

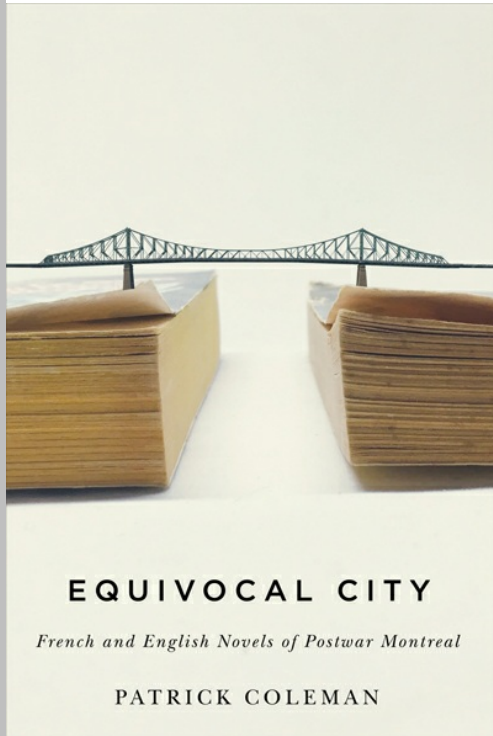


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New from McGill-Queen's University Press

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## **EQUIVOCAL CITY**

*French and English Novels of  
Postwar Montreal*

By **PATRICK COLEMAN**

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### **Book Launch**

November 19, 2018 @ 6:00 - 7:00 PM

**Librairie Olivieri**

5219, chemin de la Côte-des-Neiges  
Montréal, QC

The launch will follow a panel discussion moderated by Robert Schwartzwald and featuring Patrick Coleman, Sherry Simon, and Lori Saint-Martin.

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## **OCTOBER 2018**

"Beautifully written, lucid, uncluttered, and witty, *Equivocal City* is an excellent study and a genuine pleasure to read. Firmly rooted in the field of Montreal writing with its multiple, overlapping literary spheres, *Equivocal City* also makes important links to American and European literature. The openness of the book's analytical framework ensured that its readings contribute forcefully to existing debate without being restricted to the terms of that debate."

**Lianne Moyes, Université de Montréal**

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The study of Montreal as a specific location in French and English writings has long been subordinated to the demands of linguistically divided and politically contentious narratives about national development. In this cross-linguistic study, Patrick Coleman models an inclusive and post-national literary history of the city itself.

Tracing a sequence of moments in the emergence of the Montreal novel from the Second World War to the turbulent 1960s, *Equivocal City* offers close readings of fourteen key works of fiction, focusing on the inner dynamic of

their construction as well as the unexpected convergences and contrasts in the narrative structures they adopt and the aesthetic perspective they seek to achieve. Critically sophisticated but accessibly written, this book gives a sympathetic account of how writers in both languages struggled to give integrated artistic expression to their experience of a city that was still linguistically compartmentalized and culturally insecure. By analyzing the interplay between story and narrative form, the book explores what French and English novelists could – and could not – imagine about the Montreal they sought to portray. From the responsible realism of Hugh MacLennan and Gabrielle Roy to the fractious phantasmagorias of Jacques Ferron and Leonard Cohen, ***Equivocal City*** traces the evolution of the Montreal novel with the aim of retrieving a shareable literary past.

**PATRICK COLEMAN** is research professor of French and francophone studies at the University of California, Los Angeles.

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**[Equivocal City: French and English Novels of Postwar Montreal](#)**

By Patrick Coleman

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Ebook available

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