

## CONCLUSION

My concern throughout this book has been to examine some of the possibilities and limitations that Cernuda's later poetry reveals when analysed through the lenses of universality and specificity. Having, in the first chapter, provisionally accepted the universality of Cernuda's poetry, which other critics had taken for granted, as part of the project of using art to engender freedom in history, I then, in the second chapter, highlighted the cost to women and, to a lesser extent, men of the universalizing view of the divine found in Cernuda's later poetry. I was also concerned to draw out that same poetry's occasional tentative recognition of sexual difference and to argue that the speaker's relation to nature and childhood could most properly be considered gender-specific since it bore the hallmarks of the male subject's relation to the maternal-feminine. In the third chapter, I analysed the richness and complexity of the male homosexual identities in Cernuda's later poetry made possible by a concentration on specificity and universalizing understandings of sexual identity. The first two sections of the fourth chapter were principally concerned with the representation of male homosexual identity and desire in particular, while the third section proposed a universalizing understanding of male homosexuality by arguing that it was defined by a relation to biology common to all sexuality regardless of the gender of object-choice.

In this book, I have analysed a wide range of issues from a variety of theoretical perspectives many of which either are entirely new in Cernuda criticism or had not received detailed consideration in previous critical work. Despite its variety of subject-matter and approach, in the course of this book, I believe a thematic core has emerged that is made up of the questions of the divine, nature, gender, humanity, and sexuality. Rather than developing an overall, synthetic argument, I have inflected these questions differently in different chapters in order to propose a series of new readings with the aim of stimulating new avenues of critical enquiry into work on Cernuda's later poetry.