

About Authors

ANNA AUZIŅA, a graduate of the Painting Department of the Art Academy of Latvia (2001) and of the Cultural and Intercultural Studies of the Latvian Academy of Culture (2013), is mostly known as a poet; three collections of her poetry have been published – *Atšķirtie dārzi* (*Isolated Gardens*, 1995), *Slēpotāji bučojas sniegā* (*Skiers Kiss in the Snow*, 2001), and *Es izskatījos laimīga* (*I Looked Happy*, 2010). She is the recipient of the Klāvs Elsberg's Prize and the Preses Nams Book Award, the Ojārs Vācietis' Prize, and the *Latvju Teksti* Award. Her third book, *Es izskatījos laimīga*, was short-listed for the Annual Literature Prize. She is currently studying in the Doctoral Programme in Philology at the University of Latvia and is writing her doctoral dissertation about Vizma Belševica's, Ārija Elksne's, and Monta Kroma's poetry. She also publishes criticism on contemporary Latvian poetry.

OLGA BAZILEVIČA is a PhD candidate at the Justus-Liebig University Gießen (Germany) under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Carsten Gansel. The working title of her thesis is *Als das "Ich" Kind war: Literarische Repräsentationen von Kindheit als erinnerungskulturelles Medium historischer Reflexion in Lettland, Russland und Deutschland* (*When "I" Was a Child: Literary Representations of Childhood As a Medium of Memory Culture in Latvia, Russia and Germany*).

GINTARĖ BERNOTIENĖ took her PhD in 2002 with the dissertation *Interrelation between Art, Architecture and Literature in Poetry of Judita Vaičiūnaitė and Leonardas Gutauskas* (Best Young Researcher Award from the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, 2003). She has published the monograph *Searching for the Interrelations between Arts: On the basis of Judita Vaičiūnaitė and Leonardas Gutauskas poetry* (2005) and compiled an edition of Judita Vaičiūnaitė's works (2005–2008, 3 volumes). Since 2006, she is a researcher at the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore in Vilnius, Department of Contemporary Lithuanian Literature, and a member of Lithuanian Comparative Literature Association. Since 2010, she's a member of editorial board of the scientific journal *Colloquia*.

PIETRO U. DINI is a linguist and a translator. Since 1998/99 he teaches Baltic Philology and General Linguistics at the University of Pisa. He also taught Linguistics in Potenza, and was professor for *Baltiske Språk* in Oslo. He specialised

in Baltic Studies in Lithuania, Latvia, Poland and Germany. Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung (1996/97) and W. Bessel-Forschungspreisträger (2003) in Göttingen. He became Doctor h.c. of the University of Vilnius (2006) and is a member of the Academy of Sciences of Latvia (2004), of the Academy of Sciences of Lithuania (2007) and of the Academy of Science of Göttingen (2010). In 2002 he was awarded the Gedimin Ordin by the President of the Republic of Lithuania. In 2007 he received the Saint Jerome award (Vilnius), in 2012 the Gerald Parks award (Trieste), both for literary translation. His main interests lie in the fields of comparative historical linguistics and history of Linguistics. His book *Le lingue baltiche* (1997) has been translated, enlarged and updated in Lithuanian (*Baltų kalbos. Lyginamoji istorija*, 2000), Latvian (*Baltu valodas*, 2000), Russian (*Baltijskie jazyki*, 2002), and English (*Foundations of Baltic Languages*, 2015). Other main publications are: *L'Anello Baltico. Profilo delle nazioni baltiche di Lituania, Lettonia, Estonia* (1991); *Lysius H. J. Mažasis Katekizmas* (1993); *L'Inno di S. Ambrogio di Martynas Mažvydas. Studio filologico-linguistico del testo antico lituano (1549) e delle sue fonti latine e polacche* (1994); *Studies in Baltic and Indo-European Linguistics. In Honor of William R. Schmalstieg* (co-authored with Phil Baldi, 2004); *L'anello lituano. La Lituania vista dall'Italia: viaggi, studi, parole* (2007); *Aliletoescvr: Linguistica baltica delle origini* (2010), *Baltų filologijos studijos. Rinktiniai raštai 1991–2007* (2010); *Prelude to Baltic Linguistics* (2014), *Ins undeutsche gebracht. Sprachgebrauch und Übersetzungsverfahren im altpreussischen Kleinen Katechismus* (2014). He translates from Lithuanian (V. Braziūnas, L. Donskis, K. Platelis, J. Ivanauskaitė, T. Venclova et al.), Latvian (K. Skujenieks), Estonian (J. Talvet) and Catalan (G. Ferrater) literatures into Italian. He is the editor of the international journal *Res Balticae* (1–13).

EVA EGLĀJA-KRISTSONE, Dr. Phil., researcher at the Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art (ILFA) of the University of Latvia. Studied Baltic Philology at the Faculty of Philology of the University of Latvia and Social Anthropology at Riga Stradins University. Published articles and broader investigations about Baltic Literature. She is a co-editor of *Back to Baltic Memory: Lost and Found in Literature 1940–1968* (Riga, 2008), one of the authors and editors of the encyclopedia *300 Baltic Writers: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania* (Vilnius, 2009) and collective monograph *Latvieši, igauņi un lietuvieši: literārie un kultūras kontakti (Latvians, Estonians and Lithuanians: Literary and Cultural Contacts*, Riga, 2008). Her own monograph *Dzelzsgriezēji. Latvijas un Rietumu trimdas latviešu rakstnieku kontakti (Iron Cutters. Cultural Contacts between Soviet Latvian and Latvian Exile Writers*, Riga, 2013) is a study on Latvian cultural contacts, KGB and the role of literature on both sides of the Iron Curtain during the Cold War. Her research also covers fin-de-siècle period, nation building and women

writing in 19th century. Research interests: Baltic literature, Comparative literature, Literary anthropology, Cultural studies, Gender studies, Women writing.

AUŠRA JURGUTIENĖ, Prof., Dr. of Hum. sciences, is Senior Scholar in the Department of modern literature of the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore. Research interests: history of Lithuanian literature of the 20th century; literary theories of the 20th century: hermeneutics, reception, deconstruction; methodological problems of literary history writing; historical problems of Lithuanian literary science and criticism of the 20th century. She has published more than 70 articles and is the author of two monographs: *Naujasis romantizmas iš pasiilgimo: lietuvių neoromantizmo pradininkų estetinė mintis* (*New Romanticism from Longing: The Aesthetical Thought of the Founders of Lithuanian New Romanticism*, 1998) and *Literatūros suvokimo menas: Hermeneutikos tradicija* (*The Art of Literary Interpretation: The Hermeneutical Tradition*, 2013). Jurgutienė was a chief editor and co-author of the academic textbooks and readers in literary theory: *XX amžiaus literatūros teorijos: vadovėlis* (*20th-Century Literary Theory: A Textbook*, 2006), *XX amžiaus literatūros teorijos: konceptualioji kritika* (*20th-Century Literary Theory: Criticism*, 2010), *XX amžiaus literatūros teorijos: chrestomatija aukštųjų mokyklų studentams* (*20th-Century Literary Theory: Readings*, two volumes, 2011). She has given lectures on literary theory at various Lithuanian Universities. She was one of the founders of the Lithuanian Association of Comparative Literature in 2005 and is a Council member of this Association.

ZITA KĀRKLA, Dr. Phil., took her degree with the thesis *Woman in Latvian Prose in the Aspect of Gynocriticism (1960–2010)*. She is the author of several articles about women in Latvian contemporary literature. Her main research interests are women writers, the history of women's literature and female literary traditions, contemporary literature, and feminist criticism.

ANNELI KÕVAMEES, PhD in literary studies. Institutional affiliation: Tallinn University, Institute of Estonian Language and Culture, lecturer. Main research interests are Estonian literature, Estonian travel literature (travelogues), imagological literary research, national images and stereotypes in literature, e.g. the depiction of Italy in Estonian travelogues, the depiction of Russians in Estonian literature.

LAURA LAURUŠAITĖ is researcher, literary critic, academic staff member at the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore, member of the ILLF's Baltic Studies group and participant in its program "Comparative Baltic Literary Studies: Typological Aspects 2013–2017". In 2011 she defended her doctoral

dissertation *Baltic Novels of Exile: A Postcolonial analysis* which was awarded by the Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers (LSYR) as the best dissertation of the year in humanitarian and social sciences. In 2015 she published the monograph *Between Nostalgia and Mimicry: Lithuanian and Latvian post-war émigré novels*. Her fields of research include migration and exile, Lithuanian and Latvian diaspora, postcolonialism, imagology and comparative literature. Laura Laurušaitė is a member of the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies (AABS), Baltic Heritage Network, Latvia and Lithuania Forum Association, the Lithuanian Comparative Literature Association and of the Lithuanian Association of Literary Translators. She constantly publishes comparative articles about Lithuanian and Latvian émigré literature in academic and cultural journals, and delivers papers at international scientific conferences.

ANNELI MIHKELEV took her PhD degree in Semiotics and Cultural Studies at the University of Tartu with the monograph *Vihjamise poeetika* in 2005. She works as an Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and a Senior Researcher 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 topics in international and Estonian publications. She is also an editor of the reference guide to authors and their works *300 Baltic Writers: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania* (Vilnius 2009), and the collections of articles *We Have Something in Common: the Baltic Memory* (Tallinn 2007) and *Turns in the Centuries, Turns in Literature* (Tallinn 2009).

MIGUEL ÁNGEL PÉREZ SÁNCHEZ did postgraduate studies in theory of literature and comparative literature that finalized with a dissertation about the Latvian folksongs and their translation into Spanish, this translation being the first one made of any Latvian literary material into Spanish in the history of both languages. Presently, he is a lecturer at the University of Latvia and working on his doctoral thesis, whose subject is the study of national epics of Romanticism in the 19th-century Europe.

ANNELI SARO is Professor of Theatre Research at the University of Tartu. She is also convener of the Theatrical Event working group and Editor-in-Chief of the Nordic Theatre Studies. Her articles deal with audience research, performance analysis, Estonian theatre history and systems. She also belongs to the executive committee of the International Federation for Theatre Research.

JÜRI TALVET is since 1992 Chair Professor 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), *Kümme kirja Montaigne'ile. "Ise" ja "teine"* (Ten Letters to Montaigne. "Self" and "Other", 2014), 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 nine books of poetry. His books of poetry and essays have been translated into English, Spanish, French, Catalan, Romanian and Italian. 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.) and has edited a major anthology of US poetry in Estonian translation (2008). 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). In 2012 his monograph on Juhan Liiv's poetry (*Juhan Liivi luule*) was published, while in 2013 he edited a major selection of Juhan Liiv's poems (*Lumi tuiskab, mina laulan*). He has chaired the Estonian Association of Comparative Literature (1994–2010) and has also served as member of the ICLA Executive Committee (2000–2007).

MART VELSKER is Lecturer in Estonian Literature at the University of Tartu; he defended his doctoral dissertation *Lõunaeesti kirjandusloo kirjutamise võimalusi* (*Possibilities of Writing a South Estonian Literary History*) in 2014. He was a lecturer at the University of Helsinki in 2000–2004 and has given guest lectures at the universities of St. Petersburg, Vilnius and Oulu, as well as the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre in Tallinn. He is one of the authors of *Eesti kirjanduslugu* (*Estonian Literary History*, 2001) and has been publishing extensively on the topics of South Estonian literature, as well as Estonian poetry and literary criticism of the past few decades.

KĀRLIS VĒRDIŅŠ, Dr. Phil., is a researcher at the Institute of Folklore, Literature and Art, University of Latvia. He has published the monographs *The Social and Political Dimensions of the Latvian Prose Poem* (2010) and *Bastarda forma* (*The Bastard Form: The History of Latvian Prose Poems*, 2011). He is co-editor of collective monographs *Mūsdienu literatūras teorijas* (with Ieva E. Kalniņa, 2013) and *Dzimtes konstruēšana* (with Deniss Hanovs and Ilze Jansone, 2013). Research interests: queer studies, Latvian modern literature. He has also published poetry and translations.

MANFREDAS ŽVIRGŽDAS has a PhD in Humanities since 2006 (doctoral studies in Vilnius Pedagogical University). He is a researcher of the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore since 2007, and senior researcher of the same institute from 2012. He's the author of the monograph *Regimybės atspindžiai: vizualumo poetika Alfonso Nykos-Niliūno kūryboje* (*Reflections of Simulacrum: Poetics of Visuality in the Oeuvre of Alfonsas Nyka-Niliūnas*, 2009), one of the editors of the collection of articles *Alfonsas Nyka-Niliūnas: poetas ir jo pasaulis* (*Alfonsas Nyka-Niliūnas: Poet and His World: Researches and archive material*, 2010), the editor and author of the foreword of an edition of Maironis (*Pavasario balsai. Lyrika – Voices of Spring: Lyrics*, 2012) and of the collection of studies *Eina garsas: Nauji Maironio skaitymai* (*There Comes a Sound: New Readings of Maironis*, 2014).