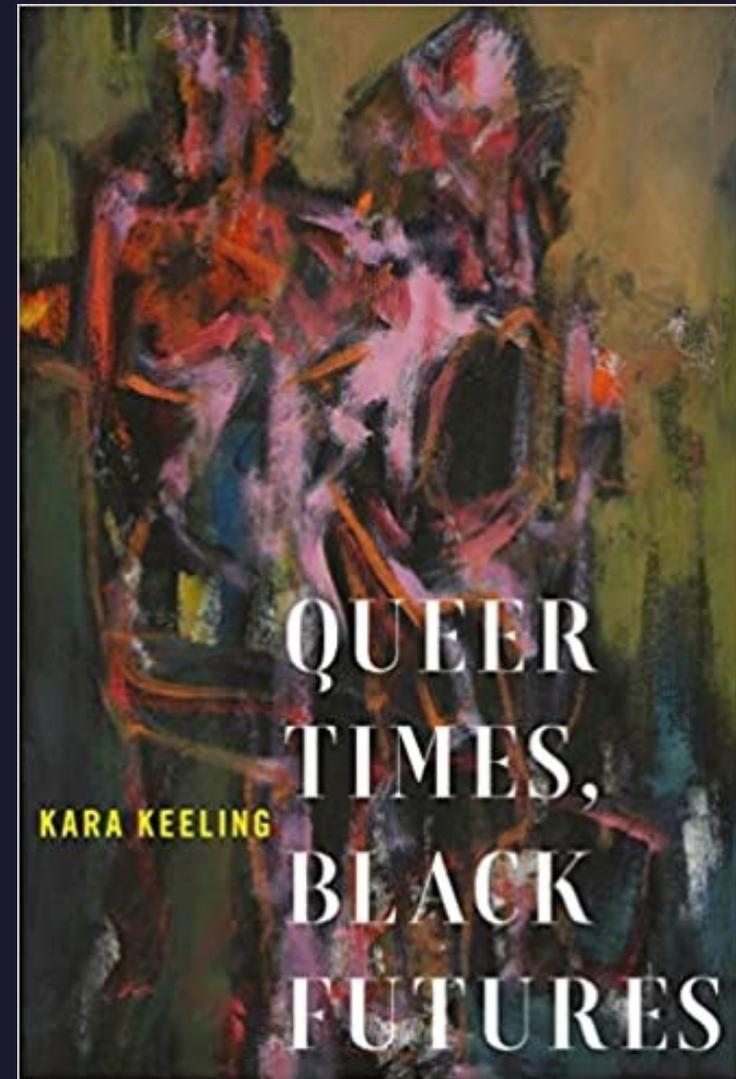
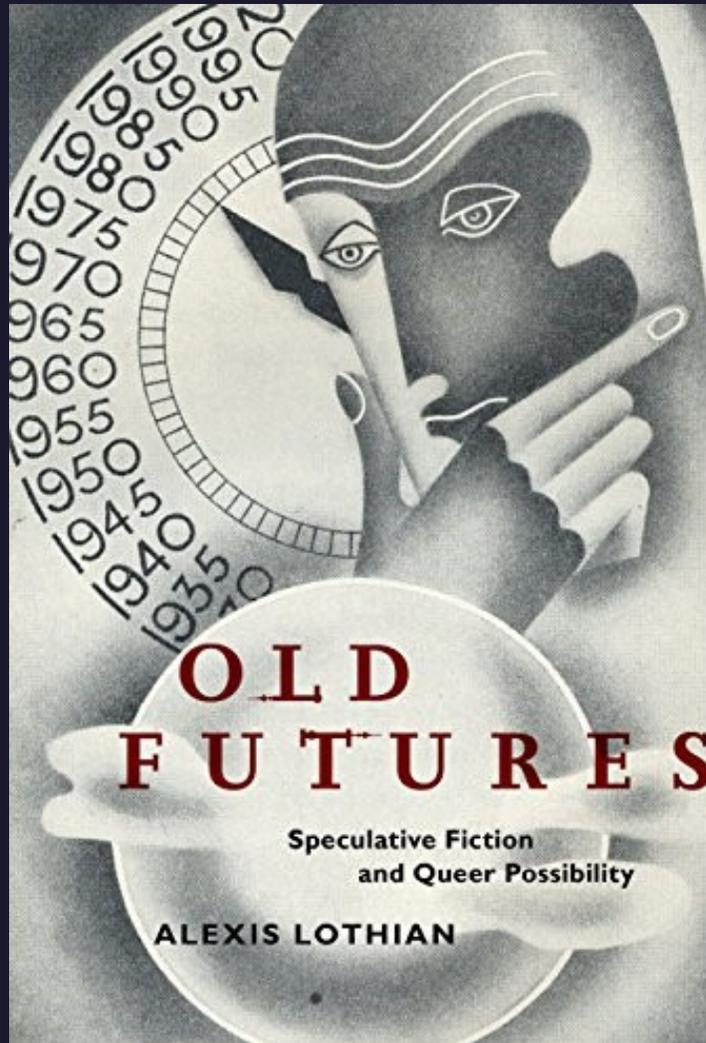


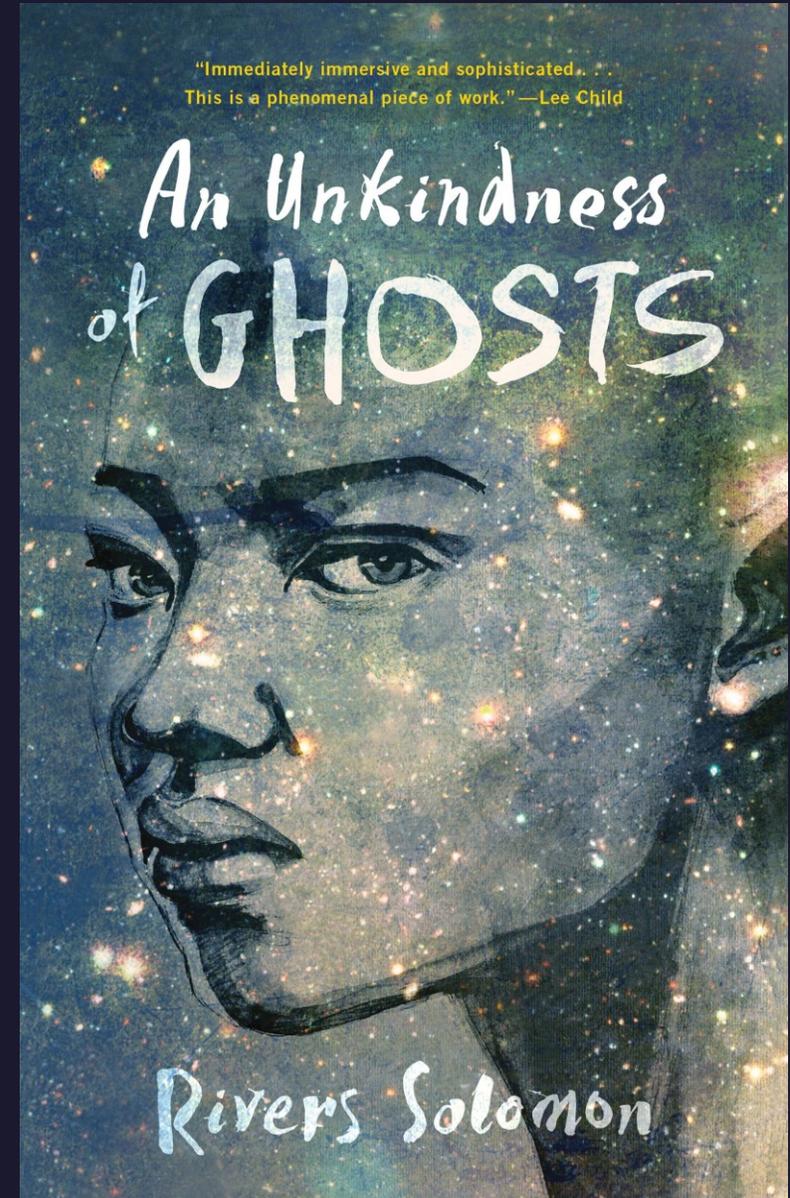
(Re)Visioning
Gendered
Futures in
Rivers Solomon's
*An Unkindness
of Ghosts*

Dr Laura-Jane Devanny

University of Northampton, UK

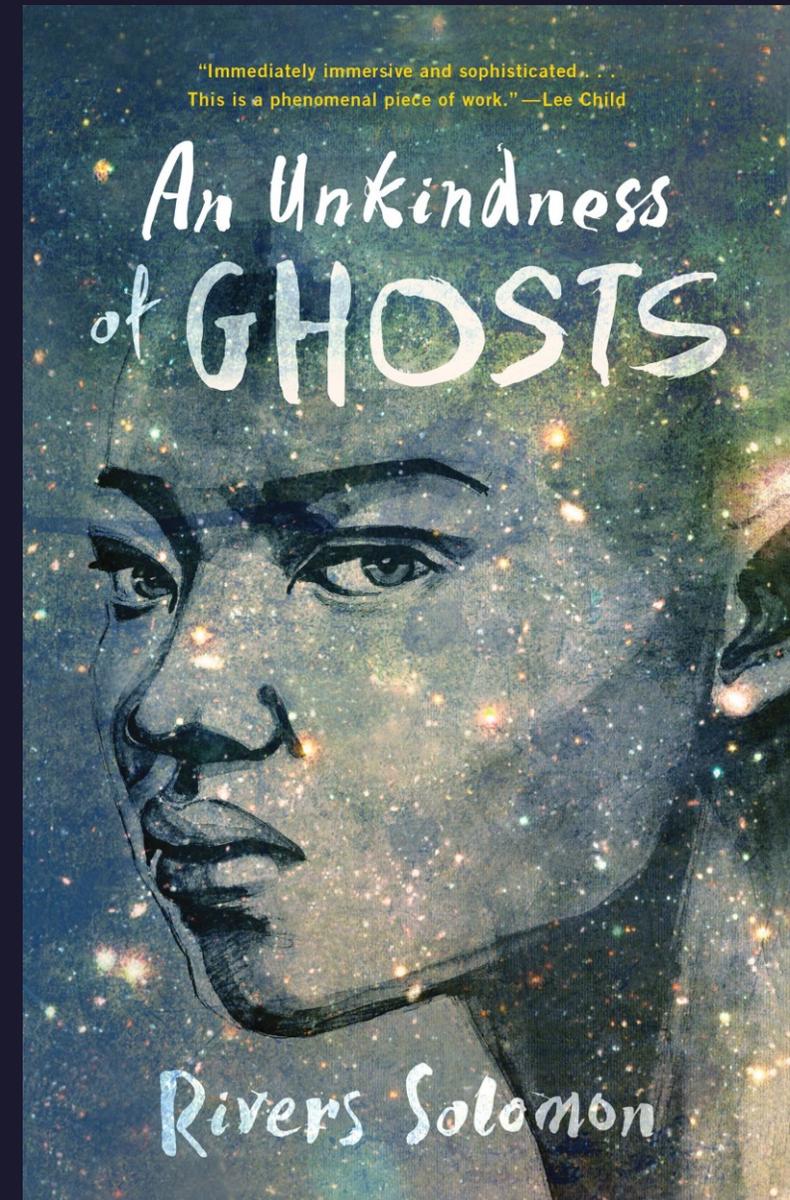


Bodies are strictly
regulated according to
sex and race:
doubly-estranged.



Bodies are strictly regulated according to sex and race = doubly-estranged.

“SF as the literature of cognitive estrangement”
(Suvin, 2016, p.15)



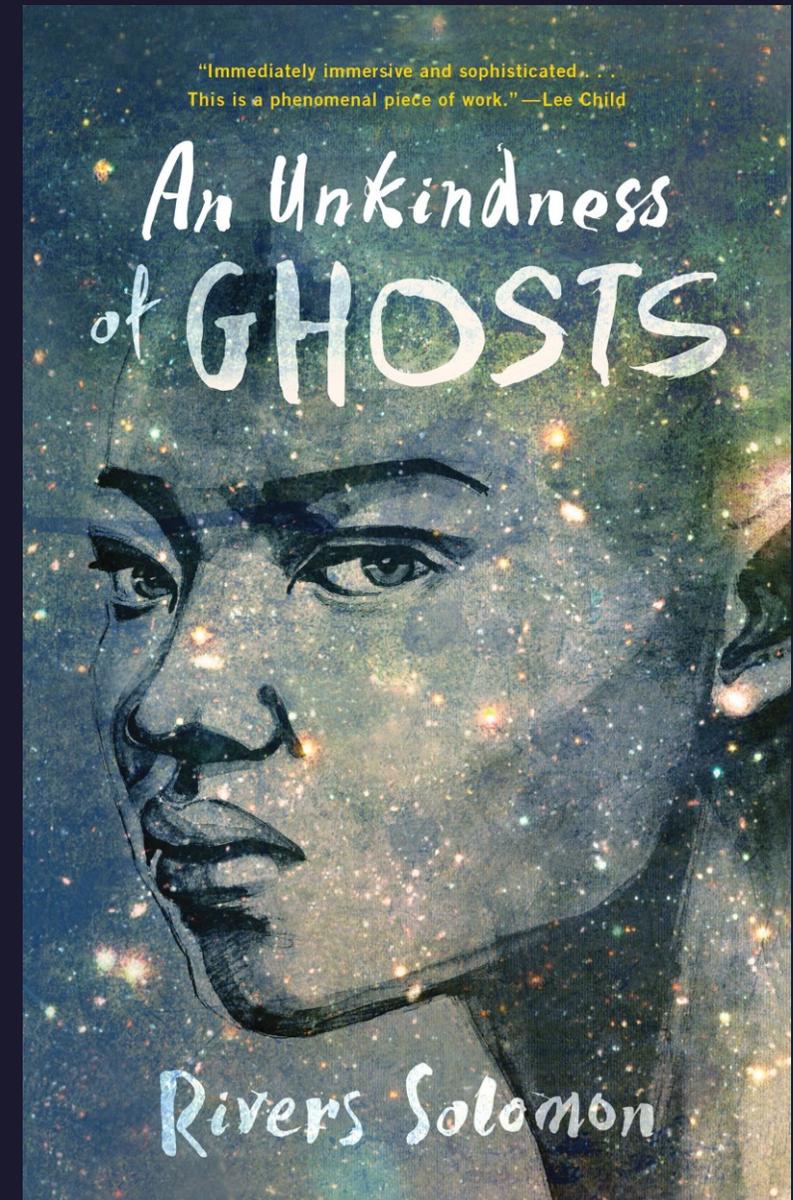
Matilda



Tarlanders = those who do not present clearly as male or female.

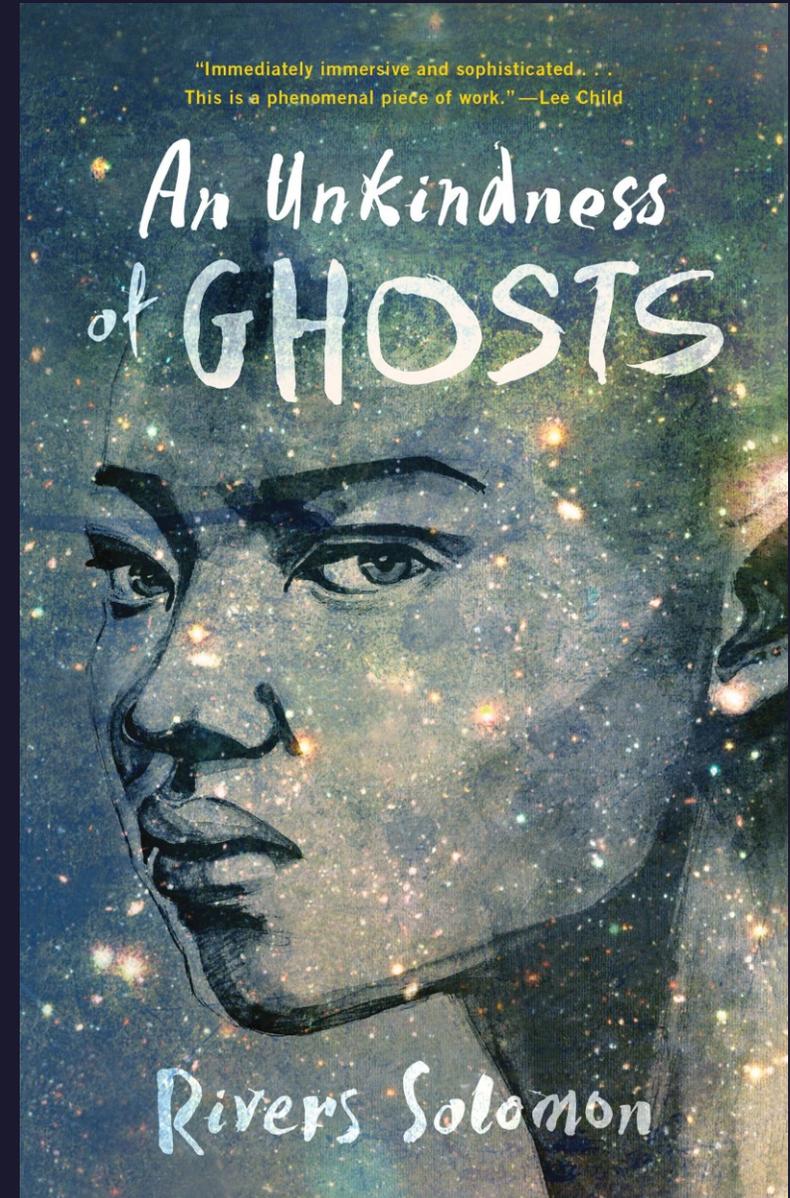
“the ease with which queer possibility and colonial violence coexist”

(Keeling, 2019, p.16)



Tarlanders came from the Realm of Chaos – the world that existed before the Heavens overruled it... Their demon forms could not conform to the Holy Order set forth by the Heavens.

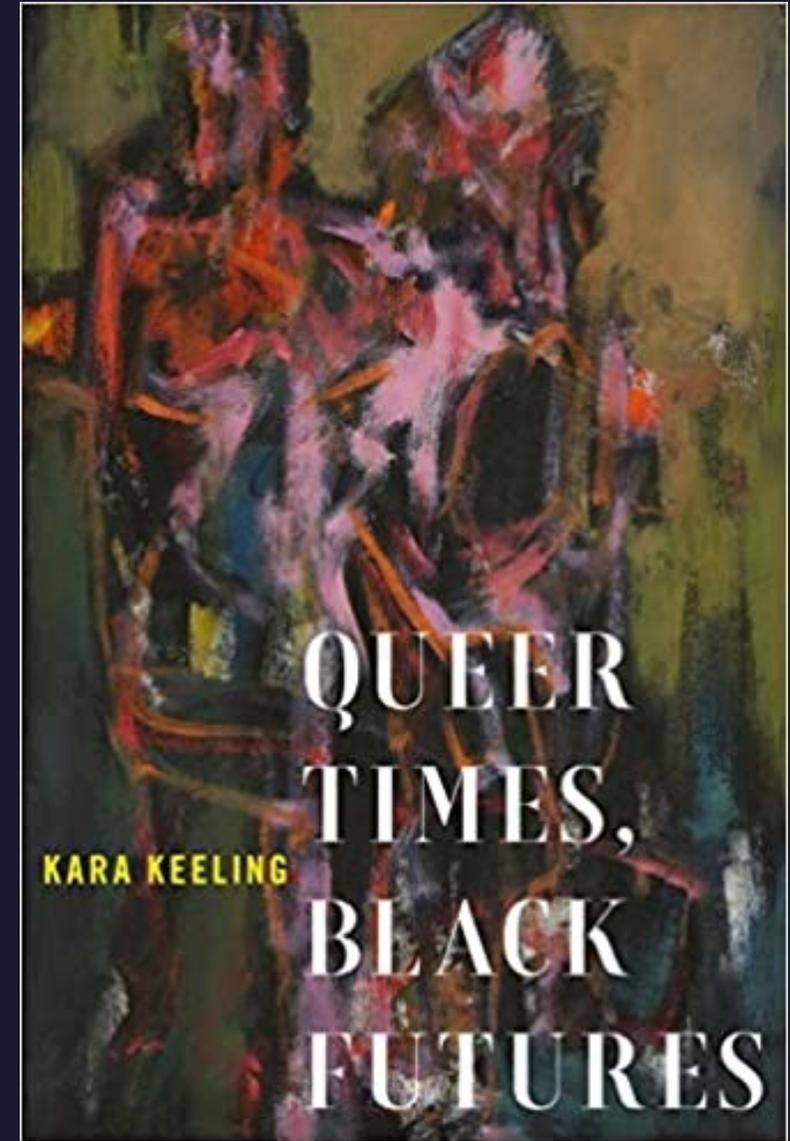
(Solomon, 2017, p.19)



Quotidian violence:

- upholds existing power constructs

- *“making the concepts “queer” and “Black” appear as aberrations”*
(Keeling, 2019, p.17)

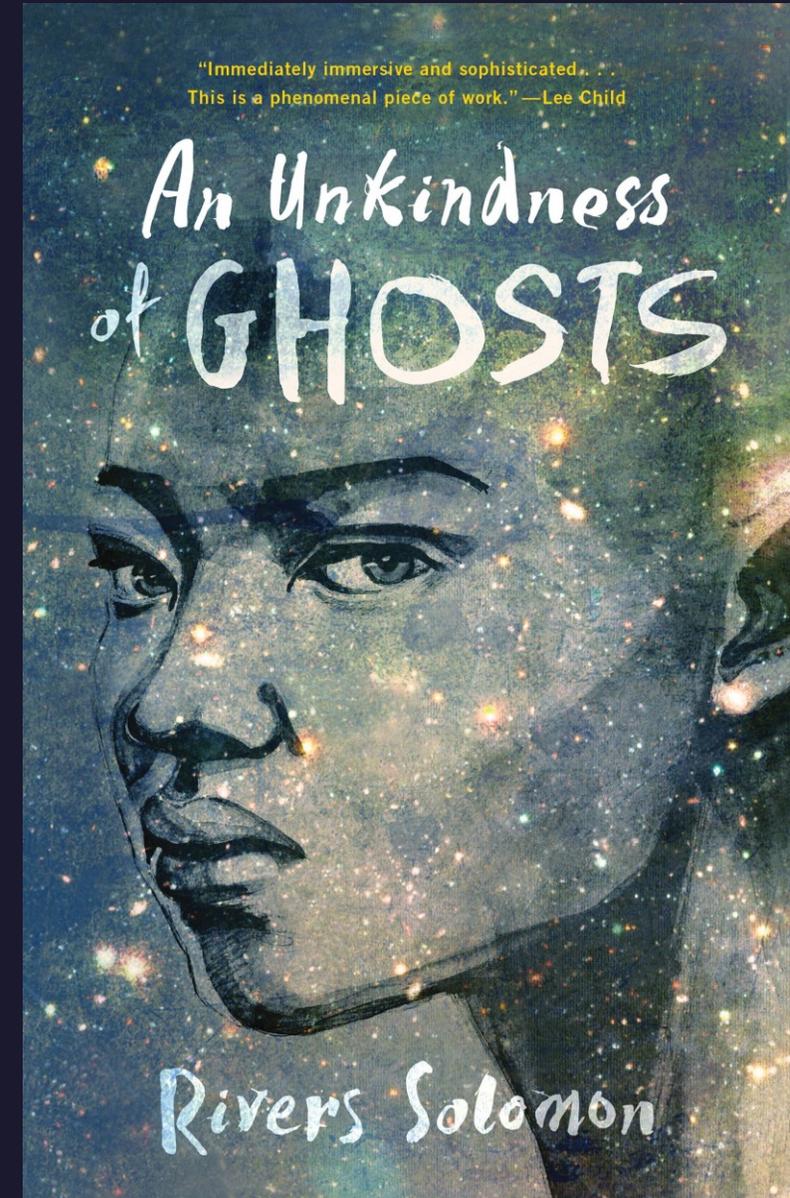


ASTER:

- hereditary suprarenal
dysregula
(as diagnosed and defined within the novel)

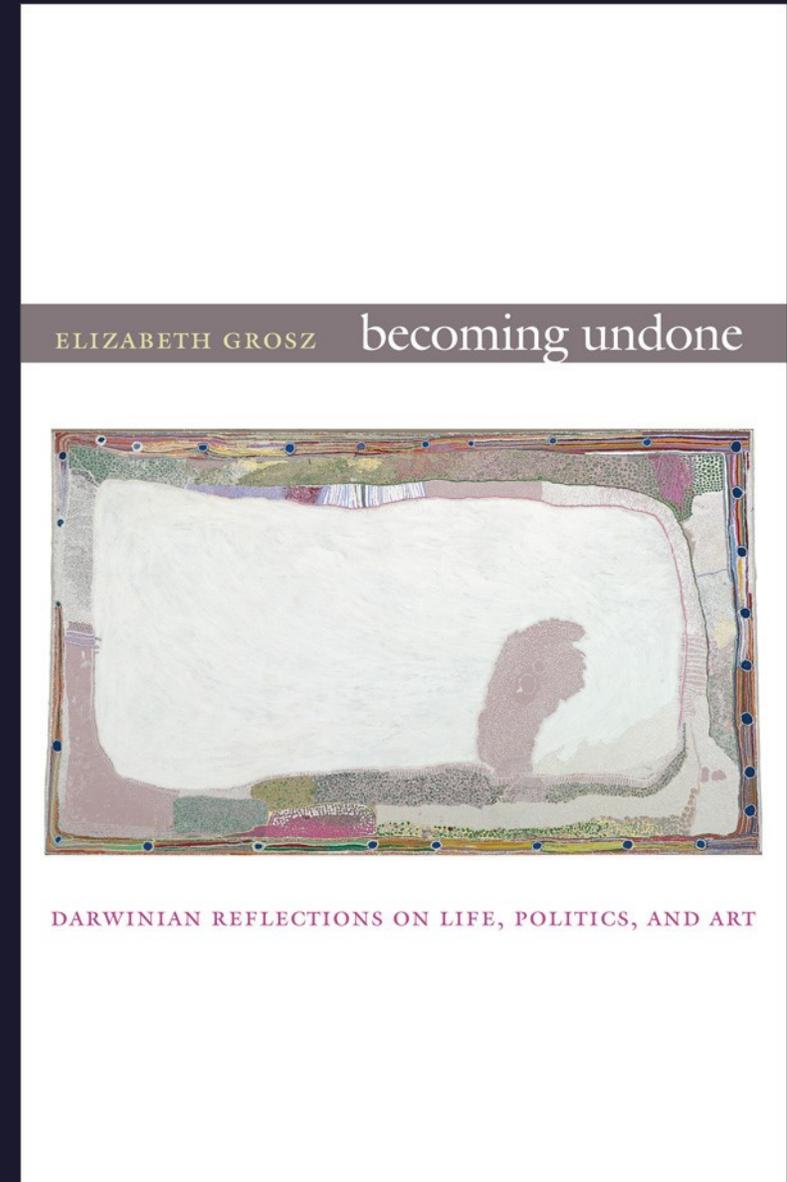
- 'fit to breed'

- reproductive capacity to
define and confine the body



Process of *becoming*

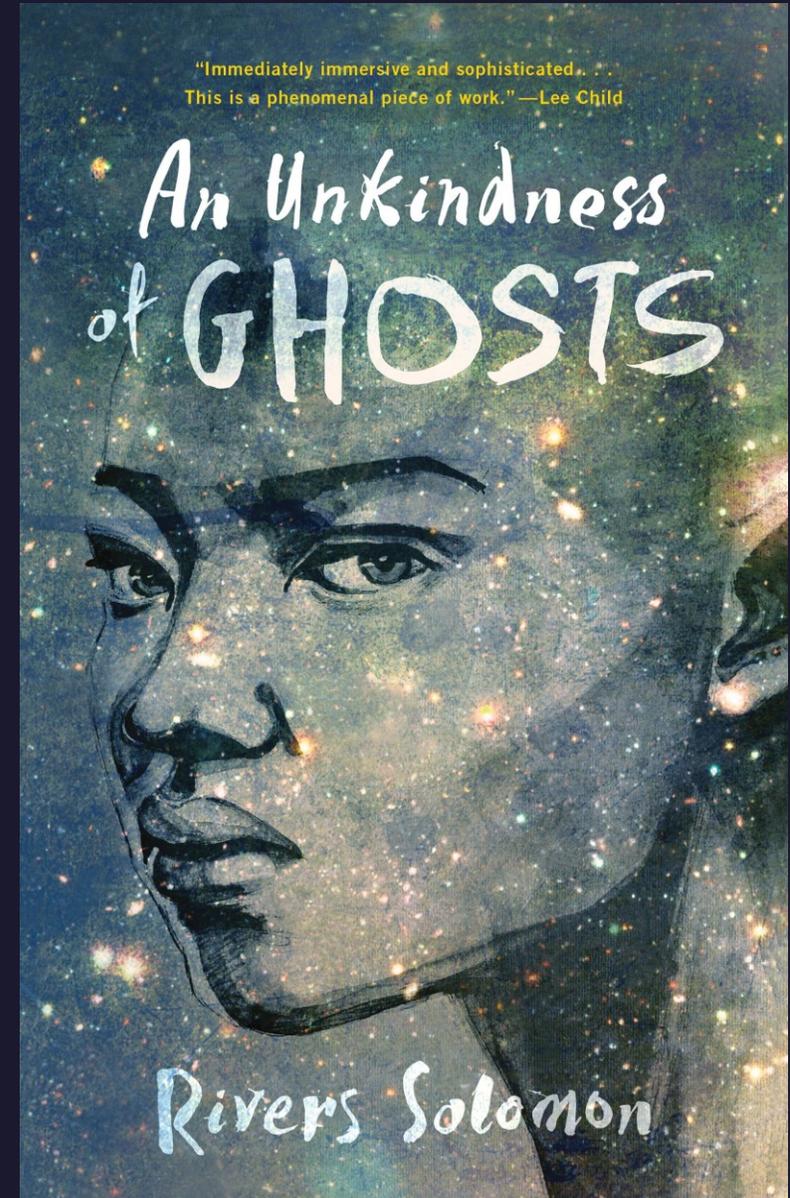
- enactment of a form of personal freedom
- autonomous activity
(Grosz, 2011)
- body as agential entity through which freedom is enacted
(Grosz, 1994)



THEO

- transitioning from male to female
- ‘passes’* for white male
- two-fold bodily performance

*to use Stone’s term (2006)



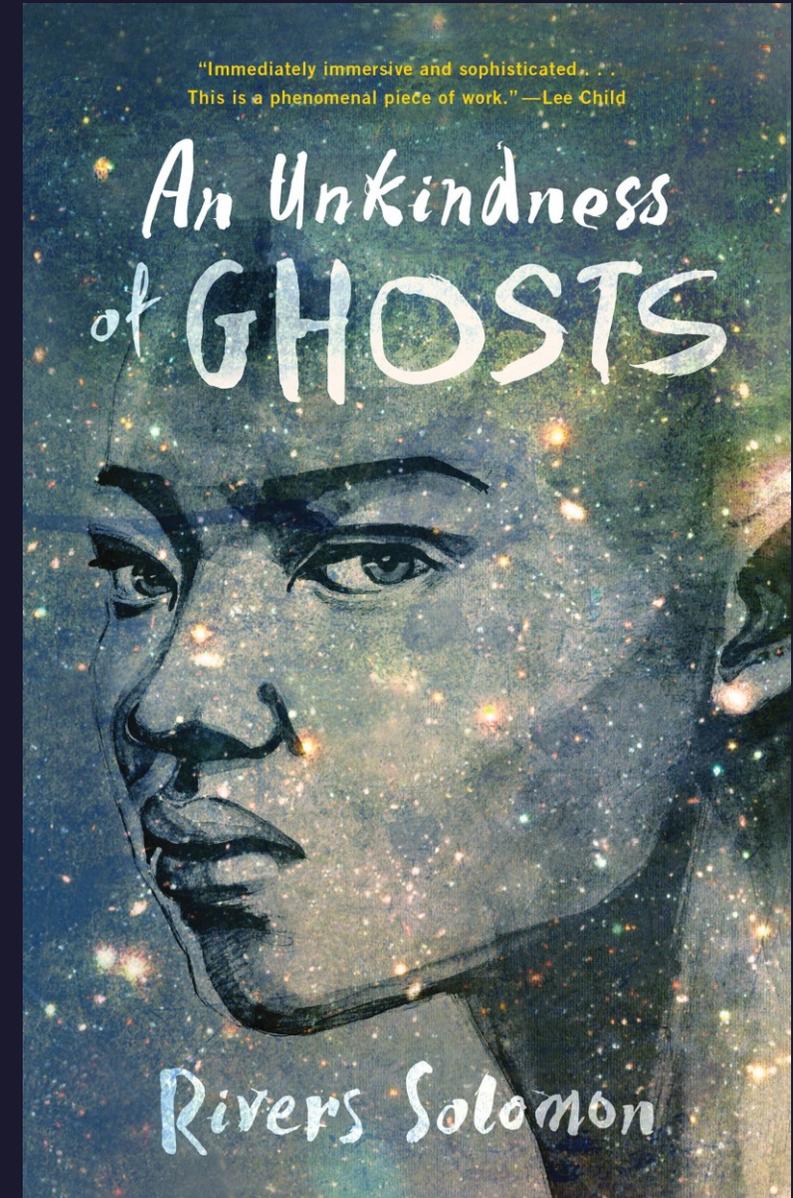
THEO

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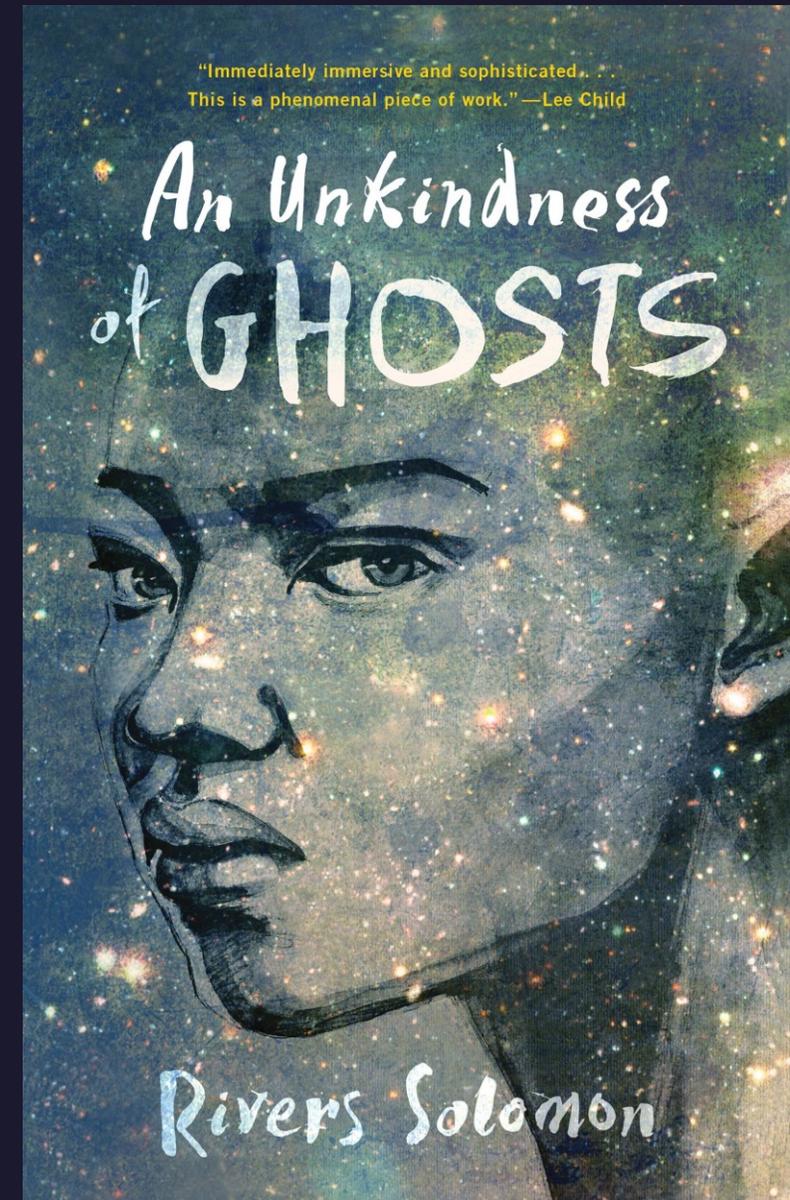
"I am a boy and a girl and a witch all wrapped into one very strange, flimsy, indecisive body. So you think my body couldn't decide what it wanted to be?"

"I think it doesn't matter because we get to decide what our bodies are or are not," he answered...

"Is that so? Then I am magic. I say it, therefore it is true," she said.

"It is true. You are a very rare magic, Aster. Don't you know that?"

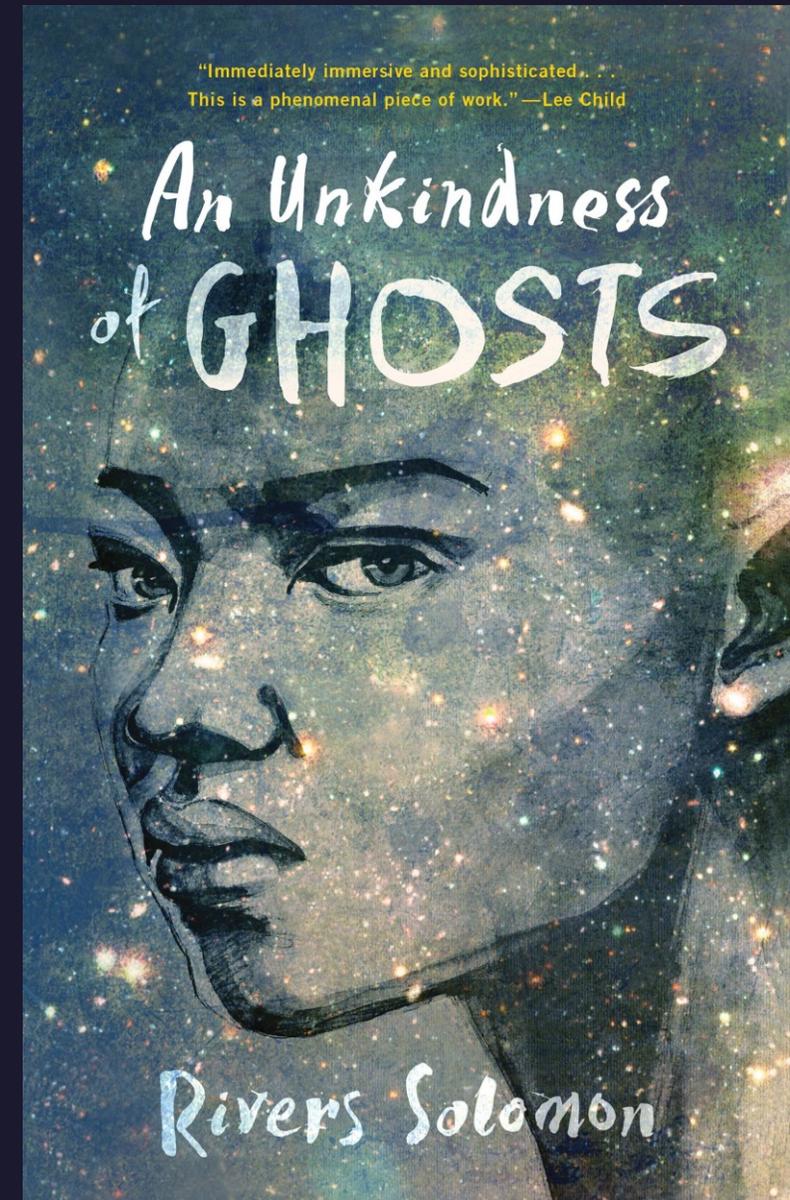
(Solomon, 2017, p.308)

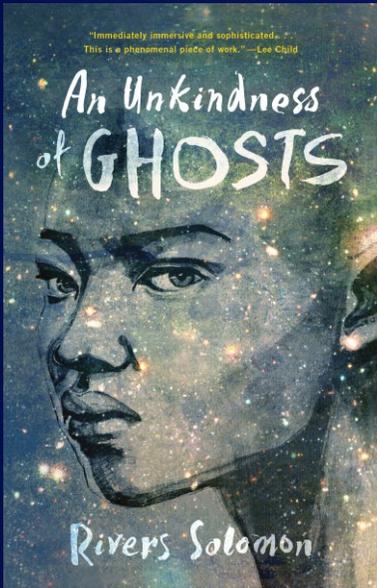


Becomings:

Theo – rejecting assigned male identity and taking account of racial history.

Aster – escaping Matilda by pioneering a return to earth and a grounded, located existence.





Imaginative scope for realisation and (re)vision of non-normative gender identities:

- revolutionary consequences of *becomings*
- model of kinship and love
- enactment of freedom

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Thank You

Dr Laura-Jane Devanny

Laura-Jane.Devanny@northampton.ac.uk

