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Volume 10, Issue 2 May 2018

Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the May 2018 issue of *Transnational Literature*. Once again, bringing this issue together has been a wonderful process of discovering links and resonances among the disparate contributions of widely-scattered writers and scholars – I counted 22 countries among the current residences of our contributors, on every continent except Antarctica.

A predominant theme in this issue is translation, both literal – between languages – and the translation the self undergoes when borders are crossed. The Zambian-born, UK-based poet Kayo Chingonyi writes in his interview in this issue, ‘Thinking about the margins is to think about subjectivity, the very specific things which cannot be generalised.’ Those specific things are the stuff of literature, and the best literary scholarship is undertaken with that in mind.

We are very fortunate to be able to include a beautifully curated special feature titled ‘Voices from the Margins’. The editors, Lioba Schreyer, of Ruhr-University Bochum, and Lena Mattheis from the University of Duisburg-Essen, have drawn together articles, interviews and poetry on themes of indigeneity, climate change, orality and, above all, marginality.

Among the articles in this special feature is Lotta Schneidemesser’s discussion of the challenges facing a German translator of Samoan poetry written in English. Translation also emerges as a key element in much of the poetry section, edited magnificently as always by Alison Flett. Alison brings us two special features: eminent Australian poet Lisa Gorton is featured in this issue, with her translations from the French poet Rimbaud; and the guest curator is French avant-garde poet Marie de Quatrebarbes, who has selected some contemporary French poetry given both in the original French and in translation. Among the riches of the general poetry section this month, we have two poems by Peter Bakowski, written in English and translated into German and French respectively, with a note on the translation process.

And of course there is as usual a small section, edited by Reza Haque, devoted to translation, with an English rendering of two of Friedrich Rückert’s German ghazals looking back to the fourteenth-century Persian poet Hafiz. As with all the other translations in this issue, the original text is included along with the translation, and as one of these poems is an English translation of a German translation from Persian, the poem is given in all three languages.

The importance of historical awareness – of acknowledging and understanding the past – is a recurrent preoccupation among the peer-reviewed articles in this issue. Apart from Rohini Shukla’s fascinating examination of the devotional songs of the pastoral region of Maharashtra, the articles mostly deal with canonical works or modern classics of post-colonial fiction in English, and identity, trauma, marginality and embodiment are among the themes explored.

The five short stories in this issue, expertly edited by Ruth Starke, are set in India, Japan, Kuwait and the US, ranging from the whimsical charm of Meredith Stephens’ ‘Cherry Blossom Cycling’ to Leyla Savsar’s deeply moving ‘Almost Home’, a chronicle of a family’s struggle with grief and search for a place to call home.

Twenty-two book reviews, half of which deal with fiction, poetry and other creative writing, and half with works of history, theory and criticism, round out this rich and varied issue of *Transnational Literature*.

With the May issue of *Transnational Literature* my time as general editor of the journal ends. I have been in this honorary position since 2008, when I took on the editorship of a journal then known as *Quodlibet*. It has been an exciting time – building up the journal, expanding its team of editors and extending its reach to encompass writers, scholars and readers from all over the world. It has been a great privilege working with such a dedicated group of editors and with over 600 authors, and I would like to thank all my editorial colleagues, past and present, for their contributions to the journal’s success, as well as the members of the Advisory and Editorial Boards for their invaluable support over the ten years of *TNL*’s history. It is time for me to step aside to pursue other consuming interests, but I will continue to take an active interest in the wellbeing of the journal. We hope to announce plans for the future over the coming weeks.

Gillian Dooley, General Editor

Contributors to May 2018 Issue

Special feature: ‘Voices from the Margins’, Guest Editors Lioba Schreyer and Lena Mattheis

Lioba Schreyer and
Lena Mattheis

[Listening to the Margins: An Introduction](#)

Peter H. Marsden	Oral Goes Viral - Reversing the Print Revolution
Emma Scanlan	Jamaica Osorio's Indigenous Poetics as a Challenge to Global Hybridity
Ricarda de Haas	'Both feared and loved, an enigma to most': Zimbabwean Spoken Word and Video Poetry between Radicalisation and Disillusionment
Eve Nabulya	A Poetics of Climate Change: Apocalyptic Rhetoric in Selected Poems from East Africa
Marvin Reimann	'This is me, anonymous, water's soliloquy': The River's Voice as a Coalescence of Humankind and Nature in Alice Oswald's <i>Dart</i>
Lotta Schneidemesser	Finding a 'German' Voice for Courtney Sina Meredith's, <i>Brown Girls in Bright Red Lipstick</i>
Lioba Schreyer	Interview with Kayo Chingonyi, Poet and Creative Facilitator
Kayo Chingonyi	Four poems: Kenta, Alternate Take, A Proud Blemish, Interior with Ceiling Fan

Complete Special Feature: 'Voices from the Margins' in one file (for ease of downloading)

Peer-reviewed articles (general)

Ruaa Al-Doori and Yousef Awad	Space, Transformation and Identity in E. M. Forster's <i>A Passage to India</i> and Ahdaf Soueif's <i>The Map of Love</i>
Mónica Fernández Jiménez	The Struggle for Identity and the Need for Documenting History in Junot Díaz's, <i>The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i>
Sarah O'Brien	Translating Trauma in Kaled Hosseini's, <i>The Kite Runner</i>
Quratulain Shirazi	Revisiting history and reconstructing new forms of belonging and identity in Kamila Shamsie's, <i>Salt and Saffron</i>
Rohini Shukla	Authorship and Generative Embodiment in Bahinai's Songs
Matthew Lloyd Spencer	The Power of Nothing(s): Parahumanity and Erasure in Indra Sinha's, <i>Animal's People</i>
Philip Sulter	'Trans-Cultural Exchange': Reframing Historical Metanarratives in Ishtiyaq Shukri's, <i>The Silent Minaret</i>
Silvia Tellini	Identity and Nation in Kazuo Ishiguro's, <i>An Artist of the Floating World</i>

Complete peer-reviewed articles May 2018 in one file (for downloading or printing)

Poetry (editor Alison Flett)

Featured Poet

Lisa Gorton	On translating Rimbaud's 'Villes' / Magic Lantern Slides Rimbaud's Cities I / Magic Lantern Slides Rimbaud's Cities II / Magic Lantern Slides
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French Poetry Feature

Marie de Quatrebarbes	French Poetry: An Introduction by Marie de Quatrebarbes
Marie de Quatrebarbes	33 1/2 Flowers
Stéphane Bouquet	Translating Paul Blackburn
Maël Guesdon	The beginnings
Dorothee Volut	Zorra

Poetry General

Faiza Anum	Lullabying Lahore
Peter Bakowski	The Courage Season
Mark Anthony Cayanan	from SENTENCE
Anne Elvey	she says and A climate of morality meets Melbourne winter
Ella Jeffrey	Huangshan sonnet and scences from last night in guangzhou
Chris Mooney-Singh	Chichester and the Bhagavad Gita
Bibhu Padhi	The night is not far
Carolina Skibinski	scrollings through a mirror
Barnaby Smith	To consider Chelsea Manning at Guangzhou airport

Poetry in Translation
(Editor: Md Rezaul Haque)

Two Poems by Friedrich Rückert translated by Alex McKeown

Complete poetry May 2018 (for ease of downloading)

Fiction and life-writing
(Editor: Ruth Starke)

Michael Armstrong *Saloon with a View*

Kuwait resident Michael Armstrong no longer has a psychological breakdown when he visits his local barbershop, but it was an uncomfortable learning curve.

Suzanne Kamata *Mystery Dinner*

I wrote this essay in part as a way to cheer myself up. I was feeling melancholy about losing a job and anxious about the future. It's about food and finding new friends in a foreign country, but also about staying open to possibilities.

Leyla Savsar *Almost Home*

Almost Home embodies the outsider's search for belonging amidst the foreign and the familiar. Written from several vantage points of a narrator who seeks to find a sense of calm in the wake of turbulence and a center from the margins at best, Almost Home paints a bittersweet portrait of grief and loss, of comings and goings, of a shared nostalgia that propels us backwards and forwards, around and back home again. Just almost.

Murzban F. Shroff *Mumbai in Focus*

Two stories: 'Mental about Mumbai' and 'The Gypsies of Grant Road'.

Meredith Stephens *Cherry Blossom Cycling*

As a cyclist from South Australia, known as the driest state in the driest continent, I had never entertained the notion of cycling in the rain. In Japan, where rain was abundant, I followed the dangerous practice of sheltering myself with an umbrella when cycling in the rain, until the day I was stopped by a young policeman on his motorbike.

Complete fiction and life writing May 2018 (for ease of downloading)

Book reviews: Fiction,
poetry, life-writing

Annette Couch *Star Struck* by David McCooey

Sebastian Galbo *Frankenstein in Baghdad* by Ahmed Saadwai, translated by Jonathan Wright

Alice Gorman *The West-Eastern Divan of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*, translated from the German by Robert Martin.

Melinda Graefe *Double Glaze* by Steve Brock

Kay Hart *Zorami A Redemption Song* by Malsawmi Jacob

Debasish Lahiri *A Personal History of Vision* by Luke Fisher

John Miles *Between the Kindling and the Blaze: Reflections on the Concept of Mana* by Ben Brown

Wendy Jones Nakanishi *The Life to Come* by Michelle de Krester

Jennifer Osborn *The Fabulous Feminist: a Suniti Namjoshi Reader*

Jennifer Osborn *Plane Tree Drive* by Lynette Washington

Nishi Pulugurtha *Across the Seven Seas* by Satendra Nandan

Complete book reviews: fiction, poetry and life-writing May 2018 (for ease of downloading)

Book reviews: History,
Theory and Criticism

Ajay K. Chaubey *Explorations in Critical Humanities: A Collection of Essays* edited by Sreenath Muraleedhara K. & Devi K.

Konstantina Georganta *Irish Poets and Modern Greece: Heaney, Mahon, Cavafy, Seferis* by Joanna Kruczkowska

Robyn Greaves *From the Edges of Empire: Convict Women from Beyond the British*

	<i>Isles</i> edited by Lucy Frost and Colette McAlpine
Saba Idris	<i>Revisiting India's Partition: New Essays on Memory, Culture, and Politics</i> edited by Amritjit Singh, Nalini Iyer, and Rahul K. Gairola
Suzanne Kamata	<i>Re-Orienting China: Travel Writing and Cross-Cultural Understanding</i> by Leilei Chen
Alana Kosklin	<i>Return Narratives</i> by Theodora D. Patrona
Dieter Riemenschneider	<i>A Gesture of Reconciliation: Partnership Studies in Australian Literature</i> by Antonella Riem
Lekha Roy	<i>Border Crossings</i> edited by Diana Glenn and Graham Tulluch
Paul Sharrad	<i>Teaching Australian and New Zealand Literature</i> edited by Nicholas Birns, Nicole Moore and Sarah Shieff
Umme Salma	<i>East-West Literary Imagination: Cultural Exchange from Yeats to Morrison</i> by Yoshinobu Hakutani
Jean-Francois Vernay	<i>The Hatred of Literature</i> by William Marx, translated by Nicholas Elliot

Complete Book reviews: history, theory and criticism (for ease of downloading)

Contributors to May 2018 Issue