2 Entangled narrative constructions — 123
- 8.3 Her double: The creation and its afterlife — 127
- 8.4 The privacy of the relational self — 132

**9 Conclusion: Realms of Privacy — 137**

**References — 142**

**Index — 157**