

# Notes on contributors

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## Notes on Contributors

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**Thomas Austenfeld** is Professor of American Literature at the University of Fribourg. He earned his PhD. in English from the University of Virginia and taught in Missouri and Georgia before returning to Europe. He is the author of *American Women Writers and the Nazis: Ethics and Politics in Boyle, Porter, Stafford, and Hellman* (2001), editor or co-editor of six essay collections, and author of numerous scholarly articles in American literature. *Robert Lowell in Context*, co-edited with Greg Kosc, is forthcoming in 2023 from Cambridge UP.

**Sofia Baliño** is a PhD candidate at the University of Geneva and is writing her dissertation on Joan Didion, disorder, and literary form under the supervision of Simon Swift. Her research interests include American literature and cultural criticism from 1945 to the present, New Journalism, media theory, the blurring of the fiction/nonfiction divide, and the relationship between sentiment, sensibility, and literary form. In parallel to her academic research, she has worked for over a decade as a writer and editor at Geneva-based think tanks, where she specializes in trade policy and practice, international economic and environmental governance, and sustainable development.

**Aïcha Bouchelaghem** is currently employed as a teaching and research assistant at the English Department at the University of Geneva. She is working on a doctoral thesis entitled “Abolition beyond the Human-Animal Binary in African American Literature,” in which she looks at how nineteenth- and late twentieth-century literary texts about slavery reproduce or resist anthropocentric conceptions of humanity versus animality. Her research draws on African American literary theory, Black feminism, biopolitics, and vegan ecofeminism.

**Kimberly Frohreich** completed her PhD at the University of Geneva in 2022. Her thesis, entitled “American Fantasies of Race,” examines the ways in which the figure of the monster allegorizes and (de)constructs race. She has since been working as a lecturer and a post-doctoral research assistant at the University of Geneva as well as teaching English at CECG Madame-de-Staël in Carouge.

**Corin Kraft** is a PhD candidate in Anglophone Literature and Culture at the University of Basel. The working title of her dissertation, which engages with the representation of time and space in the contemporary literature of Mississippi, is “Memory, Place, and the Postsouthern in Contemporary US Southern Literature.” Corin is also an external lecturer at the University of Fribourg where she teaches proseminars on American literature, and a lecturer in communication and culture at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW).

**Francesca de Lucia** holds a master’s degree from the University of Geneva and a PhD from the University of Oxford. She taught at Minzu University in Beijing from 2016 to 2020 and has previously worked as an associate professor at Zhejiang Normal University of China in Jinhua. Her book *Italian American Cultural Fictions: From Diaspora to Globalization* was published by Peter Lang in 2017. The main focus of her research is on ethnic identity in literature and film, with a particular focus on Italian Americans and Chinese Americans. Her most recent article is “Ethnic Investigations of the American Crime Scene: Comparing Domenic Stansberry and George Pelecanos” (2022).

**Deborah Madsen** is Professor of American Studies in the Department of English at the University of Geneva. She has published widely in the fields of American Ethnic and Indigenous Studies. Her current project, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, is a documentary history of ethical veganism in the US ([www.unige.ch/vls](http://www.unige.ch/vls)).

**Caroline Martin** is a PhD student and teaching assistant in American literature at the University of Geneva. She completed her MA in French and English linguistics and literature at the University of Geneva in 2018. Her doctoral project analyzes the relationship between narrative structure and ideology in British and American “New Woman” short fiction. Her methodology combines elements of stylistics and postclassical narratology to determine the textual mechanisms by which New Woman short stories construct an implied readership situated discursively in relation to contemporary debates on gender.

**Anindita Basu Sempere** is a lecturer with the University of Neuchâtel’s Institute of English Studies, where she recently defended her dissertation, “Mysterious Geography: Elizabeth Bishop and the Mediations of Place.” She studies change of place and poetics and co-developed two digital humanities projects that show the intersection of place and literary creation. The *Summer of Darkness* iOS app was created for the bicentennial of “The Year Without Summer,” when *Frankenstein* was written. *Mapping Bishop* is a web-based, geotemporal map of Elizabeth Bishop’s correspondence from the early 1950s.

**E. Nastacia Schmoll** is a PhD student as well as a teaching and research assistant at the English Department at the University of Zurich. She is interested in the potential of speculative fiction to challenge and provide possible alternatives to heteropatriarchal and euro- and anthropocentric structures and worldviews. Her current PhD research focuses specifically on the changing depictions of spaces in the science fiction genre with particular focus on twenty-first-century texts and their use of what she has tentatively termed “Otherspace” to respond to the complex social and environmental challenges of the moment.

**Matthew Scully** is Lecturer in American Literature and Culture at the University of Lausanne. His first book, *Democratic Anarchy: Figures of Equality in United States Literature and Politics* (Fordham UP, 2024), engages with American literature from the nineteenth century to the present to consider the anxious intersections of politics and aesthetics. From this expansive corpus, the book develops a new account of literature's political force, locating it not in reassuring visions of democracy but in figurative operations that resist and disrupt forms of inequality. Scully's work has appeared in numerous journals, including the *Journal of Modern Literature*, *Diacritics*, *African American Review*, *American Literature*, *Critical Inquiry*, and *Postmodern Culture*.

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**Aurélie Zurbrügg** holds a PhD from the University of Fribourg. She is employed as a post-doctoral researcher and lecturer in American literature at the University of Fribourg and as a lecturer with the Department of English at the University of Geneva. In her dissertation, "The Message on the Wall," and in her publications, Aurélie examines the relationship between the wall and the messages it can mediate. Her research interests lie in intermedial studies, contemporary African American fiction, and the intersection between urban art, literature, social justice, and ecocriticism.