

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Alaa Alghamdi** is an associate professor of English literature at Taibah University, Medinah, Saudi Arabia. Educated in Saudi and England, Alghamdi has been a prolific writer publishing academic papers and articles in magazines and journals worldwide. He is a columnist for Arab News and The Arabian Post.

**Reygar J. Bernal L.** – Venezuelan scholar and university professor specialized in comparative literature (Caribbean, English, Italian, and Spanish), cultural studies and literary translation. BA in Modern Languages (UCV, 2004). MA in Comparative Literature (UCV, 2011). Italian cultural studies (Università per Stranieri di Perugia, Italy, 2002); SUSI on Contemporary US Literature (University of Louisville, USA, 2014). He has published creative writings, poems, literary essays and research papers in print and digital format, as well as several literary and academic translations. He has participated as a lecturer in many academic events on different topics (literature and culture, gender, history, humor, languages, linguistics, music, otherness, politics, post-colonialism, research and translation)

**Sonia Caputa** currently works as Assistant Professor in the Department of American and Canadian Studies at the University of Silesia. She holds a Ph.D. in American literature from the same university, she is a fellow of 2014 Salzburg Seminar American Studies Association Symposium Defining America: New Writing, New Voices, New Directions, a participant of the summer Fulbright scholarship “The United States Department of State 2015 Institute on Contemporary U.S. Literature” (University of Louisville, Kentucky) and a member of the Polish Association for American Studies. She is a guest co-editor of RIAS Online Journal (Review of International American Studies Association: Wor(l)ds Apart: Navigating Differences, Vol. 7, Fall-Winter (2 /

2014) and a co-editor of the upcoming volume of *Grand Themes of American Literature: Love*, which will be published by the Silesian University Press. She teaches contemporary American ethnic literature and the survey courses of the history of American literature, her interests include but are not limited to: ethnicity, assimilation as well as stereotypes in literature and films.

**Xiaomin Chen** is a second-year graduate student majoring in British and American literature in Shenzhen University.

**Iwona Filipczak** works as an Assistant Professor in the Institute of Modern Languages at the University of Zielona Góra. She teaches courses on literature and American culture. Her scholarly interests include American realism in literature after World War II, particularly John Updike's fiction, American short story, and South Asian American fiction, narrowed down mainly to the questions of identity and experience of the Indian diaspora in the US: dislocations, cultural belonging, fears and challenges of the globalizing world. She is a member of Polish Association for American Studies and European Association for American Studies.

**Urszula Gołębiowska** works as assistant professor at the University of Zielona Góra. Her research interests focus on American fiction and the intersections between literature, culture and philosophy. She has written articles on the work of Henry James, Paul Bowles, Alice Munro and J. M. Coetzee.

**Agnieszka Gondor-Wiercioch** – Associate Professor in the Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. Teaches Latin American, American and Canadian literature. Recipient of the research grant of JFK Institute of Freie Universität in Berlin. Interested in the contemporary Latino/a and Native American fiction (transculturation in literature, reconstruction of history and identity search in ethnic and post-ethnic literature, hybrid and heterogeneous literature, syncretic religions represented in literary texts and the clash of incompatible cultural models). Published a monograph devoted to the comparative analysis and interpretation of the chosen works of Louise Erdrich and José María Arguedas and a couple of articles connected with the already mentioned areas.

**Magda Mansour Hasabelnaby** is a Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the Faculty of Women, Ain Shams University, where she teaches comparative literature, 19th and 20<sup>th</sup> century British and American fiction. She published a number of translations of American poetry into Arabic, in addition to the translation of a novel,

Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, 2010. For more than twenty years, she worked as an educational consultant, teacher trainer and trainer of trainers for several international organizations where she trained teachers in different parts of Egypt. She also shared in a number of national and international conferences in the Arab World, Europe, and the United States, the most recent of which is ACLA, New York 2014, and TESOL Arabia, Dubai 2015.

**Agnieszka Łobodziec** is Assistant Professor and the head of the Section of Literature of the English Speaking World, English Department, University of Zielona Gora, Poland. In January 2015 she was elected a member of the Toni Morrison Society's International Programs Committee. She is the author of *Black Theological Intra-racial Conflicts in the Novels of Toni Morrison*. She is a member of research team on "Marginalization and Minorities in Contemporary Literature and Film" under the supervision of prof. Jorgen Veisland, University of Gdansk. Currently, she researches black American internationalism, intercultural discourses and womanism.

**Akshaya K. Rath Ph.D.** on alternative Indian English poetry is from the University of Hyderabad. He specializes in postcolonial sexualities and theories for alterity. An Associate of Indian Institute of Advanced Study Shimla, Rath has been sanctioned a major R&D project by ICSSR, New Delhi, to research the history of prison transportation during the colonial period with a focus on the Andaman penal settlement. Presently, he is Assistant Professor of English at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, National Institute of Technology Rourkela, India, and teaches Creative Writing, Gender Studies, and Theories for Alterity. His edited collection *Secret Writings of Hoshang Merchant* (2016) is published by Oxford University Press, New Delhi.

**Xiaohong Zhang** is Professor of comparative literature and currently functions as Vice Dean of the School of Foreign Languages in Shenzhen University from the People's Republic of China. She is the sole author of *The Invention of a Discourse* (2004), *Women's Poetry From an Intertextual Perspective* (2008) and *Poetry and Pictures* (2014) and the co-author of two other books. She has published over 50 academic articles in prestigious international and Chinese journals as well as 8 books translated from English.