Letter from the Editor

I never fail to be thrilled by the extraordinary and continually widening reach of our journal. Nearly sixty residents of fifteen countries have contributed to this issue, each of them telling a transnational story in prose or poetry, or contributing to a vast international literary conversation about writing from dozens of other countries and cultures. Many of them, like Jessica Sanfilippo Schulz, would be 'Third Culture Kids', spending their lives straddling borders and boundaries. Jessica’s essay is one of an especially rich collection we have to offer you this November, with subjects ranging from Denmark-based Indian novelist and poet Tabish Khair to the young Afghanistan-born US memoirist Farah Ahmedi. And we range not only across countries but across centuries, with essays on the early twentieth-century Australian writer Nettie Palmer along with more internationally recognisable literary figures such as Joseph Conrad, Jean Rhys and Washington Irving. Lastly, Patrick McCabe’s 1992 novel The Butcher Boy is the subject of a spirited assessment by Marie McMillan.

Thirteen new poems come to you from a dazzling collection of poets. Claire Gaskin writers of her poem, ‘LiveRecovery’,

I’m looking at the transnational from a globalisation angle. I think that globalisation is a new form of colonising. Due to colonising women’s bodies, we colonise globally. I’m paralleling the body with the nation, moving through the personal to the universal. The social and political power struggles wielded in personal relationships are also wielded between nations. I’m working with the idea of globalisation as an economic force resulting in political and social control.

Poetry editor Heather Taylor Johnson adds, ‘Gaskin uses repetition and noun-substitution to surprise and challenge her readers, and that’s something interesting about this group of poems as a whole: though they’re mostly weighty in tone, they’re quite playful in style. Experimentation with punctuation seems to be a recurring event, and in a modern-day anti-rhyming mindset, some of the poets make a bold move to keep rhyme alive.’

Also in the poetry section, we have a translation from the Persian of a powerful work about women’s lack of agency in an oppressive regime.

Seven stories and memoirs take us around the world, in humorous and poignant narratives inspired by personal encounters across cultures and countries. As always, the stories are truly transnational and range from magic realism in a Thai orphanage and early morning exasperation in South Korea to first world tourists in South India and a violent death in the cane fields of Fiji.

And lastly, dozens of book reviews, covering poetry, fiction and critical writing from all over the world, written by reviewers from all over the world. We are pleased to have been able to include five reviews originally written for Critical Race and Whiteness Studies Journal which they were unable to publish.

We would, however, be nowhere without our genial and unassuming late colleague, Syd Harrex. One year ago we included a collection of tributes to Syd following his death in May 2015. In December 2016 we are publishing a special issue out of our usual series dedicated to Syd and his work, including new essays and reprints. Some of his later poems are published for the first time.

I don’t do this alone, by any means, and I am most grateful to those who have helped me with the editing of the articles and book reviews. I have been helped enormously by Andrew Craig over the past few months, and Michael Lee Gardin has also done sterling work on some of the essays. My deputy editors Emily Sutherland and Paul Ardoin have as always provided much-needed support with the editorial review process. I would also like to thank the section editors Heather Taylor Johnson (Poetry), Md Rezaul Haque (Translations) and Ruth Starke, assisted by Molly Murn (Fiction and Life Writing) for their valuable work in curating and editing their sections.

And sincere thanks, as always, to the anonymous peer reviewers who provide their services purely in the interests of high-quality humanities scholarship. Without their thorough and thoughtful attention to our contributors’ submissions, we would simply be unable to function.

I hope you enjoy this issue.

Gillian Dooley, General Editor
Contributors

Articles

Esterino Adami
Spoiling suspense? Anticipatory structures as creative narrative devices in Tabish Khair’s diasporic fiction

Jane Hanley
Nettie Palmer’s South to South: Australia, Chile and Writing the Nation

Jessica Allen Hanssen
Transnational Narrativity and Pastoralism in The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent. by Washington Irving

Neelam Jabeen
My Memoir Betrayed Me: A Neo-Expressivist Study of The Other Side of the Sky: A Memoir by Farah Ahmedi

Alexandra Philp
The Geography of Jean Rhys: The Impact of National Identity upon the Exiled Female Author

Thais Rutledge and Robert T. Tally Jr.
Conrad’s ‘An Outpost of Progress’

Jessica Schulz Sanfilippo
Marketing Transnational Childhoods: The Bio Blurbs of Third Culture Novelists

Review Essay

Marie McMillan
A Slaughterhouse of a Story: The Butcher Boy by Patrick McCabe

Complete articles in one file

Poetry

(Editors: Heather Taylor Johnson)

Adeeb Kamal Ad-Deen
That is the poem

Alison Flett
Lovesong

Sanjeev Sethi
Synchronesh

Debasish Lahiri
Afternoon Suicide

Susan Hawthorne
earth’s back

Rizwan Akhtar
The dancing courtesans of old Lahore

Sharon Kermot
London - April, 1986

Lane Ashfeldt
Chernobyl Cherries

Kathryn Hummel
Convergence

Robert Lumsden
Wai Li at the Coffee Maker

Claire Gaskin
LiveRecovery

Satendra Nandan
Votualevu Junction

David Adès
Disembarking

Complete poems in one file

Translation

(Editors: Md Rezaul Haque)

Saba Vasefi
The Forbidden Gender. Translated from the Persian by Sheema Kalbasi

Fiction and life-writing

(Editors: Ruth Starke; assistant editor Molly Murna)

Michael Armstrong
Zerangi

‘Zerangi’ is a word in Farsi meaning ‘clever’ that is used to describe one-upmanship. In hectic chaotic Gulf traffic, driving and zerangi go hand in hand.

Rosemary Jackson
Maengmoom

‘Maengmoom’ is the Thai word for spider. Twenty-five years ago many Australian families adopted children from Thai orphanages. This story explores the powerlessness of such children and one child’s approach to gaining agency in a world that threatens to overwhelm. Maengmoom’s discovery of her unique gift enables her to use this special thing to make her dreams come true.

Julie Kearney
Stepping in the river

‘Stepping in the River’ is about the cultural misunderstandings and small betrayals that arise when First World tourists visit Third World countries. It is also about the enduring love that people in these countries can inspire, imperfect though that love may be.

Kavita Ivy Nandan
The red sari
When two sweet-makers travel to the new world to make a better start, they find life (and death) on the sugar cane fields is bittersweet

Kelly Quinn

Wake-Up call

'I taught English in Seoul, Korea, in the early '90s. Strange things sometimes happened.'

Sunil Sharma

Are hills like white elephants?

'Are Hills Like White Elephants?' is, of course, inspired by Hemingway; the tribute reflects on the abiding relevance of serious art in a changed world and extends the boundaries of his message to other human situations.

Vicky Tsaconas

This piece is inspired by the sea and memories. It is a reflection on my relationship to both on the connections between them.

Complete Fiction & life writing in one file

Book reviews: Poetry
Ash Connell
- Naming the Ruins by Dinah Roma
Ash Connell
- The Beautiful Anxiety by Jill Jones
Pratap Kumar Dash
- The Land: Poems from Australia and India edited by Jaydeep Sarangi and Rob Harle
Douglas E. Kazé
- 100 Days by Juliane Okot Bitek
Zach Linge
- either; Orpheus by Dan Disney
Heather Taylor Johnson
- Breaking the Days by Jill Jones; Hoard by Tracy Ryan
Heather Taylor Johnson
- Comfort Food by Ellen Van Neerven
Amelia Walker
- No Waiting Like Departure by Debasish Lahiri

Complete Book reviews: Poetry in one file

Book reviews: Fiction and Life Writing
Jenny Boźena du Preez
- Colouring the Rainbow: Blak Queer and Trans Perspectives: Life Stories and Essays by the First Nations People of Australia edited by Dino Hodge
Andrew Craig
- The Girl with Seven Names by Hyonson Lee
Sam Franzway
- United States of Banana by Giannina Braschi
Saba Idris
- A Chinese Affair by Isobel Li
Saba Idris
- The Kindness of Enemies by Leila Aboulela
Gay Lynch
- Here Where We Live by Cassie Flanagan Willanski
Michael X. Savvas
- Ecstasy Lake by Alistair Sarre
Ruth Starke
- Hausfrau by Jill Alexander Essbaum
Kathleen Steele
- Maralinga's Long Shadow by Christobel Mattingley
Emily Sutherland
- Ice Letters by Susan Errington
Emily Sutherland
- A Very Normal Man by Vincenzo Cerami, translated by Isobel Grave
Amelia Walker
- three titles: Breaking the Boundaries: Australian Activists Tell Their Stories edited by Yvonne Allen and Joy Noble; The Transnational Story Hub: Between Self and Other by Merlinda Bobis and Belén Martín-Lucas; Surviving in My World: Growing Up Dalit in Bengal by Manohar Mouli Biswas.

Complete Book reviews: Fiction and life writing in one file

Book reviews: History, Theory and Criticism
Piper Bell
- An Introduction to Feminism by Lorna Finlayson
Subashish Bhattacharjee
Sourit Bhattacharya
- Realism in the Twentieth-Century Indian Novel by Ulka Anjaria
Sean James Bosman
- Nineteenth-Century British Literature Then and Now: Reading with Hindsight by Simon Dentith
Laura Deane
- Thicker Than Water: History, Secrets and Guilt – a Memoir by Cal Flyn
Laura Deane
- Racism and Sociology edited by Wulf D. Hund and Alana Lentin
Carole Gerster
- The Cultural Politics of Colorblind TV Casting by Kristen J. Warner
Israel Holas Allimant
- Science Fiction and Digital Technologies in Argentine and Brazilian Culture by Edward King
Nor Faridah Abdul Manaf
- Space and Place in Children's Literature, 1789 to the Present edited by Maria Sachiko Ceci, Hannah Field, Kavita Mudan Finn and Malini Roy
Adam R. McKee
- Toward an Urban Cultural Studies: Henri Lefebvre
Aretha Phiri  
*Physics of Blackness: Beyond the Middle Passage*

Aretha Phiri  
*Epistemology* edited by Michelle M. Wright

Cameron Smith  
*Sites of Race* by David Theo Goldberg and Susan Searls Giroux

Svetlana Stefanova  
*Spatiality and Symbolic Expression: On the Links between Place and Culture* edited by Bill Richardson

Pete Walsh  
*Post-Empire Imaginaries?: Anglophone Literature, History and the Demise of Empires* edited by Barbara Buchenau, Virginia Richter and Marijke Denger

Aidan Watson-Morris  
*Between Two Fires: Transnationalism & Cold War Poetry* by Justin Quinn

Robert M. Zecker  
*Overlooking Saskatchewan: Minding the Gap* edited by Randal Rogers and Christine Ramsay

Complete Book reviews: History, Theory and Criticism in one file

Contributors