



# TRANSNATIONAL LITERATURE

## Volume 6, Issue 2 May 2014

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### Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the May 2014 issue of *Transnational Literature*, which rounds off our sixth year of publication. We have a broad range of offerings for you, as always: contributions from every continent: articles, review essays, poems, stories, creative non-fiction, and book reviews.

I'm delighted to welcome a new member of the editorial team this year. Patrick Allington has taken over as Book Reviews Editor, bringing to the task a wealth of experience as an editor and critic. I'm also most grateful for the support of all our editors. The journal has grown well beyond the scale where one person can deal with everything.

While this issue has no special theme, it is striking that many of the peer-reviewed articles are concerned with gender issues. Muneer Aram Kuzhiyan discusses the treatment of the concept of the veil in a novel by the Malayalam writer Khadija Mumthas, while Anna Royal looks at marginal characters central to Sharni Mootoo's first novel, *Cereus Blooms at Night*. Robyn Greaves devotes overdue attention to Australian novelist Marion Halligan, and Aloka Patel turns her attention to an Alice Munro short story, 'Walker Brothers Cowboy', as a coming of age narrative. The other two peer-reviewed papers in this issue include one by Wei H. Kao, concerning plays by diasporic Irish dramatists, and the other, by Kenneth Usongo, on the use of both African and Western rhetorical devices in a novel by Cameroon writer Shadrach Ambanasom. In addition, we have a wide-ranging review essay on World Literature by Russell McDougall, and a passionate speech by Satendra Nandan given at the launch of *A Country Too Far*, a collection of writings about asylum seekers in Australia.

More than thirty book reviews of creative and critical books, biographies, histories and memoirs are included in the May issue. We also include a translation of two poems by Karen dissident Tee Noe.

In the creative section we have several prose works by Australian writers, covering topics as diverse as Christmas holiday work in the Adelaide Post Office, the difficulties of coming to accept the Sudanese neighbours, and ethnographic research in Bangladesh. There is a poignant first-person account of euthanasia in an unusual setting, as well as a powerful story by Indian writer Sunil Sharma and a creative non-fiction piece by USSR-born US resident Dmitry Shlapentokh. Eight poets have contributed to the May issue. Our poetry editor, Heather Taylor Johnson, writes, 'The poems are a really diverse bunch, ranging from the musings of travellers past and present, migrants considering home through the ocean's scape, migrants considering home through the fence boundaries of the desert, migrants considering home through lineage, and a bird as a symbol of all of the above. What captures these poems most for me would be a line from Libby Hart's poem, which reads: "each country carries your suitcase of songs", so that the emphasis then is not on the displacement of the subject, but rather on the possibilities of belonging.'

What better note to conclude on? Please enjoy our May issue.

**Gillian Dooley**

### Contributors

#### Articles

Robyn Greaves  
Wei H. Kao  
Muneer Aram Kuzhiyan

Aloka Patel

Anna Royal

Kenneth Usongo

Australian Author Marion Halligan – Word Artist

Transnational Ireland on Stage in Three Texts

The Many Riches of Human Flourishing: On the Veiled Agent in Veil Narratives

'Between What We Know and What We Do Not Know': Alice Munro's 'Walker Brothers Cowboy'

Imagining Home at a Snail's Pace in Shani Mootoo's *Cereus Blooms at Night*

The Force of Argument and the Argument of Force: A Study of the Rhetoric of Achamba and Abaago in Shadrach Ambanasom's *Son of the Native Soil*

#### Review Essay

Russell McDougall

The 'New' World Literature: A Review Essay

#### Speech

Satendra Nandan

*A Country Too Far* edited by Rosie Scott and Tom Keneally: a talk given by Professor Satendra Nandan at the book launch in the Asia Bookroom, 4 December, 2013

\* *Transnational Literature* May 2014: Complete Articles.\*

### Translation

Tee Noe

Karen Resistance Poetry translated and introduced by Violet Cho

### Poetry

Ali Alizadeh  
Ken Bolton  
Steve Evans  
Alison Flett  
Libby Hart  
Keith Mac Nider  
Kent MacCarter  
Ian C. Smith  
Christine Williams

Saga  
(Write To You) Another Letter  
Japanese Conference  
Boundary Rider  
Mantiq a tayr  
Coonemara Dreaming  
Present in Makarora Valley, New Zealand  
Oddington Lodge  
a cleave of time and place

\* *Transnational Literature* May 2014: Complete Poetry.\*

### Creative and Life Writing

Filipa Bellette

Paper Beads

Kathryn Hummel  
Kevin Roberts  
Sunil Sharma  
Dmitry Shlapentokh  
Lynette Washington

Runia Reflected: Talk Amongst Outsiders in Bangladesh  
The Face Up Table  
Change  
The Apotheosis of Young Barra  
North Atlantic Farewell

\* *Transnational Literature* May 2014: Complete Prose Creative and Life Writing.\*

### Reviews: Creative and Life Writing

Halimah Mohamed Ali  
Shari Argent  
Alex Cothren  
Alex Cothren

*Not the Same Sky* by Evelyn Conlon  
*And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini  
*The Heaven I Swallowed* by Rachel Hennessy  
*The Young Desire It* by Kenneth Mackenzie, introduced by David Malouf

Dan Disney  
Gillian Dooley  
Lauren Dougherty  
Sarah Dowling  
Steve Evans  
Kay Hart  
Kate Hayford  
Reshmi Lahiri-Roy  
Gay Lynch  
Jennifer A. Marquardt  
Maja Milatovic  
Caitlin Roper  
Caitlin Roper  
Umme Salma  
Michael X. Savvas  
Emily Sutherland  
Reg Taylor

*Another Fine Morning in Paradise* by Michael Sharkey  
*Barracuda* by Christos Tsiolkas  
*Julia Paradise* by Rod Jones  
*Thirsting for Lemonade* by Heather Taylor Johnson  
*Australian Love Poems 2013* edited by Mark Tredinnick  
*Wish* by Peter Goldsworthy  
*Chalk, Cheese and Caviar* by Etienne Fennell  
*Deranged Marriage: A Memoir* by Sushi Das  
*Transactions* by Ali Alizadeh  
*The Lowlands* by Jhumpa Lahiri  
*Am I Black Enough For You?* By Anita Heiss  
*Maddaddam* by Margaret Atwood  
*The Tragedy of Fidel Castro* by Joao Cerqueira  
*Songs from a Far Island* by Roshanak Amrein  
*The English Class* by Ouyang Yu  
*As I Was Saying* by Robert Dessaix  
*Passion Play* by Valerie Volk  
*Writing the Tides* by Kevin Roper

\* *Transnational Literature* May 2014: Complete Book Reviews: Creative and Life Writing.\*

### Book Reviews: History, Theory and Criticism

Rosslyn Almond

*Kurt Vonnegut and the American Novel: A Postmodern Iconography* by Robert T. Tally Jr.

Mary Byrne

*Apocryphal and Literary Influences on Galway Diasporic History* by Gay Lynch

Joost Daalder

*The Melancholy Assemblage: Affect and Epistemology in the English Renaissance* by Drew Daniel

Gillian Dooley

*A Country Too Far: Writings on Asylum Seekers* edited by Rosie Scott and Tom Keneally

Nina Muždeka

*Pak's Britannica: Articles by and Interviews with David Dabydeen and Talking Words: New Essays on the Work of David Dabydeen* edited by Lynne Macedo

Eleni Pavlides

*The Garden of Eros: The Story of the Paris Expatriates and the Post-War Literary Scene* by John Calder

V. Prem Lata

*Cabling India: WikiLeaks and the Information Wars* by Pramod K.

Nishi Pulugurtha	Nayar <i>Narrative, Identity, and the Map of Cultural Policy: Once Upon a Time in a Globalized World</i> by Constance DeVereaux and Martin Griffin
Asma Sayed	<i>Crosstalk: Canadian and Global Imaginaries in Dialogue</i> edited by Diana Brydon and Marta Dvorak
Kay Schaffer	<i>Transcultural Identities in Contemporary Literature</i> edited by Irene Gilsenan Nordin, Julie Hansen and Carmen Zamorano Llana
Ruth Starke	<i>The Vagina: A Literary and Cultural History</i> by Emma L. E. Rees
Kathleen Steele	<i>Secular Mysteries: Stanley Cavell and English Romanticism</i> by Edward T. Duffy
Heather H. Yeung	<i>Listening Up, Writing Down, and Looking Beyond: Interfaces of the Oral, Written, and Visual</i> edited by Susan Gingell and Wendy Roy

\* *Transnational Literature* May 2014: Complete Book Reviews: History, Theory and Criticism.\*

**Letter from the Editor**

**Contributors**