

About the Contributors

KARÍN AGUILAR-SAN JUAN is Professor and Chair of American Studies at Macalester College and a novice priest at Clouds in Water Zen Center in Saint Paul, Minnesota. With Frank Joyce, she coedited *The People Make the Peace: Lessons from the Vietnam Antiwar Movement* (Just World Books, 2015). Her scholarly monograph, *Little Saigons: Staying Vietnamese in America* (University of Minnesota Press, 2009), compared community-building and place-making in Boston, Massachusetts and Orange County, California, setting the stage for critical approaches to race and place in Vietnamese American studies. In 2013, she retraced Susan Sontag's footsteps in Hanoi, interviewing one of her guides and other individuals who provided insight into the relevance of Sontag's 1968 trip for Vietnamese people today.

JODIE CHILDERS is an assistant professor of English at the University of Virginia. She has published her work in *Transatlantica*, *Comparative American Studies*, and *Resources for American Literary Studies*, among others. In 2018, she received the Leifur Eiríksson Foundation Fellowship to pursue independent research and language study in Reykjavík, Iceland. She holds a PhD in English with a concentration in American studies from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

SONY CORÁÑEZ BOLTON is Associate Professor of English and Spanish and Program Chair of Latinx and Latin American Studies at Amherst College. He is the author of *Crip Colony: Mestizaje, US Imperialism, and the Queer Politics of Disability in the Philippines* (Duke, 2023). It demonstrates the ways that colonialism and disability are part of a unified ideological structure in Philippine mestizo politics. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Critical Ethnic Studies*, *Journal of Asian American Studies*, *Periphêrica*, and *Verge: Studies in Global Asias*. His second book, *Dos X: Disability and Racial Dysphoria in Latinx and Filipinx Culture* is forthcoming with the University of Texas Press.

NILANJANA DEBNATH is a scholar working in the field of interdisciplinary literary studies on food and is Assistant Professor of English at ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education, Hyderabad. Her work involves contextualizing food studies in India by developing research methodologies that are suitable for and attuned to Indian experiences of food. Until recently, scholarly representations of Indian food culture were largely shaped by Western anthropologists, who often approached their studies as a means to theorize Western modernity through the lens of non-Western or

“primitive” food practices. Debnath’s interdisciplinary research in Indian Food Studies seeks to challenge some of the assumptions and generalizations perpetuated by such studies and contribute to a pluralistic discourse by interpreting and theorizing food literature and practices from the land. Debnath is currently developing a book-length project that explores the genre of food memoirs—a sub-genre of life writing that intertwines personal narratives with ethnographic depictions of food practices, blending storytelling with recipes. While literature and food may initially appear as dichotomous pursuits—one engaging the intellect, the other the body—food memoirs bring these elements into a meaningful dialogue. This synthesis redefines both domains: Food becomes a vehicle for cultural expression, and the memoir transforms into an embodied form of recollecting history. The interplay between food and literature within these works challenges conventional understandings of identity, highlighting the hybridity inherent in culturally constituted selves. Through the alienated perspective of an author, food and literature emerge as practices of the hybrid self that are inseparable from each other. In addition to this book project, Debnath is actively involved in research. Her paper, “Reading Tradition in Food: An Interdisciplinary Study of Bengali Food Writing,” investigates how recipes and other forms of Bengali food writing capture everyday culinary negotiations and contribute to the construction of a cultural tradition of taste. Another significant work, “Order and Disturbance,” offers a comparative analysis of UR Ananthamurthy’s *Samskara* and Ashapura Devi’s *The First Promise*, examining their depiction of sacred and profane gastro-politics in pre-Independence Indian society. She firmly believes that cultural food studies can foster not only academic discourse but also broader social conversations about identity, politics, and the sustainability of human existence.

HENRY FRANCIS DOWNING (1846–1928) was an author, playwright, and diplomat from a prominent Black New York family. He was a cousin of Hilary Johnson, president of Liberia from 1884–1892, and was nephew of the well-known civil rights leader George Thomas Downing. Henry Francis Downing also worked in the navy, traveled widely, and served as private secretary to the secretary of state of Liberia for three years. He was appointed US consul to Angola and served in that post from 1886 to 1887. Downing published eight plays and a novel, and his work appeared in the *Crisis* and *The Africa Times and Orient Review*.

OZ FRANKEL is Associate Professor of History at the New School for Social Research and the editor of *Social Research: An International Quarterly*. His scholarship spans several fields, including comparative and transnational history, knowledge production and transmission, popular culture and its audiences, historiography and historical consciousness, and the history of the state. He has published works in US, British, and Israeli history. In addition to *Coca-Cola, Black Panthers, and Phantom Jets: Israel in the American Orbit, 1967–73* (Stanford, 2024), Professor Frankel is the author of the monograph *States of Inquiry: Social Investigations and Print Culture in Nineteenth-*

Century Britain and the United States (Johns Hopkins, 2006). Among his most recent publications is the article “Historical Consciousness in the Age of Donald J. Trump: Populism, Evangelicalism, and the Typological Imagination” in the anthology *Claiming the People’s Past: Populist Politics of History in the Twenty-First Century* (Cambridge, 2024).

SUSAN M. GUSTAFSON is the William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of English at the University of Notre Dame and the author of *Peace in the US Republic of Letters, 1840–1900* (Oxford 2023), *Imagining Deliberative Democracy in the Early American Republic* (Chicago, 2011), and *Eloquence is Power: Oratory and Performance in Early America* (North Carolina, 2000), along with dozens of essays. She is the editor of *The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Vol. A* (9th and 10th editions) and coeditor of *Cultural Narratives: Textuality and Performance in American Culture before 1900* (Notre Dame, 2010) and *Reimagining the Republic: Race, Citizenship, and Nation in the Literary Work of Albion Tourgée* (Fordham, 2022).

ALFRED HORNUNG is Research Professor of American Studies and English with special interests in Transnational American Studies and all areas of life writing. These fields have implications for inter- and transdisciplinary methods as well as an extension of American literature and culture beyond the boundaries of the continental United States. In this sense he pursues the transatlantic and transpacific reaches of the classical canon of literary and cultural works from the eighteenth to the twenty-first century and recognizes new authors and new lines of transnational affiliations established by multiple migrations from different parts of the world. In these planetary efforts he cooperates with colleagues in Europe, the Americas, Australia, and China. He has been a long-time general editor of *American Studies: A Monograph Series* on behalf of the German Association of American Studies (GAAS) and is editor in chief of the *Journal of Transnational American Studies* (Stanford).

STEPHEN EDWARD NASH is President and Chief Executive Officer of Archaeology Southwest, a non-profit located in Tucson, Arizona. As an archaeologist, Nash studies the ancient Mogollon (Moh-gee-yon) culture of west central New Mexico and specializes in dendrochronology, or tree-ring dating. He has conducted archaeological research all over the world, including at Neanderthal sites in France and in the majestic cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde National Park. Nash has written and edited nine books and dozens of journal articles on a wide variety of topics, including the development and application of tree-ring dating in Southwestern archaeology and the history of anthropology, among many others. He has published nearly three dozen peer-reviewed papers, also on a wide range of topics. From 2015 until early 2024, he served as a columnist for *Sapiens*, an online magazine which presents anthropology to the interested public.

VINH NGUYEN is a writer and educator. He is the author of *Lived Refuge: Gratitude, Resentment, Resilience* and coeditor of *The Routledge Handbook of Refugee Narratives* (with Eryn Lê Espiritu Gandhi) and *Refugee States: Critical Refugee Studies in Canada* (with Thy Phu). His memoir, *The Migrant Rain Falls in Reverse*, is forthcoming in spring 2025.

BRIAN RUSSELL ROBERTS (PhD, University of Virginia, 2008) is Professor of English and coordinator of the English Graduate Program at Brigham Young University, where he also coordinated the American Studies Program from 2016 to 2022. His work has appeared in journals including *American Literature*, *Atlantic Studies*, *American Literary History*, *PMLA*, and *African American Review*. He is coeditor with Keith Foulcher of *Indonesian Notebook: A Sourcebook on Richard Wright and the Bandung Conference* (Duke, 2016) and with Michelle Ann Stephens of *Archipelagic American Studies* (Duke, 2017). Roberts is the author of *Artistic Ambassadors: Literary and International Representation of the New Negro Era* (Virginia, 2013) and *Borderwaters: Amid the Archipelagic States of America* (Duke, 2021). He has edited and introduced the annual *Reprise* feature in *Journal of Transnational American Studies* since 2020.

ROBIN SCHULDENFREI is the Tangen Reader in twentieth-century modernism at The Courtauld, University of London. She specializes in modern architectural history with a focus on materiality and the object. She is interested in broad questions—theoretical and practical—of how discourses and practices of design are shaped by a given period's own cultural and theoretical critiques. Her research focuses on objects' subjectivity, political agency, and social impact. Her latest book is *Objects in Exile: Modern Art and Design across Borders, 1930–1960* (Princeton University Press, 2024). Previous publications include *Luxury and Modernism: Architecture and the Object in Germany 1900–1933* (2018) as well as numerous articles, essays and four edited volumes, among them: *Iteration: Episodes in the Mediation of Art and Architecture*; *Atomic Dwelling: Anxiety, Domesticity, and Postwar Architecture*; and, with Jeffrey Saletnik, *Bauhaus Construct: Fashioning Identity, Discourse, and Modernism*. She is working on a new book about the material politics of global objects.