

Eastern European Jewish American
Narratives, 1890–1930

Struggles for Recognition

Dana Mihăilescu

LEXINGTON BOOKS

Lanham • Boulder • New York • London

Contents

Acknowledgments	ix
Introduction	xi
Part I: Power Fields, Struggles for Recognition, and the Birth of Jewish American Contingent Identity	1
1 Preliminary Considerations: Overview of Critical Responses to Early Twentieth Century Jewish American Literature and the Innovative Insights of an Ethical Approach	3
2 Eastern European Traditions in Early Twentieth Century Jewish American Narratives	43
3 American Traditions between Temptations and Traps: Toward a Contingent Identity	73
Part II: Jewishness, Responsibility, and Vulnerability in Early Twentieth Century America: Writing an Ethics out of Contingency	89
4 Stances of Ethical Agency out of Contingency	91
5 Human Socialities between Struggles for Recognition and Ethical Responsibility	171
Conclusion	227
Bibliography	235
Index	245
About the Author	249