The Mauritian Novel
Fictions of Belonging

Contemporary French and Francophone Cultures, 56
Contemporary French and Francophone Cultures

Series Editor
CHARLES FORSDICK
University of Liverpool

Editorial Board
TOM CONLEY JACQUELINE DUTTON LYNN A. HIGGINS
Harvard University University of Melbourne Dartmouth College
MIREILLE ROSELLO DAVID WALKER
University of Amsterdam University of Sheffield

This series aims to provide a forum for new research on modern and contemporary French and francophone cultures and writing. The books published in Contemporary French and Francophone Cultures reflect a wide variety of critical practices and theoretical approaches, in harmony with the intellectual, cultural and social developments which have taken place over the past few decades. All manifestations of contemporary French and francophone culture and expression are considered, including literature, cinema, popular culture, theory. The volumes in the series will participate in the wider debate on key aspects of contemporary culture.

Recent titles in the series:

42 Katelyn E. Knox, Race on Display in 20th- and 21st Century France
43 Bruno Chaouat, Is Theory Good for the Jews?: French Thought and the Challenge of the New Antisemitism
44 Denis M. Provencher, Queer Maghrebi French: Language, Temporalities, Transfiliations
45 Nicholas Hewitt, Montmartre: A Cultural History
46 Oana Panaïté, The Colonial Fortune in Contemporary Fiction in French
47 Jason Herbeck, Architextual Authenticity: Constructing Literature and Literary Identity in the French Caribbean
48 Yasser Elhariry, Pacifist Invasions: Arabic, Translation and the Postfrancophone Lyric
49 Colin Davis, Traces of War: Interpreting Ethics and Trauma in Twentieth-Century French Writing
50 Alison J. Murray Levine, Vivre Ici: Space, Place and Experience in Contemporary French Documentary
51 Louise Hardwick, Joseph Zobel: Négritude and the Novel
52 Jennifer Solheim, The Performance of Listening in Postcolonial Francophone Culture
53 Sarah Wood and Catriona MacLeod, Locating Guyane
54 Adrian May, From Bataille to Badiou: Lignes, the preservation of Radical French Thought, 1987–2017
55 Charlotte Hammond, Entangled Otherness: Cross-gender Fabrications in the Francophone Caribbean
JULIA WATERS

The Mauritian Novel

Fictions of Belonging

LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY PRESS
For Patrick
Contents

Acknowledgements ix

Introduction: The Problem of Belonging in Mauritius 1
1 Belonging to the Moment: Carl de Souza’s Les Jours Kaya 51
2 Belonging to the Island: Nathacha Appanah’s Blue Bay Palace and Ananda Devi’s Ève de ses décombres 77
3 Belonging Nowhere: Shenaz Patel’s Le Silence des Chagos 109
4 Everyday Belonging: Bertrand de Robillard’s L’Homme qui penche and Une interminable distraction au monde 139
5 Nomadic Belonging: Amal Sewtohul’s Histoire d’Ashok et d’autres personnages de moindre importance and Made in Mauritius 168

Conclusion: Over the Rainbow 201

Bibliography 219
Index 233