

About the Authors

LĪVA BODNIECE is a scholar and Assistant Professor at the Red Cross Medical College of RSU, as well as a contributor to the Latvian National Encyclopaedia. Her work focuses on classical languages and the reception of antiquity, with a particular interest in digital humanities and Latin and Greek poetry. **Contact:** liva.bodniece@rsu.lv

MAURIZIA CALUSIO is Professor of Russian literature at the Faculty of Linguistic Sciences and Foreign Literatures of the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, Italy. Her monographs focus on the Russian poets Boris Poplavsky and Evgeny Boratynsky. As a translator, she published works by Fyodor Tyutchev, Osip Mandelstam, Anna Akhmatova, Nina Berberova, and Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. Her research interests include 19th and 20th century Russian poetry, its reception in Italian through translation and criticism, the “first wave” of Russian emigration, and Gulag literature.

Contact: maurizia.calusio@unicatt.it

JOVITA DIKMONIENĖ is an Associate Professor at Vilnius University and an expert in literature at the Lithuanian Council for Culture. Her research focuses on ancient drama, Roman literature, and the reception of classical antiquity in modern theatre. She has published on Senecan tragedy, anagnorisis in ancient drama, and translation studies, and collaborates with international scholars on the reception of classical antiquity in Baltic cultures.

Contact: jovita.dikmoniene@flf.vu.lt

STEFANO FUMAGALLI is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Università Cattolica, Milan, Italy, where he received his PhD in Linguistic and Literary Studies in 2024 with a dissertation on the poetry of Innokenty Annensky. His research focuses on poetic translation from Russian into Italian, with particular attention to metrics. He has published essays on translators such as Rinaldo Küfferle, Renato Poggioli, and Tommaso Landolfi, and is currently working on a project titled *Russian Poetry in the Italian Literary Polisystem*.

Contact: stefano.fumagalli@unicatt.it

MĀRA GRUDULE (Dr. Phil) is a Professor at the Faculty of Humanities and Senior Researcher at the Institute of Literature, Folklore and Arts, University of Latvia. Her research focusses on 16th–19th century Latvian literature, Baltic German culture and Comparative literature. **Contact:** maragrudule@latnet.lv

FRANCIS R. JONES is Emeritus Professor of Translation Studies, Newcastle University, United Kingdom. He studied at the Universities of Cambridge, Sarajevo, Reading and Newcastle, and at Manchester Polytechnic. He lectured at Newcastle University from 1990 to 2023, first in language-teacher training and then in translator and interpreter education. His research covers poetry translation, including interpersonal and social relationships among translators and those they work with, poetry translation as socio-political action, translating processes and strategies and dialect and archaic style. Among his academic publications are *Poetry Translation as Expert Action* (John Benjamins, 2011) and *Collaborative Poetry Translation* (Routledge, 2025, with W. N. Herbert and Fiona Sampson). Jones has five decades of experience as a poetry translator, mainly from Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian and Dutch into standard English. He has also translated from Hungarian, Russian, Papiamentu and Sranan, and into Northumbrian and Yorkshire dialect, as well as early modern English. He has solo-translated 17 books, the latest being *The Taste of Lightning: Selected Poems of Ivan V. Lalić* (Bloodaxe, 2025). These have won prizes in the UK, USA, Netherlands and Bosnia. Web-page: <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/sml/our-people/profile/francisjones.html>

Contact: francis.jones@newcastle.ac.uk

MARIA-KRISTIINA LOTMAN is an Associate Professor at the University of Tartu, Estonia. Her main research fields include metrics and rhythemics of ancient verse, systems of versification, semantics of verse, and translation of polycoded texts. She is the co-editor of an international journal *Studia Metrica et Poetica* and has edited several scholarly volumes, including *Popular Voices Computational Analysis of Poetry and Song* (2016, Estonian Literary Museum), *Frontiers in Comparative Prosody* (2011, Peter Lang) and *Semiotics of Verse* (2012, a special issue of *Sign Systems Studies*).

Contact: maria-kristiina.lotman@ut.ee

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 particular attention to the dynamic development of poetry across different cultural contexts. Her doctoral dissertation resulted in the monograph *Eesti sonett* (*The Estonian Sonnet*), and her research interests include meter, rhyme, and the mechanisms of meaning-making in contemporary multimedia poetry. She is currently leading a research project on contemporary Estonian youth poetry.

Contact: rebekka.lotman@ut.ee

LIINA LUKAS is a Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Tartu, Estonia. Her research focuses on literary relations in the multilingual Baltic cultural area, especially German–Estonian literary contacts from the 18th to the early 20th century. Since 2001, he has organised international symposia on Baltic literary culture, which have brought together scholars from different disciplines and countries interested in Baltic cultural history. She is the editor-in-chief of the eight-volume collective monograph *The History of Baltic Literary Culture* (2021) and has initiated the digital text repository of early Baltic literatures EEVA (www.kirmus.ee/eeva).

Contact: liina.lukas@ut.ee

MONICA MANOLACHI is a Lecturer in English and Spanish at the Department of Modern Languages, Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of Bucharest, Romania. She has co-authored (together with Lorena Mihăeș) *Cultural Representations of Food and Drinks in World Literature* (2025). She is the author of *Performative Identities in Contemporary Caribbean British Poetry* (2017), a study of cultural hybridity, gender roles, trauma, and spirituality in the work of Derek Walcott and twelve other Anglophone Caribbean poets. Her research interests include American, British, and Caribbean literature and culture, postcolonial studies, and contemporary Romanian literature in translation. She is also a bilingual poet, literary translator, and editor. **Contact:** monica.manolachi@lls.unibuc.ro

ANNIKA MIKKEL is a Lecturer in Italian and Latin at the Institute of Foreign Languages and Cultures, University of Tartu, Estonia. Her PhD dissertation (2020) examined rhythmic clausulae in 14th-century Latin and vernacular prose texts. Her research focuses on the prosody and prose rhythm of the Italian language, with a particular focus on Dante's Latin and Italian prose. Recent publications include *Latin Accentual Clausula as Exemplified in 14th-Century Prose Texts by Dante and Boccaccio* (2022, *Studia Metrica et Poetica*) and *Alcune osservazioni sul cursus nella Questio de aqua et terra di Dante* (2025, *Letteratura e Pensiero*). **Contact:** annika.mikkel@ut.ee

VJOLLCA OSJA is Professor in the Department of Literature at the University of Tirana, Albania. She teaches literary theory, intermedial texts and genre boundaries, methods of literary interpretation, and creative writing. Her research interests include topics related to translation studies. She has participated in various projects and is the author of numerous scholarly articles as well as monographs, and has contributed to various academic volumes including *Aspects of Literary Discourse in the Poetry of Mjedja, Noli, Poradeci, and*

Migjeni (2014), *The Anthology of Albanian Poetry and Its Study Appendix* (2014, co-author), and *The Art of Poetry: A Brief Introduction to the Art of Poetry* (2019, co-author). She is also a translator of several academic and literary works.

Contact: vjollca.osja@fhf.edu.al

EHTE PUHANG is a Junior Researcher at the Institute of Foreign languages and Cultures, University of Tartu, Estonia. Her research focuses on the Estonian reception of the literature translated from Spanish. She is also a literary translator with more than 30 years of experience in translating from English and Spanish, including works by Michael Ondaatje, David Walliams, Jorge Luis Borges and Isabel Allende. She teaches Spanish-Estonian translation at the University of Tartu. **Contact:** ehte.puhang@ut.ee

DOUGLAS ROBINSON is Research Professor in Translation Studies and Director of the Douglas Robinson Research Center at Xi'an International Studies University. He took his Ph.D. in English at the University of Washington in 1983 and has published four monographs on American literature – but also two on Finnish literature, Aleksis Kivi and/as World Literature (2017) and Translating the Monster: Volter Kilpi in Orbit Beyond (Un)translatability (2023). He has been translating from Finnish since 1975, nonliterary texts for 30 years, novels (including), novel samples, screenplays, and a 450-page memoir since 2009. Among his literary translations are Aleksis Kivi's great 1870 novel *Seitsemän veljestä* (translated as *The Brothers Seven*, 2017) and three of his classic plays (*Nummisuutarit* as *Heath Cobblers*, *Kullervo*, and "*Kihlaus*" as "*The Troth-Plight*." In addition to his monographs on American and Finnish literature he has published 26 monographs on translation and one each on rhetoric, semiotics, and the philosophy of mind. Three of his monographs on translation deal with experimental translation; he has also done his own experimental translations of Volter Kilpi's posthumous novel *Gulliver's Voyage to Phantomimia* from Finnish and Walter Benjamin's "*Die Aufgabe des Übersetzens*" from German. He has published four original novels, most recently *You-Gin One-Gin*. **Contact:** drobinson@cuhk.edu.cn

DELPHINE RUMEAU is Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Grenoble Alpes, France. She specializes in reception studies and has published various articles on the reception of poets such as Walt Whitman, Pablo Neruda or Ossip Mandelstam. She is the author of *Comrade Whitman. From Russian to Internationalist Icon* (Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2024). **Contact:** delphine.rumeau@gmail.com

MARIS SAAGPAKK is an Associate Professor of German Cultural History and Literature. She holds a PhD in German Literature. Her research focuses on Baltic German literature and culture, Estonian translation history in the nineteenth century, autobiographical writing, cultural transfer, postcolonial approaches, and the German language in the Estonian public sphere, including the use of linguistic landscape methods in German language and culture studies and teaching.

She has published extensively, with over 70 academic publications, including journal articles, book chapters, and edited volumes with international publishers. She has been a recipient of scholarships and fellowships from the Robert Bosch Foundation, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and the Fulbright Program. She was a member of a five-year research project funded by the Estonian Research Council on Estonian translation history (2021–2025), led by Professor Daniele Monticelli.

She is currently involved in several international research projects and networks, including European Commission–funded projects such as *Revitalisation of Linguistic Diversity and Cultural Heritage* and *Literary Multilingualism and Social Transformations in Superdiverse Societies*. **Contact:** saagpakk@tlu.ee

BRIKENA SMAJLI is a poet, researcher, and lecturer who has recently moved from Bedër University in Tirana to “Luigj Gurakuqi” University of Shkodra, where she works at the Center for Albanian Studies and currently teaches Comparative Literature and Albanian Literature. At Bedër, she taught Discourse Analysis, Aesthetics of Communication, Introduction to Semiotics, and Translation Studies. Her poetry, anthologised and published in French, German, and English, is collected in *Të fundit vdesin ulkonjat* [The Last to Die Are She-Wolves] (1997) and *Përditë ndërtoj shtëpi me ashkla* [Every Day I Build Houses with Wood Chips] (2009). She earned her PhD in Literary Studies at the Academy of Albanian Studies, focusing on comparative literature, poetics, and myth criticism, reflected in her book *Simbolikë mitike e Krijimit dhe e Kërkimit: poezi shqipe – poezi europiane* [The Mythical Symbolism of Creation and the Quest: Albanian Poetry – European Poetry] (2019). A member of the Myth Criticism Association “Asteria” and the European Society of Comparative Literature (ESCL), she currently also participates in the R&D project *Escritores latinoamericanos en los países socialistas europeos durante la Guerra Fría* (PID2023-149252NB-I00, ELASOC II).

Contact: brikena.smajli@unishk.edu.al

JÜRI TALVET was born in 1945 in Pärnu (Estonia). A graduate of the University of Tartu (1972) and a PhD by Leningrad (St. Petersburg) University

(1981), he chaired from 1992 to 2020 World / Comparative Literature program at Tartu University, where he also founded Spanish Studies. Today he is Professor Emeritus. In 2016 he became elected member of Academia Europaea. He has published in Estonian more than twenty books of poetry and essay. His books have appeared in English, Spanish, French, Italian, Russian, Romanian, Serbian, Japanese, Catalan, Greek and Macedonian translation. He has published a monograph on Juhan Liiv's philosophic-lyrical poetry *Juhan Liivi luule* (Tallinn, 2012), while his *Critical Essays on World Literature, Comparative Literature and the "Other"* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2019) importantly concerns aspects of ethical literary criticism. Since 1996 he has acted as the main editor of *Interlitteraria*, international journal for comparative literature. He has been awarded Estonian Annual Prize of Literature for essay (1986), Juhan Liiv Prize of Poetry (1997), Ivar Ivask Memorial Prize (essay, poetry, 2002) Naji Naaman International Literature Honor Prize (2020), Estonian National Science Prize for Lifework (2021), Jaan Kross Literary Prize (for world poetry translations, 2022).
Contact: juri.talvet@ut.ee

GITANA VANAGAITĖ, PhD, is Associate Professor in the Department of Lithuanian Studies at Vytautas Magnus University and Senior Researcher at the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore. Her research focuses on modern Lithuanian and Italian literature, autobiography, the figure of the author, and comparative literature. She is the author of two monographs and the co-author and co-editor of several edited volumes.

Contact: gtnvanagaite@gmail.com