



Volume 9, Issue 1 November 2016

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SEARCH *TRANSNATIONAL LITERATURE*

ISSN 1836-4845

FLINDERS INSTITUTE FOR
RESEARCH IN THE HUMANITIES

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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 Ahmed. 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 writes 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

Transnational Literature, Volume 9, Issue 1: Contents

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 <i>The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent.</i> by Washington Irving
Neelam Jabeen	My Memoir Betrayed Me: A Neo-Expressivist Study of <i>The Other Side of the Sky: A Memoir</i> by Farah Ahmed
Alexandra Philp	The Geography of Jean Rhys: The Impact of National Identity upon the Exiled Female Author Formed by Place: Spatiality, Irony, and Empire in Conrad's 'An Outpost of Progress'
Thais Rutledge and Robert T. Tally Jr.	Marketing Transnational Childhoods: The Bio Blurbs of Third Culture Novelists
Jessica Schulz Sanfilippo	

Review Essay

Marie McMillan	A Slaughterhouse of a Story: <i>The Butcher Boy</i> by Patrick McCabe
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Complete articles in one file

Poetry

(Editor: Heather Taylor Johnson)

Adeeb Kamal Ad-Deen	That is the poem
Alison Flett	Lovesong
Sanjeev Sethi	Synchromesh
Debasish Lahiri	Afternoon Suicide
Susan Hawthorne	earth's back
Rizwan Akhtar	The dancing courtesans of old Lahore
Sharon Kernot	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

(Editor: Md Rezaul Haque)

Saba Vasefi	The Forbidden Gender. Translated from the Persian by Sheema Kalbasi
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Fiction and life-writing

(Editor: Ruth Starke; assistant editor Molly Murn)

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

Horizon

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
Ash Connell
Pratap Kumar Dash

Douglas E. Kazé
Zach Linge
Heather Taylor Johnson

Naming the Ruins by Dinah Roma
The Beautiful Anxiety by Jill Jones
The Land: Poems from Australia and India edited by Jaydeep Sarangi and Rob Harle
100 Days by Juliane Okot Bitek
either, Orpheus by Dan Disney

Breaking the Days by Jill Jones; *Hoard* by Tracy Ryan

Heather Taylor Johnson
Amelia Walker

Comfort Food by Ellen Van Neerven
No Waiting Like Departure by Debasish Lahiri

Complete Book reviews: Poetry in one file

Book reviews: Fiction and Life Writing

Jenny Božena du Preez

Andrew Craig
Sam Franzway
Saba Idris
Saba Idris
Gay Lynch
Michael X. Savvas
Ruth Starke
Kathleen Steele
Emily Sutherland
Emily Sutherland

Amelia Walker

Colouring the Rainbow: Blak Queer and Trans Perspectives: Life Stories and Essays by the First Nations People of Australia edited by Dino Hodge
The Girl with Seven Names by Hyeonseo Lee
United States of Banana by Giannina Braschi
A Chinese Affair by Isabelle Li
The Kindness of Enemies by Leila Aboulela
Here Where We Live by Cassie Flanagan Willanski
Ecstasy Lake by Alistair Sarre
Hausfrau by Jill Alexander Essbaum
Maralinga's Long Shadow by Christobel Mattingley
Ice Letters by Susan Errington
A Very Normal Man by Vincenzo Cerami, translated by Isobel Grave
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
Subashish Bhattacharjee

Sourit Bhattacharya

Sean James Bosman

Laura Deane

Laura Deane

Carole Gerster

Israel Holas Allimant

Nor Faridah Abdul Manaf

Adam R. McKee

An Introduction to Feminism by Lorna Finlayson
V.S. Naipaul: An Anthology of 21st Century Criticism edited by Ajay K. Chabey
Realism in the Twentieth-Century Indian Novel by Ulka Anjaria
Nineteenth-Century British Literature Then and Now: Reading with Hindsight by Simon Dentith
Thicker Than Water: History, Secrets and Guilt – a Memoir by Cal Flynn
Racism and Sociology edited by Wulf D. Hund and Alana Lentin
The Cultural Politics of Colorblind TV Casting by Kristen J. Warner
Science Fiction and Digital Technologies in Argentine and Brazilian Culture by Edward King
Space and Place in Children's Literature, 1789 to the Present edited by Maria Sachiko Cecire, Hannah Field, Kavita Mudan Finn and Malini Roy
Toward an Urban Cultural Studies: Henri Lefebvre

Aretha Phiri	<i>and the Humanities</i> by Benjamin Fraser
Aretha Phiri	<i>Physics of Blackness: Beyond the Middle Passage Epistemology</i> by Michelle M. Wright
	<i>Vernacular Worlds, Cosmopolitan Imagination</i> edited by Stephanos Stephanides and Stavros Karayanni
Cameron Smith	<i>Sites of Race</i> by David Theo Goldberg and Susan Searls Giroux
Svetlana Stefanova	<i>Spatiality and Symbolic Expression: On the Links between Place and Culture</i> edited by Bill Richardson
Pete Walsh	<i>Post-Empire Imaginaries?: Anglophone Literature, History and the Demise of Empires</i> edited by Barbara Buchenau, Virginia Richter and Marijke Denger
Aidan Watson-Morris	<i>Between Two Fires: Transnationalism & Cold War Poetry</i> by Justin Quinn
Robert M. Zecker	<i>Overlooking Saskatchewan: Minding the Gap</i> edited by Randal Rogers and Christine Ramsay

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

Contributors