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# Historical Fantasy, Speculative Realism, and Postrace Aesthetics in Contemporary American Fiction

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Since the turn of the century, a new generation of minority writers has come

to prominence whose work signals a radical turn to a postrace era in American literature.<sup>1</sup> Outlining a paradigm that I term *historical fantasy*, I argue that in the twenty-first century, the relationship between race and social justice, race and identity, and indeed, race and history requires these writers to invent a new “imaginary” for thinking about the nature of a just society and the role of race in its construction. It also requires the invention of new forms to represent it. In this light, I address the topic of race and narrative theory in two contexts: in relation to the question of literary form and in relation to history. Doing so will allow me to explain the...

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