Dear Juan Camilo Conde Silvestre:

Thanks for your detailed explanation. The text is thoroughly revised using the Microsoft Word Track Change option so you can easily follow the revisions applied. All reviewer suggestions are addressed in the final text. Further explanations, highlighted in green, are provided separately under each suggestion.

Best,

Naeem Nedaee

Reviewer A:
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Great article. Deleuzean thought on the nonhuman and on affect both extremely complex and notoriously difficult to articulate. This article does it brilliantly with reference to the novel Sula.

From the outset, there is a careful exposition of key concepts and philosophical terms leading to an expansive opening of possibilities for reading Sula. I would suggest a few changes to a few sentences:

- Author(s) should return to the first use of the word "problematic" on p. 7 of the ms. It occurs in an important paragraph that delivers the promise of the argument. It needs a better articulation here, perhaps the insertion of a qualifier like 'the string of singular points' (that appears on the following page) or something similar.

Author: Qualifier added: “two networks of singular mo(ve)ments”

- The phrase "Hannah's catching of fire to death" is odd and clumsy. Maybe substitute something like "Hannah's accidental and fatal burning" and later "Hannah accidentally catches herself while bending to light a fire" should be "'Hannah accidentally catches herself alight while bending to light a fire".

Author: All suggestions applied duly. Thank you.

- When the three points of personal problematic are first raised they occur in this order: "morality, friendship and emotion". Then, when the term problematic is more established, the three points have either "emotion" or "affect" in the centre. Why not use the trio in this order from the outset--not only for consistency but also as a memory-meme when they appear later.

Author:Suggestion applied duly. You can find it under the subheading“Toward the Problematic of Affects”

- Also, perhaps change "uprooting grassroots" to "uprooting grass";

Author: Done. Thank you.

and say more about Nel's disillusionment with her mother (mentioned at two points but never spelled out).

Author:Suggestion applied duly.
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Reviewer B:
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The topic at hand is attractive and it would be improved if it also would add to the discussion the intellectual dimension of the  exercise of reading.

The article departs from the thesis that reading is not an intellectual activity, which is deeply flawed.

Author: The reviewer fails to explain what he/ she means by intellectual. Furthermore, he/ she does not provide any reason as to why it would be considered flawed. I reckon that we stand on different grounds as far as the reviewer seems to have adopted a classical approach to reading/ criticism. Deleuze’s method is based on the introduction of a third term (here, affect) into classical binary oppositions (here, intelligence-emotion or intellect-body) that not only subverts but also replaces, encompasses and transcends any dualism. For Deleuze, interpretation/ reading is not a one-dimensional or objective exercise but the inter-subjective experience of bodies coming into chance encounters, the act of unfolding meanings out of signs, leading to new possibilities and transformations. I have provided a comparison between experience/ impression and experimentation/ intelligence in page 2, with the former replacing, encompassing and transcending the latter, as far as art is concerned.

On the introduction, the author does not address theoretically the term "experience" assumming that experience is a valid source of objective knowledge. The theoretical developments of post-positivism might help to elucidate the use of this term.

Author: As far as we are concerned with Deleuze, we might not expect a common-sense meaning of any seemingly simple concept. The term experience takes on a particular meaning in Deleuze’s terminology/ semiology as I have provided you with in the introduction. Besides, considering Reviewer C’s request to shorten the introduction, I have avoided the risk of verbosity.

The article assumes that the theoretical framework used by the author is a valid tool for the analysis of African American literature, when is not unless accompanied by a context-approach analysis which would take into consideration  the specific  cultural background out of which the literary expression of Morrison comes out.

Author: The article approaches Sula not as a specifically African American text but as the expression of a universal human situation. As I have mentioned in the revised text, the article is modeled after Bourassa’s methodology in “Invisible Man: Affect, History, Race”. Interestingly, Bourassa considers an African American text (Ralph Ellison’s Invisible Man) using the same methodology and approach. Insofar as it is based on Deleuze’s deconstructivist method, the theoretical framework can be considered as a valid tool for approaching literary texts in a new light. However, it seems to me that the reviewer’s suggestion in regard to the consideration of “the specific cultural background” is legitimate.

The article does not refer to any other application of the theoretical tools employed in the article on an African American text, nor to previous critical analysis and reception of the novel discussed

Author: The first issue is already discussed above. I included a contextual/cultural sketch of the novel following the introduction section.

The reader could benefit from a brief synopsis of the novel in the light of critical tools used by the article. The writer of the article at one point states that he/she "reserve my right to return to this issue now and then for further elaboration" clearly lacking in accuracy when performing the analysis. Punctuation needs to be revised throughout the paper.

Author: A synopsis of the novel is provided following the introduction section. I have made the effort to follow the chronological order of the plot in my analysis. The phrase “reserve my right...” is omitted duly for lack of accuracy. Punctuation is revised using the Track Changes option throughout the paper.

Additional comments

The article cannot address the full complexities of the novel presented on it as "problems" until it develops a critical sensibility that feeds from the cultural background out of which the story and the characters are created.

Author: As already addressed, I have provided a brief discussion of the cultural background of the text.

The article does not answer the key question of Sula's  quest for loneliness in the novel and the paper would benefit if the main character is explained through a perspective of gender. After all, at the time of publication and in later years, the main character literally revolutionized the representation of Black women in North American literature.

Author: Despite the fact that the main focus of the text is not Sula’s loneliness (it would have needed another scholarly article altogether) but her affective development in morality and friendship, I have discussed the concept under the issue of “personal problematic”. Eight references to the word “loneliness” and five to “lonely” might have escaped the reviewer’s attention. The issue of gender also does not fall into the framework of this study.
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Reviewer C:
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A bit too general and long theoretical introduction (5 pages), it could be shortened

Author: The introduction is revised and reduced substantially. Furthermore, a brief discussion of the term experience is provided in the introduction as requested by reviewer B.

A wider use of criticism on the specific book this article deals with is recommended

Author: The article is expanded specifically in terms of critical and cultural background. The number of references is increased to 22.