



# World-Building and the Early Modern Imagination

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The early modern period was rife with attempts to re-imagine the world and the human place within it. This volume looks at natural philosophers, playwrights, historians, and other figures in the period 1500-1700 as a means of accessing the plethora of world models that circulated in Europe during this era.

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## **World-Building and the Early Modern Imagination** From Palgrave Macmillan Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #5163035 in Books
- Published on: 2010-09-15
- Released on: 2010-09-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x 1.00" w x 6.00" l, .92 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 270 pages



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"The imagination as something other than a source of literary invention is drawing increasing attention in recent years, and this anthology is a noteworthy addition. With essays ranging in topic from the occult to the protoscientific to various forms of colonial propaganda, this book is well-conceived and tightly constructed, with a clear trajectory that runs from actual or literal cosmology through imagined utopias and into idealized colonialist projects. The focus on the imagination and the variety of disciplines covered make *World-Building and the Early Modern Imagination* as timely and useful as it is stimulating and informative." - Walter Stephens, Charles S. Singleton Professor of Italian Studies, Johns Hopkins University

"This is an excellent volume that deals with subjects of considerable interest for a wide variety of readers - in history, history of science, literature, cultural studies, and philosophy. It provides a well-framed and balanced discussion of topics that are both engaging and either entirely novel or approached with new insights and evidence. *World-Building and the Early Modern Imagination* contains important new contributions to our knowledge." - Lawrence M. Principe, Drew Professor of the Humanities, Johns Hopkins University

#### **About the Author**

ALLISON B. KAVEY is an Associate Professor in the History Department at City University of New York, John Jay College, USA.

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