

how female authors such as Reuter and Dohm appropriated conventional *Pflanzenmetaphorik* and Darwinist discourses to subvert essentialized constructions of femininity. Nicholas Saul supplies an impressive finish, connecting the Spiritualist obsession with the material body to the racist-nationalist rhetoric of 20th century.

Despite its scientific slant, this collection ultimately amounts to a series of close textual readings. As such, it best serves scholars in the fields of German and literary study, especially those with a vested interest in the authors and issues at hand or wishing to enhance existing knowledge. Readers are free to enjoy each essay in any order and on its own terms, but should not expect wide-ranging discussions or general impressions. Still, the editors state that this volume represents but the initial stages of the investigation of *Organismus* and *Gesellschaft* in 19th-century literature, a complex and substantial project which hopefully leads to several publications. This reviewer, for one, would wish to see future editions expand beyond microcosmic readings of select texts to offer a macrocosmic appreciation of Realism's literary and historical context, whether regarding scientific or technological innovations, socioeconomic superstructures, or any one author. In addition, bringing German Realism into dialogue with authors falling outside its purview while also exploring instances of intermedial encounters with painting, photography, and music would not only yield fruitful, fascinating, and perhaps unexpected results, but enrich an already intriguing and exciting project.

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