

Contents

Introduction	1
Part I: Narratives of Urban Complexity in Context	21
1. Mapping Contemporary Urban Space: Narration as Media-Informed Cultural Practice	22
2. Staging the ‘Urban Mind’: A Cultural Perspective on (Narratives of) Urban Complexity	28
3. A Contemporary “Image of the City” and the Challenge of Narrating Urban Complexity	40
4. A Cultural Narratological Approach: The Reader as City Dweller	52
5. Storytelling and Urban Planning: Re-Imagining the 21 st -Century City Dweller	65
Part II: Narrative Negotiations of Contemporary Urban Space – The Complex Cityscape as 21st-Century Reader Challenge	75
1. “What is the City but the People?” – Social Topographies of Multiple Stories	75
1.1. 21 st -Century Social Network Patterns and a Changing Sense of ‘Location’	77
1.1.1. Sebastian Faulks’ <i>A Week in December</i>	78
1.1.2. Mark Watson’s <i>Eleven</i>	89
1.1.3. Cities as “Patterns of Communication”: Comparing <i>A Week in December</i> and <i>Eleven</i> to John Lanchester’s <i>Capital</i>	98
1.2. Computational Environments and Active Participation	100
1.2.1. Jennifer Egan’s <i>A Visit from the Goon Squad</i>	102
1.2.2. Sam Thompson’s <i>Communion Town: A City in Ten Chapters</i>	116
1.2.3. Closing Remarks on <i>A Visit from the Goon Squad</i> and <i>Communion Town: Re-Imagining the City Dweller</i>	134
2. Navigating ‘Invisible’ Space: China Miéville’s <i>The City and the City</i> and Visions of the ‘Sentient City’	136
3. A Post-2000 ‘Augmented’ Cityscape: Jonathan Safran Foer’s <i>Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close</i>	152

4.	A “Guidebook to Getting Lost”: The 21 st -Century City Dweller and Jonathan Safran Foer’s <i>Tree of Codes</i>	173
5.	21 st -Century Shape-Shifting Urban Spaces and their Narratives: Media-Informed Spaces in Mark Z. Danielewski’s <i>House of Leaves</i>	193
6.	Re-Imagining Urban Narratives and Storytelling Practices: Norman Klein’s <i>Bleeding Through: Layers of Los Angeles 1920-1986</i>	211
	New Complexities: Towards a Changing “Image of the City”	229
	Bibliography	237