

Contributors

Dr Charlotte Beyer is Senior Lecturer in English Studies at the University of Gloucestershire, and holds an MA and PhD in Women's Studies. A contemporary literature specialist, her teaching areas include recent British fiction and poetry; North American literature from the 19th Century to the present day; black British and postcolonial writing; and crime fiction. She has published a number of articles on Margaret Atwood's fiction and poetry in relation to postcolonial and feminist perspectives, and an article and a book chapter on Willa Cather's journalism. She has recently published articles on Dorothy Pilkington's *Rabbit-Proof Fence* and her use of feminist and postcolonial theoretical perspectives in teaching and learning, and on Jackie Kay and Isha Mckenzie-Mavinga and black British women's writing and maternal identities. She has also published on crime fiction. Dr Beyer writes reviews for, as well as serving as a peer reviewer on, several academic journals. She is also a published poet, and her poetry has appeared in the poetry journal *The Dawntreader*, and in the anthologies *Crab Lines off the Pier* (2010), *Visible Breath* (2010), and *EMERGENCY VERSE: Poetry in Defence of the Welfare State* (2010).

Dr Sandra Courtman is Programme Director for Literature with Creative Writing in the Institute for Lifelong Learning at the University of Sheffield. Her work on women writers of the Windrush generation led to a 1969 Jamaican autobiography: Joyce Gladwell's *Brown Face, Big Master*, being reprinted as a Macmillan Caribbean Classic in 2003. She edited *Beyond the Blood, the Beach and The Banana: New Perspectives in Caribbean Studies* (Jamaica: Ian Randle, 2004). She has written about women writers and the black British canon and Caribbean connections with Birmingham's photographic collections. Recent publications include an essay on cross-cultural readings of the Caribbean short story and an essay on Caryl Phillips's *A Distant Shore*.

Dr Alicia E. Ellis is Assistant Professor of German and Comparative Literature at Hampshire College in Amherst Massachusetts. She received her PhD in Germanic Languages and Literatures at Yale University where she also earned a Master's Degree in African-American Studies. Her teaching and research interests are located in German literature and intellectual history of the long nineteenth century; African-American and Caribbean literatures; the intersection of literature and historical thought; and adaptation as a theoretical method. She has written and lectured on E.T.A. Hoffmann, Franz Grillparzer, Ossip Mandelstam, Albert Camus, Ingeborg Bachmann, Christa Wolf and Edwidge Danticat.

Dr Rhona Hammond read Classics and English at Oxford before completing her PhD thesis, "Classical Influences on the Poetry of Derek Walcott," through the Open University in 2001. Since completing her thesis, Rhona has presented papers on Walcott, Ralph de Boissiere and Caribbean literary topics at various conferences in Australia and Europe and has published articles in the *Journal of Commonwealth Literature* and *Kunapipi*. Originally from Scotland, Rhona has lived in Belgium, Sweden and South Africa but is now settled in Australia where she is currently joint President of the Australian Association for Caribbean Studies.

Dr Wendy Knepper (guest editor) is a Lecturer in transnational modernism and postcolonial literature at Brunel University as well as co-founder of the Brunel Gender & Sexuality Research Centre (2011). She has published articles on Caribbean literature and theory, gender-related issues, and crime fiction in essay collections and peer-reviewed journals, including *PMLA* and *Small Axe*. She has recently published *Patrick Chamoiseau: A Critical Introduction* (2012), which presents an analytic account of the author's narrative strategies and oeuvre as a whole. Currently, she is working on the Palgrave Companion to Caribbean Literature as well as a book-length study of crime and reconstructions of justice in contemporary Caribbean writing.

Dr Ole Laursen holds a PhD from the Open University (2011), where his doctoral thesis focused on contemporary black and Asian British women's life writing. He has published on Lucinda Roy and is currently co-editing a special issue of the *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* on postcolonialism and new information technologies. He is also preparing a book project on labour and rights in contemporary postcolonial literature, and is working on black British orphan narratives. He was database assistant editor on the AHRC-funded project, 'Making Britain: South Asian Visions of Home and Abroad, 1870-1950' (2007-2010), and postgraduate representative of the European Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (2009-2011). He has presented papers throughout the UK, Ireland and Denmark, and taught at the ASNEL Summer School in Bern, Switzerland (2011).

Dr Maria Helena Lima is a Professor of English at SUNY-Geneseo whose research and teaching focus on the Caribbean, the African Diaspora, and black British Writing. Among her publications, "The Politics of Teaching Black and British," in *Black British Writing* (Palgrave 2004), "Pivoting the Center': The Fiction of Andrea Levy," in *Write Black, Write British: From Post Colonial to Black British Literature* (Hansib 2005), and entries on Andrea Levy, Dorothea Smartt, and Meera Syal in the *Dictionary of Literary Biography* 347 (2009). She translated and co-edited with Miriam Alves a bilingual anthology of fiction by Afro-Brazilian Women, *Women Righting/Mulheres Escre-vendo* (2005).

Dr Claudia Marquis is a Senior Lecturer in English Literature at the Department of English, University of Auckland, New Zealand. She teaches in the areas of Renaissance and Victorian literature, Children's Literature, and African and Caribbean Literatures. Her recent research has concentrated on Caribbean writing, including articles on Jamaica Kincaid, George Lamming, and Andrea Levy. She has also published on children's fiction, especially fiction for adolescents by South Pacific writers, such as Margaret Mahy, Mauricee Gee, and Ruth Park. She is currently working on a book-length study of the fantastic in 19th century children's literature.

Dr Ann Murphy is Professor in the English Literature at Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts. Her academic interests include the 19th century British novel, feminist and postcolonial theory and criticism, postcolonial women writers, Virginia Woolf, literature by American women of color, and the literature of war and peace and peacemaking in literature. She is the co-editor, with Deirdre Raftery, of a collection of letters from Emily Davies, 19th century British feminist. She is now working with a

colleague on a book exploring ideas of peacemaking and nonviolence in literature from times of war and conflict.

Dr Jo Pready was awarded her PhD from Nottingham in 2010. Her research focuses on the role of environment in novels from the late Victorian period through to contemporary fiction. This research involves the consideration of the interplay between space and character: how novels may be manipulated by the role of place and location and how the construction of environment may be informed by social and political theories. This research applies 'psychogeography' to an analysis of narratives. Generally, this work focuses on the idea of movement, which covers a broad and interdisciplinary research area, ranging from travel writing through to urban planning and regeneration, the use of suburbs and the movements from inner city developments to suburban areas, the growth of the railway and the underground, and so forth. Her recent focus has been on architecture and, in particular, the use of hotels in novels through a postmodern consideration of the power that this space has to shape events and character. Since gaining her PhD, Dr Pready has taught at the University of Westminster and Brunel University. She is currently working as a research officer at the University of Brighton.

Dr Mohanalakshmi Rajakumar is a writer and educator who has lived in Qatar since 2005. She completed her doctorate at University of Florida with a focus on gender and postcolonial theory. Her first book, *Haram in the Harem* (Peter Lang, 2009) is a literary analysis of the works of three Muslim women authors in India, Algeria, and Pakistan. She is the creator of the Qatar Narratives series, and co-editor of five books, as well as the *Qatari Voices* anthology, which features essays by Qataris on modern life in Doha (Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Publishing, 2010). Her work has been published in *Brownbook*, *Variety Arabia*, *AudioFile Magazine*, *Explore Qatar*, *Woman Today*, *The Woman*, *Speak without Interruption*, *Writers and Artists Yearbook*, *QatarClick*, and *Qatar Explorer*. She has been a guest on Expat Radio, and was the host for two seasons of the Cover to Cover book show on Qatar Foundation Radio. She was the Associate Editor of *Vox*, a fashion and lifestyle magazine. Currently Mohana is working on a series of e-books, one of which is a novel based in Qatar.