EPP ANNUS (PhD 2002, Tartu University) is senior researcher at the Estonian Literary Museum Cultural Theory research group. Her publications include a monograph on time and narrative "How to Tell Time" (in Estonian, 2002), a novel *Matilda* (in Estonian, 2007) and an edited collection *Twentieth Century Movements of Thought* (in Estonian, 2009). She has written numerous articles on post-colonialism and Estonian 20th century prose literature, and on the relations between philosophy and culture.

FERNANDO BERMEJO-RUBIO, PhD, historian of religions, is currently a Research Fellow at the Department of Greek Philology and Indo-European Linguistics (Universidad Complutense, Madrid) and Lecturer of Early Christianity in the Master of Religions and Societies at Pablo de Olavide University (Sevilla). His main areas of research are historiography on Jesus of Nazareth, Gnostic trends, the history of Manichaeism and Kafka's works. He is the author of La escisión imposible. Lectura del gnosticismo valentiniano (1998) and El maniaueísmo. Estudio introductorio (2008), and coeditor of El maniqueismo. Textos y Fuentes (2008). He is also one of the translators to Spanish of the Coptic library of Nag Hammadi. He has published numerous articles in Spanish, French, English and German on journals as Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik, Revista de Filología Alemana, Rivista di Storia e Letteratura Religiosa, Journal for the Study of the Historical Jesus or Deutsche Vierteljahrsschrift für Literaturwissenschaft und Geistesgeschichte and on several collective volumes - The Gospel of Judas in Context (2008) and The Judas Codex (2009).

TINA BILBAN is post-doctoral fellow at the Institute for Quantum Optics and Quantum Information (Vienna), working as a philosopher on the "Philosophers-Physicists Cooperation Project on the Nature of Quantum Reality". She took her PhD on contemporary physical and philosophical theories of time and their application to contemporary

literature at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, in 2009. Her interests and publications encompass the crossroads between continental philosophy, contemporary literature and contemporary physics. In addition she has published a book of short stories *Interferenca* (2010). She is also a member of a professional Slovenian national board for children's literature (2007).

MÓNICA DOMÍNGUEZ PÉREZ is a graduate of Spanish philology from the University of Santiago de Compostela. She took her PhD with a thesis about translations of youth and children literature in Spain. It is the main topic of her research. She has worked at high school and is currently (since 2008) Lecturer of Spanish at the University of Abuja (Nigeria).

VINCENT FERRÉ is Lecturer (maître de conférences) in Comparative Literature at the Université de Paris 13, and a member of Equipe Fabula à l'ENS, www.fabula.org. He works on the European and American novel of the 20th century: on genres (essay and novel, novel and theory), especially on Proust, Broch and Dos Passos; and on medievalism. His PhD (L'essai fictionnel chez Proust, Broch et Dos Passos, 2003) is to be published in 2011 (Paris, Honoré Champion). He has published and edited books on Tolkien & medievalism (Sur les Rivages de la Terre du Milieu, 2001: Tolkien, Trente ans après, 2004; Médiévalisme. Modernité du Moyen Âge, 2010), co-edited volumes on Cycle et collection (2008), Littérature, politique et Histoire au XXe siècle (2010) and on Proust dans la recherche comparatiste. Bilan et nouvelles perspectives (2010). Forthcoming: Proust. Dialogues critiques (proceedings of the 2009 conference on Proust in Paris). Currently working on medievalism, for his Habilitation.

DOROTHY FIGUEIRA is Professor in Comparative Literature at the University of Georgia, USA. Trained in both comparative literature and the history of religions, she is interested in the intersection of religion and literature. Her research includes: Translating the Orient (1991), The Exotic; A Decadent Quest (1994), Aryans, Jews and Brahmins: Theorizing Authority through Myths of

Identity (2001) and Otherwise Occupied: Theories and Pedagogies of Alterity (2008). She has recently completed a volume on early European travel narratives to India. She has held positions at Cornell University, SUNY, University of Illinois; has been a visiting professor at Indiana University and the University of Lille. She has been the recipient of several Fulbrights to India. She holds degrees from the Ecole Pratique en Sciences Sociales, Harvard University, the University of Chicago. She has served as president of the ICLA. Professor Figueira has served also as editor of The Comparatist and is currently editor of Recherche litteraire/Literary research, the review journal of the ICLA. She has edited several books including most recently with Marc Maufort, Theaters in the Round (2011).

LADISLAV FRANEK is Professor at the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Philosophy, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, and a researcher at the Institute of World Literature, Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava, Slovakia. His teaching and research spans several disciplines: literary history and theory, comparative literature, stylistics and literary translation. His main research interest is in the function of the rhythm of languages. Main publications: The Style of Translation. A Developmental-Theoretical Analysis of Slovak Translations of Paul Claudel (1997); The Modernity of Romance Literatures (2005). He is the author of many theoretical-critical studies on Slovak literary translations from Romance languages. He has translated over 20 works from French, Portuguese, and Spanish (Premium in Literary Fund's Ján Hollý Award for the translations of M. Yourcenar: Memoirs of Hadrian, 1990; P. Claudel: Annunciation. In: Plays 2007). He works with all literary genres. He is the recipient of the Honorary Plaque for his achievement in the Social Sciences (2008) by the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

KATILIINA GIELEN is assistant lecturer at the Department of English Language and Literature at the University of Tartu where she teaches text analysis, practical translation and translation theory. She is a PhD candidate in literary studies at the same department. Her research interests include reception analysis, literary and gender

studies as combined with translation studies, especially descriptive translation research and translation theory.

IVO HEINLOO has a Master's degree in Literary Studies. He is currently a doctoral student at the Estonian Institute of Humanities, Tallinn University. Fields of research: urban studies, culture theory, Soviet Estonian literature. He also works as a freelance culture journalist. E-mail: ivoheinloo@gmail.com

MIRJAM HINRIKUS is PhD student at Tartu University and works as a researcher at Under-Tuglas Literature Center. She is also an editor of *Ariadne Lõng* (Ariadne's Thread), the only Estonian academic feminist journal. She has studied as an exchange student at the University of Tampere (1996–1997) and at the University of Toronto (2001–2002). Her research interests are related to Estonian literature of the period between 1908 and 1922, in the context of the early modernism.

KERLI ILVES graduated from the Estonian Academy of Arts, Institute of Art History, and enrolled in the Estonian Institute of Humanities, department of Romance Studies from which she graduated in 2008. She has studied also at the University of Lille3, in France, and at the University of Verona, in Italy. The theme of her Master's thesis is symbolist aesthetics and the symbol Androgyne in the work of French painter and aquarellist Gustave Moreau. She has worked as an administrator at KUMU art museum and is actually working as a cultural coordinator at the French Cultural Centre, Cooperation and Cultural Activities Department of the French Embassy. She is in charge of cultural projects that have Estonian operators and French artists but her job consists of cultural mediation between these two countries.

BAIBA KALNA is researcher of theatre and drama working at the Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art of the University of Latvia, the Department of Theatre, Music and Cinema. In 2008 she was awarded the degree of Doctor of Art (Dr. Art.) in theatre and cinema theory and history at the University of Latvia. Her research interests

mainly concern the theatre and drama of the 1930s and 1940s as well as the creative innovations of the contemporary Latvian directors representing the younger and the middle generation. She is the coauthor of the books: 20. gadsimta teātra režija pasaulē un Latvijā (20th Century Theatre Directing in Latvia and in the World, 2002), Latvijas teātris. 20. gadsimta 90. gadi un gadsimtu mija (Latvian Theatre in the 1990s and at the Turn of the Century, 2007), Teātra režija pasaulē. 1. daļa (Theatre Directing in the World. Part I, 2009), Latviešu teātris no pirmsākumiem līdz mūsdienām (Latvian Theatre from its Beginnings to Nowadays, 2010). Her articles on contemporary Latvian theatre are regularly published in the Latvian periodicals.

MARISA KËRBIZI is Professor of Albanian Language History at Aleksander Moisiu State University, Albania. Her main research subject has been Modern Literature in which she has accomplished her MA. She collaborates with a number of literary magazines. She also holds the CEO position at Mankind Tracks "MA3X" CTR. – an organization dedicated to advancing understanding, culture and education directly among people throughout the country and abroad.

ZHANNA KONOVALOVA is Lecturer at Kazan Federal University (Department of World Literature), where her courses include English and American poetry of the 19th and 20th centuries and world literature of the 19th and 20th centuries, philological analysis of the text and new journalism. She received her PhD in journalism; her thesis was dedicated to the American Dream in American literary nonfiction of the second half of 20th century. Her research interests include American literary nonfiction of the 20th century, documentary tradition in American literature, new journalism. She has published articles on her research topics in Russia and abroad.

RAMA KUNDU is a full Professor of English. She has been teaching in the Postgraduate Department of English, Burdwan University, West Bengal, India, since 1976. She is the author of eleven books: (1) Vision and Design in Hardy's Fiction (1984); (2) Wrestling With God: Studies in English Devotional Poetry (1996);

(3) Anita Desai's Fire on the Mountain (2005); (4) New Perspectives on British Authors: From William Shakespeare to Graham Greene. (2006); (5) E. M. Forster's A Passage to India (2007); (6) Intertext: A Study of the Dialogue Between Texts (2008); (7) Emerging Territories: A Study in New Literatures in English (2009); (8) The Unfamiliar Hardy: A New Look (2010). (9) Translated [Jointly with Mohit K. Ray] Rabindranath Tagore's (Gora.) 2008; (10) Translated [Jointly with Mohit K.Ray] translation of Rabindranath Tagore's Jīvansmṛti) as Jīvansmṛti: The Birth of a Poet's Soul. New Delhi: Atlantic Publishers & Distributors, 2010. (11) Ānandamath O Sāmpradāiktā (in Bengali on Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay) (1987). She edits The Atlantic Literary Review

Website: http://www.ramakundu.net

LEENA KURVET-KÄOSAAR is Assoc. Professor of Comparative Literature at the Estonian Institute of Humanities, Tallinn University, Estonia and Senior Researcher of the Estonian Literary Museum. She has published on women's autobiographical writings, and in particular on women writers' diaries from the first half of the twentieth century and the body, as well as on personal narratives and autobiographical novels by Baltic women concerning World War II and its aftermath in the Baltic States. She is the holder of four-year Estonian Science Foundation research grant "Positioning Life Writing on Estonian Literary Landscapes and the editor of the special issue of Estonian life writing of *Methis. Studia humaniora Estonica* (2010).

SVEND ERIK LARSEN, Professor of Comparative Literature, Aarhus University. He has belonged to the Board of directors of the ICLA, 1991–2004 and has acted as secretary of Comparative History of Literatures in the European Languages from 2007. Member of Academia Europaea since 2004, chair of Section for Literary and Theatrical Studies, 2010–2012. Member of the Danish Research Council for Culture and Communication since 2005–2011, its vice-president from 2009. Co-editor of the journal *Orbis Litterarum* from 2008. He has been author/co-author of 10 books, some translated into English, French and Croatian, of ca. 350 articles and editor of several Danish and international anthologies and special issues.

Visiting lecturer in many countries and organizer of Danish and international conferences. Current research themes: literary history, literature, emotions and forgiveness.

LI XIA (PhD) is the founder of Chinese programs and Convenor of Chinese at the University of Newcastle, Australia where she has been teaching Chinese language, literature and practical translation for eighteen years. She has published extensively on the Chinese poets Gu Cheng and Yang Lian as well as on aspects of comparative Chinese-Western literature. Her articles have appeared in *Modern Chinese Literature*, *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature*, *Interlitteraria*, *Neohelicon*, *Perspectives: Studies in Translatology*, *Zhongguo Fanyi* – 'Chinese Translators' Journal and so on. She is also a qualified teacher of English (Cambridge RSA) as a second/ foreign language as well as a highly qualified translator/interpreter with five years of practical experience in the corporate sector.

MARIA-KRISTIINA LOTMAN is Senior Lecturer at the University of Tartu. She obtained her MA degree in 1999 and PhD in 2003. Her research interests are ancient verse, its metre, rhythm, versification systems; typological analysis of quantitative verse; Estonian verse from the typological point of view; semantics of verse. She is one of the editors of the on-line journal *Studia Humaniora Tartuensia* and editor of the online versification portal Estonian Verse.

LIVIA MAČAITYTĖ-KASELIENĖ is PhD Candidate and works at the Department of Lithuanian Literature at Vytautas Magnus University in Vilnius. Her research interests include pastoral in contemporary fiction, narrative strategies, rural landscapes and nature writing (eco-criticism), relationship between the fields of culture, history, politics and nature (socio-critical, post-colonial approaches to literature), space, place and identity, regional imagination in Lithuanian literature, globalization and national identity, comparative literature. Actually she is working on her doctoral dissertation *Pastoral Strategies in Lithuanian Literature: 1940–2010 (Theory and Practice)*. Contact information: tel. +370 682 49083, e-mail: lmacaityte@gmail.com

LUIS MARTÍNEZ-FALERO works at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, were he teaches Literary Theory. He is author of *Gramática, Retórica y Dialéctica en el siglo XVI* (Logroño, IER, 2009). He has published several articles concerning Medieval and Renaissance literary imagery on the theme of death, and concerning literary imagery of the European contemporary poetry. As a poet, his book *Plenitud de la materia* has won the Price Adonáis of Poetry in 1997 (Madrid: Rialp, 1998).

DOROTA MICHUŁKA, PhD, graduated from both the Department of Polish Philology and the Department of History at the University of Wroclaw. She is Assistant Professor at the Department of Polish Philology at the Wroclaw University. Since 1986 she has been working at the Institute of Methodology of Teaching Language and Literature, since 1995 also as a lecturer in the School of the Polish Language and Culture for Foreigners. As a researcher she deals with problems related to the theory of reception of literature, Polish Romantic literature, children's literature and education. She has written around 40 articles, published one monograph - book Od ojcowizny do ojczyzny. O recepcji romantyzmu w polskich szkolach w Galicji okresu autonomii (1867–1914)(From Homeland to Fatherland. On Reception of Polish Romantic Literature in Education of Autonomos Galicia (1867–1914) - 2003, edited 4 books – two with Marja Leiononen – Poland. On Politics, Culture, Literature and Education (Tampere 2003) and Borderlands. What does it mean for Poland and Finland?, Tampere 2004, Przeboje edukacji polonistycznej (Reading in Polish Education), Wrocław 2001 and one with K. Bakula: Metodyka a nauka o literaturze i nauka o jezyku (Methodology and Literary Studies and Linguistic Studies, Wroclaw 2005. During 2000–2005 she was working as lecturer at the Department of Slavonic Philology at University in Tampere (Finland).

ANNELI MIHKELEV took her PhD degree in Semiotics and Cultural Studies at the University of Tartu with the monograph *The Poetics of Allusion* in 2005. She works as a Senior Researcher in

Under and Tuglas Literature Centre of the Estonian Academy of Sciences and as Associate Professor of Comparative Literature in Tallinn University. Her fields of research include Estonian literature, allusions in literature and culture, and comparative literature (mainly Baltic literatures). She has published articles on these themes in several international and Estonian publications.

ANNIKA MIKKEL took her Master's degree in Romance Studies at the University of Tallinn in 2009. Her field of research is prosody and prose rhythm of Italian language. At present she is teaching Italian language in the Language Centre at the University of Tartu. Since 2009 she works also as Assistant in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Tartu.

FERNANDO ÁNGEL MORENO is PhD in Literary Theory and Comparative Literature by the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, with an Extraordinary Degree Award and National Award. He is the author of *Teoría de la Literatura de Ciencia Ficción: Poética y Retórica de lo Prospectivo* and co-director of the journal *Hélice. Reflexiones críticas sobre ficción especulativa.* He has also promoted numerous conferences, meetings and literary projects. He has taught at the University of Madrid Alfonso X and made a research visit to the University of Tartu. For years, he taught a workshop on film criticism of the Autonomous Community of Madrid. He is currently Professor of theories and structures of literary language at Madrid Complutense University.

ESZTER MUSKOVITS is a PhD candidate at Eötvös Loránd University (Doctoral Programme in Modern English and American Literature) in Budapest, Hungary. The title of her dissertation is *The Morality-Transgression Axis in the Field of Sexuality in the Dracula Tradition*. She has taught several specialized courses in her research topic (Representations of Love in the Dracula Tradition, The Gothic Tradition). Her main field of interest: the Dracula tradition. Viewpoints of analysis: sex and gender, psychoanalysis, forms of appearance in popular culture (in different mediums), cultural history concerning vampirology. Related areas: Gothic literature, the Victorian age.

AUDINGA PELURITYTĖ-TIKUIŠIENĖ (PhD), Docent at the Department of Lithuanian Literature, Vilnius University. Her scholarly work falls into the following areas: classical and modern poetry (from Maironis, to Martinaitis and Marčėnas), contemporary Lithuanian literature (modern and postmodern prose, poetry, essay). feminist researches in Lithuanian literature, theoretical researches. She has studied Lithuanian and East and Middle Literature of Europe at Vilnius University (BA in 1995, MA in 1996). She wrote her doctoral thesis, entitled 'Lietuviu lyrikos tradicija: struktūrinės dominantės Maironio, Vinco Mykolaičio-Putino, Salomėjos Nėries, Jono Aisčio ir Henriko Radausko kūryboje' [Tradition of Lithuanian Lyrical Poetry of the 20th Century: Structural dominance in the lyric of Maironis, Vincas Mykolaitis-Putinas, Salomėja Nėris, Jonas Aistis and Henrikas Radauskas] at Vilnius University (PhD awarded in 1999). She is currently associate professor at Vilnius University. In 2006 she published a book about modern Lithuanian literature: Senieji mitai, naujieji pasakojimai: apie naujausią lietuvių literatūrą [Old Myths, New Tales: About Contemporary Lithuanian Literature]. She has organized two International Contemporary Literature Conferences at Vilnius University, in 2005 and 2008.

MELE PESTI is lecturer of Brazilian literature in Tallinn University. She is currently pursuing doctoral studies in the field of Brazilian modernism, focusing on the cultural metaphor of anthropophagy. Her research interests lie in the lusophone world, translation studies, post-colonial theory, Latin American and Portuguese literature. She has worked as a cultural journalist and has co-translated *Cidade de Deus* by Paulo Lins from Portuguese to Estonian. She has also written a travel book, *Mate ja miljon mahla* (2009).

LAURI PILTER (1971) earned his PhD degree in English language and literature at the University of Tartu with the monograph *The Comic and the Tragicomic in the Works of William Faulkner* in 2009. Since 2007, he has been lecturing about comparative literature at BA and MA levels at Tartu University. A Researcher of Comparative Literature since 2010, his fields of interest include the literatures of European ethnic minorities/minor ethnicities, twentieth

century Western novel, mediaeval and Renaissance verse traditions, and the history and characteristics of the translations of Estonian poetry into English. His translations into Estonian include British, Italian and Provençal poetry, three novels by Cormac McCarthy, two novels by Philip Roth, short fiction by William Faulkner, a novella by Thomas Wolfe and an autobiographical novel by Mark Twain. Author of the novel *Lohejas pilv* (*A Dragon Cloud*, 2004) and the collection of fiction *Retk Rahemäkke* (*A Journey to the Hail Mountain*, 2010), winner of the Fr. Tuglas and B. Alver awards for fiction in 2004.

ÜLAR PLOOM (PhD in comparative literature at the University of Helsinki 2001) is Professor of Romance studies at the Estonian Institute of Humanities, Tallinn University. He is also a docent of the MA programme of Italian studies and didactics at the G. D'Annunzio University of Chieti-Pescara. He has mainly studied the poetry of late medieval and renaissance Italian authors from the Sicilians to Dante and Petrarch, but also 20th century Italian poetry (Campana) and prose (Calvino, Magris, Eco). His recent research deals with poetics of translation. Besides research, he has translated Italian literature into Estonian. He has also published essays and two collections of poetry.

PILVI RAJAMÄE, PhD, is Lecturer at the Department of Germanic and Romance Languages and Literatures at the University of Tartu and the Executive Director of the Estonian Centre for British Studies. Her research interests include Victorian and Edwardian literature and the English country house. She has published articles on Evelyn Waugh, Tom Sharpe and John Buchan, the latter being the subject of her PhD thesis. She is also an assistant editor of *Interlitteraria*.

MOHIT K. RAY A full Professor since 1982, and now retired, D. Litt (honoris causa) is one of the seniormost Professors in the country. He has six books and a large number of research papers published in scholarly journals in India and abroad, which reflect his wide range of scholarship including Criticism, Comparative Literature, New Literatures, Canonical Literature, Comparative

Poetics and Translation Studies. He has edited several anthologies of critical studies, and edits *The Atlantic Critical Review*, an international quarterly of global circulation. He is also at present working as the Chief Editor of M/S Atlantic Publishers & Distributors (P) Ltd.

He is associated with many international bodies including Association Internationale de Littérature Comparée, Paris, (International Association of Comparative Literature) and Association *Critiques Litteraires*, *Paris*,(International Internationale des Association of Literary Critics) and SANART Association of Aesthetics and Visual Culture. Website: http://www.mohitkray.com His books include: T. S. Eliot: Search for a Critical Credo. Calcutta. 1978; Bhāṣā Bijnāner Godār Kathā (in Bengali). Calcutta, 1988 (Fundamentals of Linguistics); Studies in Literary Criticism (Vol. I). New Delhi, 2001. Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness: A Critical Study. New Delhi, 2005; A Comparative Study of the Indian Poetics and the Western Poetics. New Delhi, 2008. Studies in Literary Criticism (Vol. II), New Delhi, 2010. He has translated (jointly with Rama Kundu) Rabindranath Tagore's Gora. New Delhi, 2008; Jivansmrti: The Birth of a Poet's Soul (jointly with Rama Kundu; translation of Rabindranath Tagore's Jīvansmṛti). New Delhi, 2010.

VIRVE SARAPIK is Senior Researcher in culture studies at Estonian Literary Museum and Estonian Academy of Arts, Estonia. Her principal research interests include the relations between pictorial and verbal representation, visual culture; the problems of mimesis. Her major publications include *Keel ja kunst* (Language and Art, 1999), "Artist and Myth" (2000), "Landscape: The Problem of Representation" (2002). She is editor-in-chief of the academic journal *Kunstiteaduslikke Uurimusi* (*Studies on Art and Architecture*).

ENRIQUE SERRANO ASENJO is Associate Professor of the University of Zaragoza. His main research area is the 19th- and 20th-century Spanish literature. Among his publications the following stand out: *Ramón y el arte de matar (El crimen en las novelas de Gómez de la Serna)* (1992) y *Vidas oblicuas: Aspectos teóricos de la*

«nueva biografia" en España (1928–1936) (2002); also, he has edited the correspondence of Juan Valera (2002–09) (with L. Romero Tobar, dir., and A. Ezama Gil).

KATRI SIRKEL is a PhD student and an assistant lecturer at the Department of English language and literature at the University of Tartu, where she also obtained her MA degree in 2005. Her research interests lie in nineteenth century English literature, cultural history, and British studies. She is a member of the Estonian Association of Comparative Literature, the Estonian Centre for British Studies and the International Society for Cultural History.

MONICA SPIRIDON. Professor of Comparative Literature, Semiotics and XXth Century European Culture, Faculty of Letters, University of Bucharest, Director of the Center for Communication Studies of the University of Bucharest, Member of the International Comparative Literature Association, elected member of the ICLA Executive Committee since 1997 and member of the ICLA Nominating Committee. Founder and Secretary General of the Romanian Association of Comparative Literature. Acting president of the ICLA Research Committee on Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. Member of the Romanian Writers Union and of the International PEN Club. Author of 10 books, of approximately 100 studies and more than 200 articles published in scholarly periodicals and of several chapters in books published in Germany, Italy, Canada, Greece, The Netherlands, Portugal and the U.S. Member, the editorial board of the Review of National Literatures and World Report (Published by the Council on National Literatures, New York, Ed. Anne Paolucci, New Series, 1998 -) and of Synthesis (The Publishing House of the Romanian Academy). Liaison officer to Literary Research/Recherche litteraire, ICLA and the University of Western Ontario, London, Canada. Since 2010 she serves as one of the ICLA Vice-presidents.

ELLE-MARI TALIVEE has a Master's degree in Literary Studies. She is currently a doctoral student of Cultural Studies at the Estonian Institute of Humanities, Tallinn University. Her main research

interests are the means city is depicted in literature, the literary space, and the language of literary works.

JÜRI TALVET is since 1992 Chair of Comparative Literature at the University of Tartu. He took his PhD on the Spanish picaresque novel at Leningrad University in 1981. He has published in Estonian collections of essays Hispaania vaim (The Spanish Spirit, 1995), Tõrjumatu äär (The Irrefutable Edge, 2005), cultural-philosophic reflections Sümbiootiline kultuur (Symbiotic Culture, 2005), books of (travel) essays *Teekond Hispaaniasse* (1985, Estonia's annual literary prize in essay genre), Hispaaniast Ameerikasse (1992), Ameerika märkmed ehk Kaemusi Eestist (2000) and eight books of poetry. His books of poetry and essays have been translated into English, Spanish, French and Catalan. In 1997 he was awarded the Juhan Liiv Prize of Poetry and in 2002 the Ivar Ivask Memorial Prize for poetry and essays. He has translated into Estonian both classical and modern works (Quevedo, Gracián, Calderón, Tirso de Molina, Espriu, Aleixandre, García Márquez, etc.). He is the editor and principal author of a manual of world literature for Estonian high schools and universities (Maailmakirjandus, I-II, Tallinn 1995-1999). He has chaired the Estonian Association of Comparative Literature (1994–2010) and has also served as member of the ICLA Executive Committee (2000-2007).

JAAK TOMBERG is a literary researcher and critic. He studied Estonian Literature at Tartu University and completed his MA (2004) and PhD (2009) in world literature. His current fields of research are philosophy of literature, theory of criticism, and the contemporary relations between realism and science fiction. Besides various scientific articles, he has written a lot of literary criticism, two plays, and translated fiction and literary theory. Since 2006, he works as a researcher in the Estonian Literary Museum.

MAARJA VAINO, head of the A. H. Tammsaare Museum; doctoral student in Cultural Studies, Tallinn University. Her research and articles are focusing on A. H. Tammsaare and Estonian literature in the beginning of the 20th century. She has published articles in

collections and is a compiler of several books: A. H. Tammsaare *Kirjad tütrele* (2008); A. H. Tammsaare *Õnnelikest ja õnnetuist aegadest. Valitud artiklid* (2010); August Gailit *Saatana karussell. Siuru-aegsed novellid* (2010) etc. Her interests include literary heritage and writer museums.

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 Chair-holder of Literary Theory at Tartu University, and at the same time, has 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. He has published numerous articles and essays about Estonian literature, 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 Aiavahe (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 (Somewere in Europe, 2001) is a subjective and expressive commentary on Estonia's latest history. As a novelist, he made his debut with Lastekodu (Orphanage, 2003). His latest books are Isiku tunnistus (A Person's Identification, 2006), Tuikav tekst (The Pulsing Text, 2006) and Eksistentsiaalne Eesti (Existential Estonia, 2010).

PIRET VIIRES is Professor of Estonian Literature at Tallinn University and senior research fellow at Estonian Literary Museum. She received her PhD in Estonian literature in 2006 and her thesis was on the relations of Estonian literary culture and postmodernism.

She has written several articles, taken part in international conferences and in 2008 she published a book *Eesti kirjandus ja postmodernism* (Estonian Literature and Postmodernism). Her current research interests are contemporary Estonian literature, postmodern and post-postmodern cultural situation, relations between literature and technology, digital literature. Contact: viires@eki.ee