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SAMUEL BIDAUD is Assistant Professor at the University of Technology of Troyes and at the University of Burgundy. He defended his PhD in Romance linguistics in 2014 at the University of Burgundy. His fields of research include Romance languages and literatures, and especially Marcel Proust, Tiziano Scarpa, Miguel de Unamuno and Érico Veríssimo. He is also interested in Fyodor Dostoyevsky.

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ZORAN BOŽIČ is Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Nova Gorica. During his doctoral studies at the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana in 2010 he prepared his dissertation entitled *Poezija Franceta Prešerna v srednješolskih učbenikih in njena recepcija* (dealing with problems of canonizing, didactics and reader's response), which has also been published as a book (entitled *Slovenska literatura v šoli in Prešeren*). In the last few years he has published several scientific papers in the USA, in Estonia, Slovakia and Canada. Also in 2014, his scientific monograph with the title *France Prešeren's Poems: Understanding, Evaluation, Interpretation: Reception-based Approach to the Poetry of the Most Important Slovenian Romantic Poet* was published in Germany.

MAIJA BURIMA has a PhD in comparative literature studies. She is Professor at the Institute of Comparative Studies, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities of Daugavpils University and researcher at the Institute of Literature, Folklore, and Art of the University of Latvia (Riga). She has published academic monographs: *Ibsens Latvijā (Ibsen in Latvia, 2007)*, *Modernisma koncepti 20. gadsimta sākuma latviešu literatūrā (Concepts of Modernism in Latvian literature at the beginning of the 20th century, 2011)* and more than 150 articles in Latvian, English, Russian, Estonian, Lithuanian. Her research interests include comparative literature in the wide cultural context, Avant-Garde and Modernism studies, writing and identity, travel literature

PAULS DAIJA, PhD, studied literary theory and history in the University of Latvia and University of Freiburg (Germany). Lecturer at the Faculty of Humanities, University of Latvia (2008–2012), researcher at the Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art, University of Latvia (2012–present). Published articles in English, German, Russian, Latvian about Latvian-German historical relationships, history of Latvian and Baltic German literature in the 18th and 19th century, literary and cultural theory; participated at conferences in Germany, Russia, USA. Translator of Peter Burke's book *Cultural Hybridity* into Latvian (2013), author of the book *Apgaismība un kultūrpārnese. Latviešu laicīgās literatūras tapšana (Enlightenment and Cultural Transfer: The Making of Latvian Secular Literature, 2014; English edition in print, 2015)*.

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ARNE MERILAI is Professor and Chair of Estonian Literature (2011) at the University of Tartu. His primary area of research is national literature in the context of world literature informed by a comparative poetics and unified field literary theory. He has developed an innovative approach called pragmapoetics, a philosophy of poetic language usage. His book *Eesti ballaad 1900–1940* (*Estonian Ballad, 1900–1940*) was published in 1991, and *Eesti pagulaskirjandus 1944–1992: Luule* (*Estonian Literature in Exile 1944–1992: Poetry*, with Õne Kepp) in 1994. *Eesti ballaad: Antoloogia: XVII–XX sajand* (*Estonian Ballad: Anthology: 17th–20th Century*), *Poetika: Gümnaasiumiõpik* (*Poetics: Textbook for High School*, with Anneli Saro and Epp Annus), and *Pragmapoetika: Kahe konteksti teooria* (*Pragmapoetics: the Theory of Two Contexts*) were released in 2003. Besides editing the joint research volumes, he has published two books of his own selected articles, *Vokimeister: Kriitilisi konstruktsioone 1990–2011* (*The Spinning Wheel Maker: Critical Constructs 1990–2011*, 2011), and *Õne tähendus: Kriitilisi emotsioone 1990–2010* (*The Meaning of Happiness: Critical Emotions 1990–2010*, 2011). A member of the Estonian Writers' Union, he has penned two collections of poetry, *Merlini aare* (*Merlin's Treasure*, 1998) and *Tolmutort* (*Dust Bunny*, 2001), a play (2006), and a novel *Türann Oidipus* (*Oedipus the Tyrant*, 2009). With about 260 publications to his credit, Arne Merilai ranks among the most prolific scholars in Estonia.

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REIN VEIDEMANN is a graduate of Tartu University in Estonian philology. After working as Academic Secretary at the Estonian Museum of Literature and finishing doctoral studies at the Institute of Language and Literature he took his PhD in 1984 with a thesis on Estonian post-war literary criticism. He has been active as Editor-in-Chief of literary monthlies *Looming* (1983–1986) and *Vikerkaar* (1986–1990), Member of Estonian Parliament (1990–1995) and councillor of the Ministry of Culture. In 1998–2000 he was the Chairholder of Literary Theory at Tartu University, and at the same time, worked as the head of, respectively, of the literary supplement and the literary section of two main Estonian daily newspapers, *Eesti Päevaleht* and *Postimees*. From 2000 up to the present he has been working as Professor and Chair of Estonian literature at Tartu University and as Professor of History of Estonian Culture at Tallinn University. He has published numerous articles and essays about Estonian literature and culture a selection of which has appeared in his books *Olla kriitik* (*To Be a Critic*, 1986), *Mälestus Golfi hoovusest* (*Memory of the Gulf Stream*, 1993) and *Ajavahe* (*Time Break*, 1996). His monograph *Kriitika kunst* (*Art of Criticism*, 2000) was the first theoretical treatment of Estonian literary criticism. His confessional essay book *Elu keskpäev* (*The Life Midday*) appeared in 1986. *Kusagil Euroopas* (*Somewhere in Europe*, 2001) is a subjective and expressive commentary on Estonia's latest history. His latest books are *Isiku tunnistus* (*A Person's Identification*, 2006), *Tuikav tekst* (*The Pulsing Text*, 2006), *Eksistentsiaalne Eesti* (*Existential Estonia*, 2010) and *101 eesti kirjandusteost* (*101 Estonian Literary Works*, 2011). As a novelist, he made his debut with *Lastekodu* (*Orphanage*, 2003). Following novels are *Tund enne igavikku* (*An Hour Before Eternity*, 2012) and *Arkaadia öö* (*The Arcade's Night*, 2014). He has published numerous short stories and some poetry as well.