

Biographies of the Contributors:

Steven Leddin holds a PhD from the University of Limerick. His thesis examined the role of language, history and interpretation in the work of Theodor W. Adorno and Hans-Georg Gadamer. His research interests focus on Critical Theory (primarily Adorno and Benjamin), Hermeneutics (primarily the work of Hans-Georg Gadamer) and Contemporary Continental Philosophy. He is currently in the process of preparing his thesis for publication.

Dr Rachel Schulkins is an hourly paid lecturer at Liverpool Hope University. Her research interests are Romantic literature and culture, gender and sexuality, race and identity and Anglo-Jewish literature in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Her current research project focuses on the various interpretations of the *Merchant of Venice* in Romantic literature and popular culture, examining the intersections between literature, culture, politics, science and the visual arts. She has previously published on the image of Shylock in Maria Edgeworth's literature and is the book review editor for the *International Journal of Literature and Psychology*.

Victor Vargas received his Master's in English from Texas State University in Dec 1997 and his Ph.D. in English from Claremont Graduate University in Dec 2012. He has taught at several California colleges including Mt. San Antonio, Skyline, and most recently completed his first term as a volunteer instructor at San Quentin's Prison University Project (affiliated with Patten University).

Solenne Lestienne was born in the Suburbs of Paris, and takes after her parents love for the arts. After studying English Literature at Paris 7 University (Paris), she has a peculiar career path, juggling between art practice and inquiries into English literature and concentrating mostly on Virginia Woolf and Henry James. She has been published in *Virginia Woolf Miscellany* handling the theme of the self in Plath's and Woolf's works (2007) and in *Luxembourg Journal* (2009) dealing with Henry James and the feminine in *The Portrait of a Lady*. She spends most of her time working on writing poems and essays; at the moment she dedicates her time looking into the connection between Woolf and materiality. This unusual "career" is above all dictated by the volition to interrogate, either humanly or in literature, the notion of the self.

Clare Gorman completed her PhD dissertation at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, entitled, *Towards the Undecidable' - A Reading of the texts of James Joyce, Sean O'Casey and Paul Howard through the Deconstructive Lens of Jacques Derrida*. Her research interest dwells within that of Irish studies, namely that of the Irish cultural and criticism – modern literature to contemporary literature.

Michael Sabelli completed his Master's Degree at the University of Amsterdam in European Studies: Identity and Integration. His thesis focused on applying the genre of literary reportage to Polish journalist Ryszard Kapuściński's literary works in order to demonstrate how it was used to engage his audience in his discourse on otherness. He grew up in the culturally sensitive city of Montreal, Canada. After attaining his BA in Political Science at Concordia University, he spent time traveling the world over exploring other people's cultures and environments. Michael continues to write as a freelance journalist producing articles for a variety of publications.

Fiorenzo Iuliano holds a PhD in Cultural Studies and works as a lecturer in American literature at the University of Cagliari (Italy). His research interests include contemporary American fiction and graphic novel, cultural studies and theories of the body and corporeality. He has recently published a book on American literature in the 1990s and the representation of the body, *Il corpo ritrovato*, and *Altri mondi, altre parole*, a monograph on the work of Gayatri Ch. Spivak. He is currently working on the cultural scene of Seattle in the 1990s.

Hannah Swamidoss, an independent researcher, completed her PhD in Literary Studies from The University of Texas at Dallas with an emphasis on British fiction, children's literature and postcolonial studies. Her dissertation explores the concept of "third culture" in British literature and examines a range of authors from Jane Austen to Frances Hodgson Burnett. Her current research includes an analysis of picture-book artist Allen Say's work using the third-culture paradigm, and her article on Say will be published in the forthcoming issue of *Red Feather Journal*.

Linda Camarasana is an Assistant Professor of English at the State University of New York, College at Old Westbury. She has published articles on Jean Rhys's *Good Morning, Midnight* and Virginia Woolf's *Between the Acts*. She has presented her work at the annual conventions of the MLA, MSA, ALA, and the International Virginia Woolf Society. She is currently working on two book projects: a study of the novels of Claude McKay and an edited collection of essays on Adrienne Rich.

Michelle Kennedy is a second year PhD student in the English Department of Mary Immaculate College. The primary focus of her research is the deconstructive interplay of Feminism and Catholicism in Modern Irish Literature, as evidenced through the works of Anne Enright and John McGahern. She has published papers in *JOFIS* and *Etudes Irlandaises* and the expected completion date for her research is April 2014.

Barbara Leung is a graduate of New York University's "Media, Culture and Communication" program. Her research interests include fashion photography and its intersection with race and gender, and alternative usage of social network and online dating sites. Barbara has presented her work at the New York State Communication Association and LIM College's "Fashion: Now and Then" conferences, and is currently working on a project investigating relationships between social networking and online dating sites.

Jason Davids Scott, Ph.D. is an assistant professor of film and theatre at Arizona State University. He received his advanced degrees in theatre from University of California Santa Barbara and also taught at Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas. He has published in the *Mid-Atlantic Almanack*, the *Journal of Popular Culture*, and contributed to the *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Stage Actors and Acting* (to be published in 2014). He is a former president of the Mid-Atlantic Popular/American Culture Association, where he also serves as area chair for Theatre/Dance/Performance Studies, and co-area chair for Sexuality and Erotica. A version of this paper was presented at the 2010 MAPACA conference in Alexandria, VA.