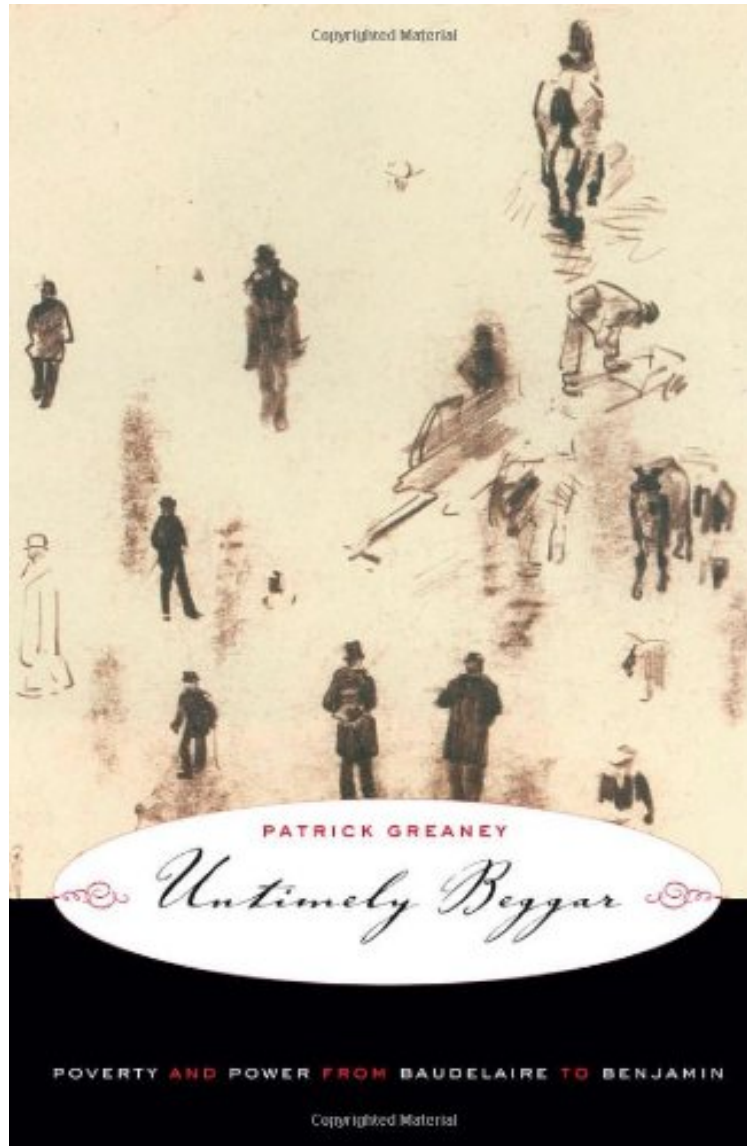


[FREE] Untimely Beggar: Poverty and Power from Baudelaire to Benjamin

# Untimely Beggar: Poverty and Power from Baudelaire to Benjamin

*Patrick Greaney*

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**Patrick Greaney : Untimely Beggar: Poverty and Power from Baudelaire to Benjamin** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Untimely Beggar: Poverty and Power from Baudelaire to Benjamin:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. and the other well educated politicians (as they are all Handsome Dan like the two President Bush) will know how to conquer ..By Emily BonePatrick Greaney has recreated a dissertation model for many of his fellowmen and young followers for the high academic learning. I have been

wondered how or what to do in preparing myself to get to this level after the Master degree, and his book has given me the idea how to get there. Professor Greaney's argumentation is about power and poverty which have presented well with appropriateness of tremendous heavy academic research through his literature Notes, and very organized that my head swirl with rushing thoughts for questions. Still, my mind is very young to this type of knowledge and he is very wise indeed. This knowledge prepares those who are ready to make impact on the civilization; which is in the time of peril and turmoil, and the other well-educated politicians (as they are all Handsome Dan like the two President Bush) will know how to conquer and manage the trouble economic imperialism around the world because the formula is in this book.

This highly original book takes as its starting point a central question for nineteenth- and twentieth-century literature and philosophy: how to represent the poor? Covering the period from the publication of *Les Fleurs du Mal* in 1857 to the composition of Benjamin's final texts in the 1930s, *Untimely Beggar* investigates the coincidence of two modern literary and philosophical interests: representing the poor and representing potential. To take account of literature's relation to the poor, Patrick Greaney proposes the concept of impoverished writing, which withdraws from representing objects and registers the existence of power. By reducing itself to the indication of its own potential, by impoverishing itself, literary language attempts to engage and participate in the power of the poor. This focus on impoverished language offers new perspectives on major French and German authors, including Marx, Nietzsche, Mallarmé, Rilke, and Brecht; and makes significant contributions to recent debates about power and potential in thinkers such as Agamben, Deleuze, Foucault, Hardt, and Negri. In doing so, Greaney offers significant insights into modernity's intense philosophical and literary interest in socioeconomic poverty.

Greaney leads the reader through a series of disparate texts and theories, providing wonderfully detailed readings, which often contradict existing understandings and interpretations. *Studies in 20th and 21st Century Literature* Greaney's study is a bold initiative, scholarly and informative, and it brings together familiar themes, and familiar writers and theorists, in a constellation that generates significant new light. *French Studies* Greaney...brings his interpretive acumen to the table, offering detailed analyses of the prosodic elements and finer nuances of poetry. His book...makes for a pleasurable read; its prose is lucid and engaging while its argument advances steadily and convincingly. The most admirable quality of *Untimely Beggar* is its combination of traditional scholarship and newer critical approaches. Greaney mindfully attends to his predecessors, but simultaneously forges ahead in his own productive encounter with a host of diverse texts that exemplify his concept of impoverished writing. *German Studies* This is a rich and complex book that combines theoretical speculation with close readings of important texts. It will be useful for scholars working on nineteenth-century French and German literature as well as for critics interested in readings of literature inspired by Foucault. *H-France From the Back Cover* Patrick Greaney offers strong and poignant readings that responsibly attend to the modern cast of destitution. Brilliant, unflinching, and calm, he opens a dossier on one of the most imposing dimensions of our modernity, combining a strong sensibility for the impoverishment of being with the gift for naming the ravages of world-historical insolvency. *Avital Ronell About the Author* Patrick Greaney is associate professor of German studies and comparative literature at the University of Colorado Boulder.