

Notes on Contributors

Miriam Akkermann is a musicologist currently holding the Ernst von Siemens Guest Professorship at FU Berlin, Germany. Her research areas include music of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, computer music and music technology, digital musicology, musical performance practices, as well as archiving music. She is the research coordinator of the MSCA DN Lullabyte, in which she leads a project that examines the effect of music on sleep with a focus on music. Akkermann studied advanced design, flute, and music and new technologies in Bolzano, Italy, as well as audio communication and composition in Berlin, Germany. In 2014 she received her PhD in musicology from the Berlin University of the Arts and completed her habilitation at Bayreuth University, Germany, in 2023.

Mario Aquilina is an Associate Professor in the Department of English at the University of Malta, where he teaches on the essay, literature, literary theory, and writing. Aquilina is the author of *The Event of Style in Literature* (Palgrave, 2014), the editor of *The Essay at the Limits: Poetics, Politics and Form* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2021) and the editor of *The Edinburgh Companion to the Essay* (Edinburgh UP, 2022), together with Nicole B. Wallack and Bob Cowser Jr. Aquilina has edited two special issues of *CounterText: A Journal for the Study of the Post-Literary on Electronic Literature, Again* (2016, with Ivan Callus) and *The Time of the Essay* (2023). Aquilina has published peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on the essay, style, rhetoric, and electronic literature, and on writers such as Hazlitt, Shakespeare, Woolf, Derrida, Blanchot, and others.

Whitney Arnold is Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature and Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA, US), and she is chair of the health humanities curricular theme in the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine. Her research interests include the health humanities, autobiographical texts, and literary and narrative theory, and her work has appeared in *a/b: Auto/Biography Studies*, *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation*, *European Romantic Review*, *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities*, and *Criticism*, among other venues. She is currently at work on a book project exploring embodiment and authorial narration in autobiographical texts, as well as a collaborative clinical project investigating the use of life narratives in medical spaces.

Christian Bär is currently affiliated with the University of Leipzig, Germany. Previously, he was a research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics in Frankfurt am Main. He holds a Ph.D. in German Linguistics from the University of Bremen, Germany. In his dissertation, he examined the linguistic construction of epistemic objects in popular discourse about music and sound, based on a corpus of 13,500 music reviews. Bär's research draws on discourse linguistics, combining corpus pragmatics with interests in lexicology, semantic network analysis, concept and metaphor analysis, as well as aesthetics/poetics and popular culture. Generally, he underlines the concept of ineffability as an important aspect of language use in social and discursive interaction. His recent publications include a paper on urban place-making in music discourse and an essay on possible interrelations between discourse studies and aesthetics.

Tomasz Basiuk is Professor of American Studies at the University of Warsaw, Poland. His interests include contemporary novelists, including Thomas Pynchon and William Gaddis, life writing, and queer theory. He has authored a monograph on Gaddis (in Polish, *Świat Literacki*, 2003) and *Exposures: American Gay Men's Life Writing since Stonewall* (Peter Lang, 2013), co-edited several volumes on queer studies and American studies, and co-founded the online queer studies journal *InterAlia* (published since 2006). In 2016–2019, he was Principal Investigator in the project “Cruising the Seventies: Un-eartthing pre-HIV/AIDS queer sexual cultures” (CRUSEV, funded in the HERA “Uses of the Past” call). He is currently PI in the project “Queer Theory in Transit: Reception, translation, and production of queer theory in Polish and German contexts” (QUEERIT, funded by NCN and DFG). Basiuk served as president of the Polish Association for American Studies and of the American Studies Network.

Kay Brauer is a researcher at the Department of Psychological Assessment and Differential Psychology (Chair: Prof. René Proyer) at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany. He obtained his PhD in 2023 studying the role of intra- and interindividual differences in how people deal with ridicule and being laughed at regarding social relationships. His research interests include the study of personality traits such as adult playfulness and the Impostor Phenomenon, and he is particularly interested in methods and approaches to psychological assessment. He has (co-)authored more than 50 articles and book chapters. Kay Brauer serves as editor-in-chief of the *International Journal of Applied Positive Psychology* and as associate editor for the *European Journal of Psychological Assessment* and *Psychological Test Adaptation and Development*. His teaching includes courses on psychological assessment and interview techniques.

Bob Cowser, Jr. is Professor of English at St. Lawrence University, NY, US. He was named the Owen D. Young Outstanding Faculty Member in 2012 and has taught abroad in France, England, and Denmark. Cowser is the author of three nonfiction books: most recently *Green Fields: Crime, Punishment, and a Boyhood Between* (Uno Press, 2010), which won “Best Memoir 2010” from the Adirondack Center for Writers and was cited in *The Best American Essays 2012*. His first book *Dream Season* (Grove, 2007) was named a *New York Times* editor's choice and was listed among the “best-ever college sports books” by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. He is also the editor of two anthologies, most recently *The Edinburgh Companion to the Essay* (co-edited with Nicole Wallack and Mario Aquilina, Edinburgh UP, 2022).

Guido Mattia Gallerani is Assistant Professor in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory at Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna, Italy, where he teaches Sociology of Literature. He studies the interaction between literary and non-literary genres in the context of media and their evolution over time. His latest book deals with the interview as a genre, combining journalism and fiction across different medias: *L'intervista immaginata: Da genere mediatico a invenzione letteraria* (Firenze UP, 2022). He also published a book on the creative evolutions of the essay: *Pseudo-saggi: (Ri)Scritture tra critica e letteratura* (Morellini, 2019). Research on the relationship between the essay and the novel is also at the core of his first monograph, dedicated to a specific case study: *Roland Barthes e la tentazione del romanzo* (Morellini, 2013).

Carsten Junker is Professor of American Studies with a Focus on Diversity Studies at TUD Dresden University of Technology, Germany. His work focuses on relationalities between structural inequalities and various genres and media, as well as dynamics of subject and group positioning with respect to diverse practices of categorization in North American literatures and cultures, from the seventeenth century to the present. In a current project funded by the German Research Foundation, he interrogates the recent upsurge of the manifesto in contemporary debates on diversity in the United States. Book publications include *Frames of Friction: Black Genealogies, White Hegemony, and the Essay as Critical Intervention* (Campus, 2010) and *Patterns of Positioning: On the Poetics of Early Abolition* (Winter, 2016); further work has appeared in *Culture, Theory and Critique*, *CounterText*, *Amerikastudien/American Studies*, *Zeitschrift für Anglistik und Amerikanistik*, *Journal for Discourse Studies*, *Quaderna*, and elsewhere.

Stefania Maffeis has been Professor of Political Theories at the University of Applied Sciences (EHS) in Dresden, Germany, since September 2020. Previously, she was associate fellow in the research project “The Global Contestation of Gender and Women’s Rights” at the Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF) at Bielefeld University and senior research fellow at the Käte Hamburger Centre for Global Cooperation Research in Duisburg-Essen. Maffeis received her habilitation in philosophy from the Freie Universität (FU) Berlin in 2017. Between 2010 and 2017, she was an associate professor at the Institute of Philosophy at FU Berlin in an autonomous position funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG). Currently, she works in the field of political and social philosophy, with a particular focus on the phenomena of migration, racism, and transnational citizenship. In her current publications, she reconstructs and analyzes the intellectual and political struggles in Europe for the recognition of a human right to global freedom of movement.

Elisabeth Punzi is a clinical psychologist, PhD and Associate Professor in psychology and lecturer and director of doctoral studies at the Department of social work, Gothenburg University, Sweden. Her research concerns mental health, disability, and substance use. She researches creative expressions, their importance for recovery and wellbeing, and how creative expressions can be integrated into clinical work. She also researches the meaning of cultural heritage and the connections between Jewish heritage and psychoanalysis. She writes from humanistic, critical, and psychoanalytic perspectives and has a specific interest in interview studies.

Rebecca Roach is Associate Professor of Contemporary Literature at the University of Birmingham, UK, where her research examines literary culture and enquiry from interdisciplinary perspectives, with a particular focus on material, institutional, and digital histories. Her first book *Literature and the Rise of the Interview* (Oxford UP) was published in 2018 and her work has appeared in *Contemporary Literature*, *MFS: Modern Fiction Studies*, *Textual Practice*, *New Media & Society* and elsewhere.

Rebekka Sendatzki is a PhD student at the Department of Psychological Assessment and Differential Psychology (Chair: Prof. René Proyer) at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany. She studies the personality trait of playfulness in adulthood with a focus on its functions in the domain of work, and how work-related playfulness can be assessed with self- and other reports. Since 2021 she has (co-)authored more than 10 articles and book chapters in flagship journals of the fields of personality psychology and psychological assessment (e.g.,

Journal of Personality). Her teaching includes courses on interview and observational techniques.

Hagen Steinhauer is a PhD candidate in German Studies at the University of Bremen, Germany, and part of the Research Group Soft Authoritarianisms, which studies the slow but steady erosion of democracy in various national contexts. In his thesis on the French case, he analyzes the role of majoritarian identity politics in this undermining of democracy from within. Recent publications include a paper titled “Mimicry of Marginality in Soft Authoritarian Identity Politics: Intersectional Configurations of the ‘Menaced Majority’ in France” to be published in the *Journal for Discourse Studies*.

Jonas Trochemowitz is a PhD candidate in German Linguistics at the University of Bremen, Germany, and a member of the DFG-funded research training group Contradiction Studies. In his dissertation, he investigates language use in queer Christian discourses by doing linguistic ethnography in the context of queer-inclusive church services. He is furthermore interested in anti-genderist as well as right-wing language strategies which, with Lara Herford, he analyzed in a paper to be published in the *Journal for Discourse Studies* with the title “Staged Dissent – ‘Change My Mind’ as a vehicle of self-marginalization within Identitäre Bewegung Österreich.”

Nicole B. Wallack, PhD, is the Director of Columbia University’s Undergraduate Writing Program and Senior Lecturer-in-Discipline in the Department of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, US. Her scholarship focuses on the history, pedagogy, and aesthetics of the American essay as well as a range of topics in Rhetoric and Composition/Writing Studies including knowledge transfer, teacher education, and the history and effects of standardized writing tests. Her articles, essays, and reviews have appeared in collections as well as journals including *Public Books*, *Fourth Genre*, and *Essay Daily*. She is the author of *Crafting Presence: The American Essay and the Future of Writing Studies* (Utah State UP, 2017). In October 2022, Edinburgh UP published *The Edinburgh Companion to the Essay*, which she co-edited with Mario Aquilina and Bob Cowser, Jr.

Jeffrey J. Williams writes on contemporary American fiction, the history of contemporary criticism and theory, and critical university studies. Since the 1990s, he has conducted and published more than ninety full-length interviews with critics, writers, philosophers, and editors. In addition, he has published seven books, among them *How to Be an Intellectual: Essays on Criticism, Culture* (Fordham, 2014), which aims for a public criticism and includes a section of profiles that draw on interviews, and as co-editor, the *Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism* (3rd ed., 2018), a standard textbook. He is currently Professor of English and of Literary and Cultural Studies at Carnegie Mellon University, US.

Ingo H. Warnke is Chair of German and Interdisciplinary Linguistics at the University of Bremen, Germany. Together with Michi Knecht, he is spokesperson of the joint research platform Worlds of Contradiction, the DFG-Research training group Contradiction Studies at the University of Bremen, host of the U Bremen excellence chair with its research group on Soft Authoritarianisms, as well as founding head of the European Research Network on Discourses of Marginality and De-marginalization (DeMarg). His research focuses on discourse analysis and sociolinguistics.

Galia Yanoshevsky is Professor of French Literature at Bar-Ilan University, Israel, and a member of ADARR (Discourse Analysis Argumentation and Rhetoric, Tel-Aviv). She is the author of *L'entretien littéraire: L'Anatomie d'un genre* [*The Literary Interview: The Anatomy of a Genre*] (Classiques Garnier, 2018) and of *Les discours du Nouveau Roman: Essais, entretiens, débats* [*The Discourses of the New Novel: Essays, Interviews, Debates*] (Septentrion, 2006). She is interested in para-literary genres such as the manifesto, scam letters, literary interviews, and debates. Her latest research (2016–2019, Israel Science Foundation) has focused on representations of collective memory in tourist guidebooks and in national photobooks. In 2014–2016 she led, with Prof. Silvia Adler, a community involvement project (financed by the Council for Higher Education) involving the improvement of French language skills through work with French-speaking elderly people.

