Contents

1	Introduction: Conceptualisations of Failure and the Quest Narrative —— 1
1.1	Conceptualising failure —— 2
1.2	The failed quest —— 13
1.3	Formalising the failed quest —— 24
1.4	Methodology —— 28
1.5	Structure —— 32
2	American Exceptionalism, American Anxiety: The End of the World in
	Cormac McCarthy's <i>The Road</i> —— 34
2.1	Pre- and post-apocalyptic America as a space of failure —— 37
2.2	Navigating the space of failure —— 48
2.3	The failure of the man and boy's quest —— 58
3	Failing to Listen, Failing to Speak: Narrating Women's Experience in Julia
	Kristeva's Possessions —— 62
3.1	Santa Varvara as a space of failure —— 65
3.2	Navigating the space of failure —— 70
3.3	The failure of Stephanie's quest —— 79
4	Human Rights and Eurocentric Universalism: Questioning Truth and
	Justice in Michael Ondaatje's <i>Anil's Ghost</i> —— 90
4.1	Civil War Sri Lanka as a space of failure —— 95
4.2	Navigating the space of failure —— 101
4.3	The failure of Anil's quest —— 114
5	Dystopia, Erasure, and Waiting: Navigating Post-Revolutionary Egypt in
	Basma Abdel Aziz's <i>The Queue</i> —— 119
5.1	Post-revolutionary Egypt as a space of failure —— 125
5.2	Navigating the space of failure —— 132
5.3	The failure of Yehya's quest —— 143
6	Conclusion: Reconceptualising Failure —— 147
Works Cited —— 151	
Index —— 164	