I first wish to acknowledge with much gratitude the support of the A.H.R.B. Research Leave Scheme which gave me the time to complete the final part of the research towards, and a substantial part of the writing of, this book.

I am grateful to the Department of English and Media at the Nottingham Trent University for research leave support. I should like to thank my colleagues in the department, especially Alison Donnell, Patrick Williams, Tim Youngs and Nahem Yousaf of the Centre for Colonial and Postcolonial Studies, as well as Roberta Davari-Zanjani for her kind encouragement.

Many thanks to Susan Andrade, John Barnard, Shirley Chew, Lyn Innes, Hermione Lee, Susheila Nasta, Judie Newman, Benita Parry, Angela Smith, Rajeswari Sunder Rajan and Robert Young for support and inspiration, given in different contexts and capacities. I owe gratitude to Pal Ahluwalia, Rehana Ahmed, Derek Attridge, Bridget Bennett, Tim Brennan, Amit Chaudhuri, Rinka Chaudhuri, Laura Chrisman, Leela Gandhi, Philip Gehrens, Lucy Graham, Gareth Griffiths, Claudia Gualtieri, Liz Gunner, Lisa Hill, Graham Huggan, Neil Lazarus, Satish Keshav, Nazreena Markar, Gail Marshall, Achille Mbembe, Anne McClintock, John McLeod, Jo McDonagh, Jon Mee, David Mehnert, Bart Moore-Gilbert, Catherine Morley, Stuart Murray, Steph Newell, Sarah Nuttall, Rob Nixon, Ken Parker, Ranka Primorac, Terence Ranger, Helen Richman, Michael Roberts, Meg Samuelson, Kay Schaffer, Jon Stallworthy, Keya Tanguly, Alex Tickell, Helen Tiffin, Paula Teo, Wes Williams, Clair Wills, Naomi Wolf, and the other fellow writers, friends and scholars with whom I’ve been privileged to share ideas on gender and the nation – and other topics besides! – over the past several years.

Inexpressible thanks are owed to my family, Thomas, Sam and, above all, Steven, long-suffering endurer of late-night ‘table-tapping’ on the upper floor.

The journal articles and essays in books on which a group of the chapters here are based have been substantially revised, elaborated and, in certain cases,
updated; however, I wish to express my thanks to the editors and publishers of the following:


