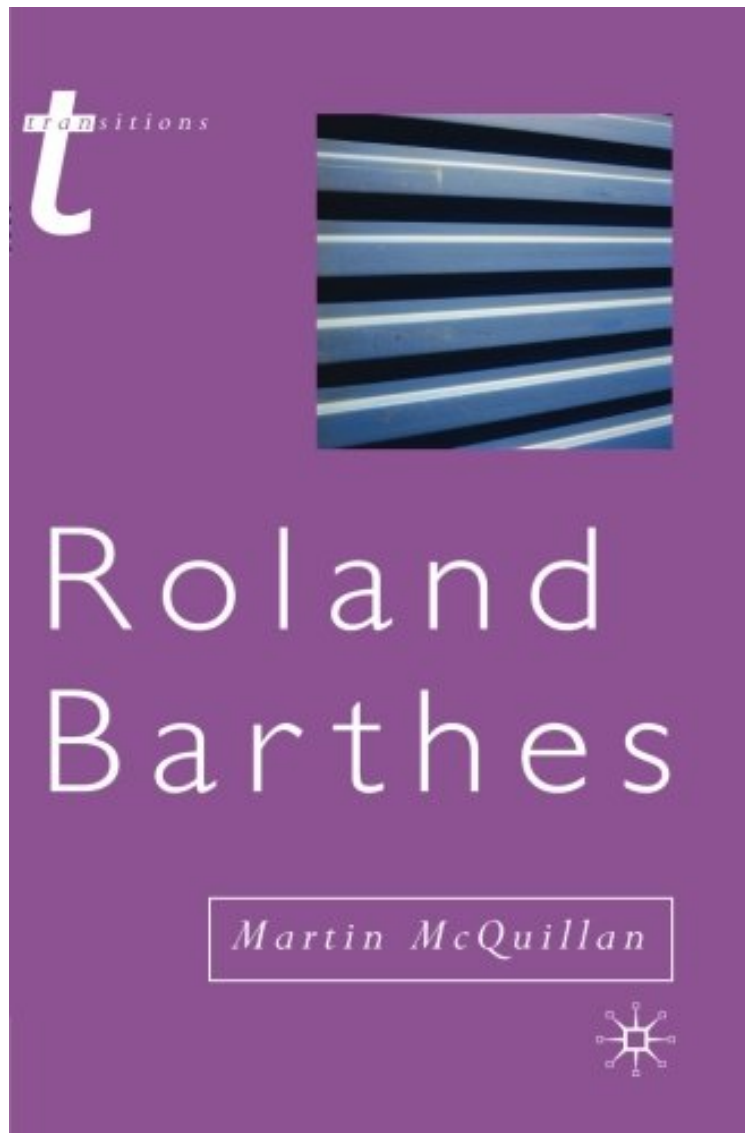


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*M. McQuillan*

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**M. McQuillan : Roland Barthes (Transitions)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Roland Barthes (Transitions):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Perhaps a Necessary Text?By EllisScottPollardThis is an excellent account of the great Barthes. McQuillan does a fine job of showing the development of Barthes's thought, paying particular attention to influences. It's not only a good read, but it is very useful for anyone approaching the field of

literary theory. In such a situation, one will find Barthes to be indispensable. My one complaint is that Dr. McQuillan does make some vague generalizations concerning many of Barthes's works. I personally don't feel that he gave enough credit to *Writing Degree Zero*. Well, I suppose I have two complaints. McQuillan is a narratologist, so the book does focus on Barthes's work through the lens of the writer's dynamic relationship with structuralism. While Barthes is, indeed, a narratologist who employs structuralism, he is so much more than that: a post-structuralist, an aesthete, a quasi-Marxist thinker, a philosopher, a literary theorist and critic, an early queer theorist, and a semiotician. Despite these flaws, it is an EXTREMELY useful guide to one of the greatest critics of the twentieth century.

Roland Barthes was one of the most influential thinkers of the twentieth century, but why should the reader of today, or tomorrow, be concerned with him? Martin McQuillan provides a fresh perspective on Barthes, addressing his political and institutional inheritance and considering his work as the origins of a critical cultural studies. This stimulating study:

- provides a biographical consideration of Barthes' writing
- offers an extended reading of his 1957 text *Mythologies* as a text for our own time, drawing Barthes' work into a historical relation to the present
- examines his connection to what we call cultural studies
- features an annotated bibliography of Barthes' published work.

Thought-provoking and insightful, Roland Barthes is essential reading for anyone who is interested in the writings of this key theorist and his continuing relevance in our post-9/11 world.

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About the Author MARTIN MCQUILLAN is Professor of Literary Theory and Cultural Analysis and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Kingston University, UK.