

## *About the Authors*

**MARYAM ADJAM** is an ethnologist and currently a researcher at Uppsala University, Sweden. Her research interests include memory studies and critical heritage studies. Using imaginative ethnographic methodologies such as ethnographic poetics and visual ethnography, she explores the intersection of ethnography, literature, and visual arts, focusing on practices of remembrance related to experiences of war, forced displacement, and state-sanctioned violence. Her current project, *The Heritage of the Missing*, examines absence as a concept in relation to processes of remembrance and heritage-making. She holds a Ph.D. in ethnology from the Center for Baltic and East European Studies at Södertörn University, Sweden.

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**PAUL LONGLEY ARTHUR** is Vice-Chancellor's Professorial Research Fellow and Professor of Digital Humanities and Social Sciences at Edith Cowan University, Western Australia. He speaks and publishes widely on major challenges and transformations facing 21st-century society, from the global impacts of technology on communication, culture, and identity to migration and human rights. A Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, Arthur has held visiting positions in Europe, Asia-Pacific, and North America. His publications include *Open Scholarship in the Humanities* (2024, with Lydia Hearn), *Virtual Voyages: Travel Writing and the Antipodes, 1605–1837* (2010), and numerous edited volumes such as *Border Crossings: Essays in Identity and Belonging* (2019, with Leena Kurvet-Käosaar), *Migrant Nation: Australian Culture, Society and Identity* (2018), *Private Lives, Intimate Readings* (2015, with Leena Kurvet-Käosaar), *Advancing Digital Humanities: Research, Methods, Theories* (2014, with Katherine Bode), *Framing Lives* (2014), and *International Life Writing: Memory and Identity in Global Context* (2013). He also served as Deputy General Editor of *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, volume 18 (2012).

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**GABRIELLA GRACEFFO** holds a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Montana, where she also earned an MFA in Poetry and an MA in Literature. She serves as Managing Editor of *Poetry Northwest* and Editorial Fellow at the University of Montana Press. A recipient of the Bertha Morton Award, the Robinson/Goedicke Award, and the George Bond Poetry Prize, she has been a writer-in-residence at the Meadows Museum of Art and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. Her work has appeared in *Poets & Writers*,

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*Pleiades*, *Gulf Coast*, *Hippocampus*, and other publications. She lives in snowy Missoula, Montana, with her partner and their two cats.

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**ABDELOUAHED HAJJI** is a teacher-researcher at the Université Moulay Ismail in Meknès, Morocco. He holds a doctorate in comparative literature, with a dissertation titled *Les critiques-écrivains et la théorie de la littérature à l'ère de la postmodernité – Kilito et Kundera : étude comparative*. Together with Mohamed Ouhadi and Atmane Bissani, he coordinated the proceedings of the international colloquium organized by the Faculté Polydisciplinaire d'Errachidia (Morocco): *Littérature(s) et mythologie(s) : textes, contextes et interprétations – En hommage aux Professeurs émérites Marc Gontard et Bernoussi Saltani* (Sagacita Editions, Tangier, Morocco, 2023). His research focuses on comparative literature, postmodern literary theory, and the interplay between myth and narrative. He has published extensively on authors such as Abdelfattah Kilito and Milan Kundera. **Contact:** [ad.hajji@umi.ac.ma](mailto:ad.hajji@umi.ac.ma)

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**AISTĖ KUČINSKIENĖ** is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Philology, Vilnius University, and a researcher at the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore. Her research focuses on the history of Lithuanian literature in the first half of the 20th century. She is also interested in autobiographical writing and literary canon studies. She is one of the editors of the volume *Literary Canon Formation as Nation-Building in Central Europe and the Baltics*

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**YULIA KURNYSHOVA** is a researcher at the University of Helsinki and an affiliated researcher at the Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies, University of Tartu. Her current research examines the geopolitical and security dimensions of Russia's war against Ukraine, with particular emphasis on national agency, security discourse, and advanced applications of securitization theory. Her scholarship analyzes the intersection of the ongoing war with decolonial thought and civilizational narratives in International Relations. Her academic journey includes research positions at the Universities of Copenhagen, Bremen, and Södertörn. Before the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, she served as a foreign policy analyst at the National Institute for Strategic Studies (Kyiv) and the Institute for Social and Economic Research. Her doctoral dissertation examined U.S. foreign policy during the Berlin Crisis of 1958–1963, establishing her expertise in Cold War diplomacy and great power confrontations. **Contact:** ikurnyshova@gmail.com

**LEENA KÄOSAAR** is an Associate Professor of Cultural Theory at the Institute of Cultural Research, University of Tartu, Estonia. Her research focuses on life writing, memory studies, and trauma, especially in the context of Stalinist repressions, the Estonian Western diaspora, and women's life narratives. She has widely published on these subjects, with particular attention to the representation of traumatic experience, relationality, dynamics of address, travelling memory, and gender. Her work also engages with creative nonfiction and life story writing, which she teaches at the University of Tartu. She is co-editor of several volumes and special issues, including *Aino Kallas: Negotiations with Modernity* (SKS, 2010, with Lea Rojola), *Border Crossings: Essays in Identity and Belonging* (Routledge, 2020, with Paul Longley Arthur), *Narrating Migration and Diaspora* (special issue of *Trames*, 2019, with Triinu Ojamaa and Aija Sakova), and two special issues of *Folklore on Migration and Diasporas* (2020) and *Trauma* (2021, with Sergey Troitskiy and Liisi Laineste). As part of her engagement with applied memory studies and narrative practice, Käosaar also works on the collection and documentation of life stories of Ukrainian refugees in Estonia within the framework of the project "Taking Shelter in Estonia: the Stories of Ukrainians Fleeing from the War." The project seeks to support Ukrainian cultural memory in the context of war, forced displacement, and collective trauma. **Contact:** leena.kaosaar@ut.ee

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**MARIANNE LIND** Marianne Lind is a junior researcher in comparative literature at the University of Tartu, Estonia. Her Ph.D. dissertation explores spaces of maternity and maternal ambivalence in contemporary literary works. Lind is primarily interested in autobiographical and autofictional narratives of pregnancy, childbirth, and early motherhood that challenge normative cultural discourses around motherhood and address its darker aspects, such as postnatal depression, mothering with disability, miscarriage, maternal grief, trauma, and ambivalence. She also examines connections between motherhood narratives, illness narratives, and autopathographies.

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**REBEKKA LOTMAN** is an associate professor of world literature at the Institute of Cultural Research, University of Tartu, Estonia. Her primary research focuses on comparative poetics and versification, with a particular emphasis on the dynamic development of poetry across diverse cultural landscapes. Her doctoral dissertation examined Estonian sonnets, analyzing approximately 5,000 sonnets written in the Estonian language. Her research interests also include meter and rhyme, as well as the mechanisms of meaning-making in contemporary multimedia poetry.

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**ANDREY MAKARYCHEV** Andrey Makarychev is Professor of Regional Political Studies at the Johan Skytte Institute of Political Science, University of Tartu. He has served as Guest Professor at the Center for Global Politics, Free University of Berlin, and as guest researcher at George Mason University (USA), the Center for Security Studies and Conflict Research (ETH Zurich), and the Danish Institute of International Studies. Makarychev teaches courses on globalization, political systems in post-Soviet Eurasia, EU–Russia relations, regionalism and integration in the post-Soviet area, and visual politics.

He is the author of *Popular Biopolitics and Populism at Europe's Eastern Margins* (2022) and co-author of five other monographs: *Celebrating Borderlands in a Wider Europe: Nations and Identities in Ukraine, Georgia and Estonia* (2016); *Lotman's Cultural Semiotics and the Political* (2017); *Practical Biopolitics of COVID-19: Russian and Indonesian Experiences* (2023); *Critical Biopolitics of the Post-Soviet: From Populations to Nations* (2020); *Biopower in Putin's Russia: From Taking Care to Taking Lives* (2024).

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**MARTIN NÖMM** Martin Nömm is a Ph.D. researcher at the Institute of Cultural Research, University of Tartu, Estonia. His Ph.D. project, *Bridging the Gap: Literature in the Baltic Exile Communities as a Means of Identity Formation and Negotiation*, focuses on identities, diaspora, trauma studies, and humour studies.

Recent publications include: “How to Resolve the Trauma of Exile? Negotiating Cultural Trauma in Three Baltic Exile Plays from the 1970s North America” – *Nordic Theatre Studies* (2022); “Go There – You Don’t Know Where, Find That – You Don’t Know What! New framings from New Generation Estonian and Latvian Diaspora Writers’ Short Stories” – *Baltic Peripeties: The Power of Narration and the Making of Regions* (2025).

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**VIKTORIJA ŠEINA** Viktorija Šeina is a senior researcher at the Department of Modern Literature, Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore (Vilnius, Lithuania). Her research interests include literary canon, nationalism, and literary education. She is one of the editors of *Literary Canon Formation as Nation-Building in Central Europe and the Baltics* (2021). Her most recent monographs include: *Nasz obcy poeta: Adam Mickiewicz w kanonie literatury litewskiej (1883–1940)* (2024) and *Mokyklinis lietuvių literatūros kanonas: Šimtmečio raidos rekonstrukcija* (The Lithuanian High School Literary Canon: Reconstructing the Developments of a Century, 2024), co-authored with Aistė Kučinskienė. **Contact:** [seina@lti.lt](mailto:seina@lti.lt)

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Šmitienė teaches courses on phenomenological anthropology and the phenomenological approach to postgraduate students. Her research interests focus on everyday life practices, aesthetic experiences, and relational approaches. She is the author of the monograph *Kalbėti kūnu. Fenomenologinė Alfonso Nykos-Niliūno kūrybos studija* (Speaking with the Body: A Phenomenological Study of Alfonsas Nyka-Niliūnas' Oeuvre, 2007); co-author, with Dr. Jurga Jonutytė, of the monograph *Gyvatės kojos. Negalios savoka gyvenimo pasakojimuose* (The Legs of a Snake: The Concept of Disability in Life Stories, 2021); and various articles. **Contact:** smitiene.giedre@gmail.com