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ARNE MERILAI is Professor and Chair of Estonian Literature (2011) of the University of Tartu, former associate professor of literary theory. At present, his primary area of research is national literature in the context of world literature informed by a comparative poetics and “unified field theory” for literary studies. Primarily, his researches are anchored in bio-bibliographical and comparative historical traditions, formal poetic analysis, linguistic and close-reading criticism, literary psychoanalysis and phenomenology. In addition, he has developed an innovative approach called “pragmapoetics”, a philosophy of poetic language usage rooted in analytical philosophy. His book *Eesti ballaad 1900–1940* was published in 1991, and *Eesti pagulaskirjandus 1944–1992: Luule* (with Õnne Kepp) in 1994. *Eesti ballaad: Antoloogia: XVII–XX sajand, Poetika: Gümnaasiumiõpik* (with Anneli Saro and Epp Annus), and *Pragmapoetika: Kahe konteksti teooria* were released in 2003. Besides editing the joint research books, he has published two volumes of his own selected articles, *Vokimeister: Kriitilisi konstruktsioone 1990–2011* (2011), and *Õnne tähendus: Kriitilisi emotsioone 1990–2010* (2011). A member of the Estonian Writers’ Union, he penned two collections of poetry, *Merlini aare* (1998) and *Tolmutort* (2001), a play (2006), and a novel *Türann Oidipus* (2009). With about 250 publications to his credit, professor Merilai ranks among the most prolific leading scholars in Estonia.

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