

“Stroh engages with the contested question of whether postcolonial theory can be fruitfully applied to Scottish literary expressions and cultural encounters by outlining the fundamental concepts and applying them to the most fundamental faultline in Scottish history, that between the Lowlands and the Highlands. In revisiting familiar texts, such as Martin Martin’s surveys of the Western Isles and Walter Scott’s *Waverley*, and introducing ones less familiar today, she demonstrates convincingly and comprehensibly that the hallmarks of colonial discourse—Othering, civilizing missions, internalized stigmatization, and so on—abound in the ways in which anglophone authors represented their Gaelic subjects.”

—Michael Newton, author of *Warriors of the Word* and *Seanchaidh na Coille / The Memory-Keeper of the Forest*

“Stroh’s compelling book is an original intervention in the study of Scottish literature; more important, it complements and is in dialogue with a number of other contemporary works by major critics and literary historians in Ireland and Scotland. This is one of the most fascinating, multifaceted, and authoritative explorations of a neglected period I know.”

—Alan Riach, author of *Representing Scotland in Literature, Popular Culture and Iconography: The Masks of the Modern Nation*

Can Scotland be considered an English colony? Is its experience and literature comparable to that of overseas postcolonial countries? Or are such comparisons no more than patriotic victimology to mask Scottish complicity in the British Empire and justify nationalism? These questions have been debated heatedly in recent years, especially in the run-up to the 2014 referendum on independence, and remain topical amid continuing campaigns for more autonomy and calls for a post-Brexit referendum. *Gaelic Scotland in the Colonial Imagination* offers a general introduction to the emerging field of postcolonial Scottish studies, assessing both its potential and its limitations in order to promote further interdisciplinary dialogue. Accessible to readers from various backgrounds, the book combines overviews of theoretical, social, and cultural contexts with detailed case studies of literary and nonliterary texts. The main focus is on internal divisions between the anglophone Lowlands and traditionally Gaelic Highlands, which have played a crucial role in Scottish–English relations. Silke Stroh shows how the image of Scotland’s Gaelic margins changed under the influence of two simultaneous developments: the emergence of the modern nation-state and the rise of overseas colonialism.

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Stroh

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Anglophone Writing from 1600 to 1900

Silke Stroh

