

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTION 4

- LOVING THE STRANGER: A PERSONAL ACCOUNT **BY**
KIM NOVICK 7
- REFUGEE INFLUXES INTO THE GLOBAL NORTH AND LITERATURES OF MIGRATION
BY AIMAN KHATTAK 10
- FOR THE LOVE OF A STRANGER: MIGRATING LITERATURES **BY**
BETHANY SHEPHERD 13
- INDECISIVE COSMOPOLITANISM IN RABIH ALAMEDDINE'S *KOOLAIDS* **BY**
LARA EL MEKKAWI 17
- STATELESS: TO BELONG NOWHERE **BY**
MARGARIDA PEREIRA MARTINS 21

BOOK REVIEWS

- CULINARY DIPLOMACY'S ROLE IN THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE: FICTION AND
MEMOIRS OF MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN **BY VIVIENNE TAILOR** 25
- SHAKESPEARE AND POSTCOLONIAL THEORY **BY ARCHANA JAYAKUMAR** 28
- CLIMATE AND CRISES: MAGICAL REALISM AS ENVIRONMENTAL DISCOURSE **BY BRIAN**
RADFORD 31

CONFERENCE REPORT

- CARTOGRAPHIES OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE: LITERARY REFLECTIONS FROM
SOUTH ASIA AND BEYOND **BY SOUMYA KASHYAP** 35

FUNDING REPORT

- POSTCOLONIAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE ORGANISATION ASSISTANCE
FUND REPORT: "ARCHIPELAGIC MEMORY: INTERSECTING GEOGRAPHIES,
HISTORIES AND DISCIPLINES" **BY SRADDHA SHIVANI RAJKOMAR, LUCA RAIMONDI**
AND LINGANADEN 39
- POSTCOLONIAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION GENERAL RESEARCH FUND REPORT:
ARCHIVAL RESEARCH **BY RACHEL TOUGH** 42

INTERVIEW WITH PSA/JPW ESSAY PRIZE RUNNER-UP

- INTERVIEW WITH NICOLA CAROLINE WHEELER **BY FRANCESCA MUSSI** 45

PSA NEWS

➤ CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS AND BOOK REVIEWS FOR PSA NEWSLETTER #29	49
➤ PSA MEMBERSHIP	51
➤ NOTES	53

Editorial

Welcome to the PSA Newsletter #28. Francesca, Jennifer, and Priyanka are excited to share the new issue “Loving the Stranger”, exploring notions of identity, (un)belonging, homesickness, and love in relation to the immigrant experience. As always, we hope to foster informed, wide-ranging, and respectful debates on the topic on focus, and more in general in the field of postcolonial studies, by sharing original contributions, funding reports, interviews, and book reviews by colleagues from across the world.

Kim Novick opens the newsletter with a powerful account, sharing her own immigrant experience and personal negotiations when she emigrated from South Africa to Australia. This is followed by **Aiman Khattak**'s general reflections on how immigrants might be perceived in the host country, underlining how literature can facilitate a deeper understanding of the migrant experience. Next **Bethany Shepherd**'s critical contribution advocates a broader inclusion of migrant literary voices in the classroom to teach us to love “strangers”, and **Lara El Mekkawi**'s exploration of Rabih Alameddine's debut novel *KoolAids* advances the intriguing notion of indecisive cosmopolitanism. The section on original contributions concludes with **Margarida Pereira Martins**'s contribution, which focuses on the impacts of detention centres on human lives through her analysis of the Australian mini-series *Stateless*.

Next you can find a section dedicated to book reviews of recent monographs in postcolonial studies, comprising **Vivienne Tailor**'s review of *Culinary Diplomacy's Role in the Immigrant Experience: Fiction and Memoirs of Middle Eastern Women* by Jennifer Gray, **Archana Jayakumar**'s review of *Shakespeare and Postcolonial Theory* by Jyotsna G. Singh, and **Brian Radford**'s review of *Climate and Crises: Magical Realism as Environmental Discourse* by Ben Holgate.

The issue also features **Soumya Kashyap**'s report on the two-day virtual international conference “Cartographies of Gender Based Violence: Literary Reflections from South Asia and Beyond”; **Sraddha Shivani Rajkomar**, **Luca Raimondi**, and **Linganaden Murday**'s report on the three-day international conference “Archipelagic Memory: Intersecting Geographies, Histories and Disciplines”, which was supported by the Postcolonial Studies Association's Conference Organisation Assistance Fund; **Rachel Tough**'s report on her research visit to the National Archives in London, which was supported by the Postcolonial Studies Association's General Research Fund; and the editors' interview with **Nicola Caroline Wheeler**, runner-up of the 2021 PSA/JPW Essay Prize.

The final section of the newsletter includes information on PSA membership, useful contacts, and, most importantly, the call for the next issue.

Happy reading!

Francesca, Jennifer, and Priyanka.

DR FRANCESCA MUSSI is an independent scholar, who has recently completed a Leverhulme ERC fellowship in the Department of Humanities at Northumbria University. She is currently working on a monograph examining how Indigenous literature can complement or challenge the work carried out by the Indian Residential School Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Her research interests also include postcolonial theory, gender studies, trauma studies, ecocriticism, and South African literature. In May 2020 her first book *Literary Legacies of the South African TRC: Fictional Journeys into Trauma, Truth and Reconciliation* was published by Palgrave Macmillan and demonstrated the value of the TRC as a literary subject in contemporary South African fiction.

DR JENNIFER GRAY teaches Modern British and Contemporary Anglophone literature as a tenured assistant professor at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, Tennessee, USA. From 1999-2018, she taught Composition and Sophomore Literature courses at TTU. In 2018, she received her PhD from Middle Tennessee State University and continued her career at TTU. In April 2021 her first book, *Culinary Diplomacy's Role in the Immigrant Experience: Fiction and Memoirs of Middle Eastern Women*, was published by Rowman & Littlefield. Dr. Gray's research interests include immigration, postcolonial theory, British literature 1900-1950, and Contemporary Black British, Asian, and Minority Ethnic literatures.

DR PRIYANKA TRIPATHI is an Associate Professor of English and Head, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Patna (India). She is also the Co-Executive Editor of the Journal of International Women's Studies, an online, open-access, peer-reviewed feminist journal published by Bridgewater State University, USA. She has published extensively in *Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics*, *Journal of Gender Studies*, *Economic and Political Weekly* amongst others. Her forthcoming monograph with Bloomsbury is titled, *The Gendered War: Evaluating Feminist Ethnographic Narratives of the 1971 War of Bangladesh*. She works in the area of Gender Studies, South Asian Fiction, GeoHumanities and Graphic Novels. Her email id is priyankatripathi@iitp.ac.in. Her ORCID iD is <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9522-3391>.



News

Call for Contributions and Book Reviewers for PSA Newsletter #29: The Ambivalent Machismo: Representation, Mediascape, and Female Leads in Cinema

Carrie Paechter, in her article “Rethinking the possibilities for hegemonic femininity: Exploring a Gramscian framework” (2018)¹, discusses the challenges and possibilities of conjuring a space where the discursive model of feminine essentialism can be better perceived as a binary opposite of hegemonic masculinity and patriarchal oppression. A few popular generic spaces within the mediascape, where machismo claims a front row within the psyche of the audience, have hitherto been dominated by male leads. Since the early 2000s, media representation has been witnessing a tangible shift with the emergence of female leads. The characters played by women started appearing more convincing. The politics of representation becomes problematic as these depictions of female characters are essentially directed towards appropriating stereotypes of hegemonic masculinity where physical strength, affinity towards violence, and lack of emotional vulnerability get showcased. The canonization of ‘femininity’ through an exquisitely crafted balance between masculine and feminine temperaments hardly finds prominence. This ambit of ambiguity around the notion of empowerment invites academic interventions in decoding the representation of these female leads as it simultaneously empowers women and the cornerstones of hegemonic masculinity. We encourage submissions that consider, but are not limited to the following topics:

- Female prototype in Cinema
- Objectification, femininity, strength
- The Costume Construct
- New Generation Female Protagonist in Cinema
- Cons, Cops, Corporate, and other vanquished territories of 'Masculinist' depiction
- Brain and brawn: hitting the sweet spot between ‘masculine’ and ‘feminine’ temperament
- Negotiating with the male gaze?
- Reconstructing Agency: femme fatale to femme castratrice
- Interplay between gender and race in cinematic female characters

Original contributions should be between 700 and 1,200 words and should be fully referenced using Harvard Referencing Style.

The deadline for submissions is **13th January 2023**. Please submit your contribution via email to the PSA Newsletter editorial team: Francesca Mussi franci.mussi86@gmail.com, Jennifer Gray jgray@ntech.edu, and Priyanka Tripathi priyankatripathi@iitp.ac.in

¹ Paechter, Carrie. “Rethinking the Possibilities for Hegemonic Femininity: Exploring Gramscian Framework.” *Women’s Studies International Forum*, vol. 68, May 2018, pp. 121–28. ScienceDirect, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2018.03.005>.

We are also looking for book reviews in relation to any recent books in the field of postcolonial studies, especially in the area of postcolonial cinema, for this issue.

Reviews should be between 500 and 1,000 words, should be fully referenced using the Harvard Referencing Style, and should be submitted via email to the PSA Newsletter editorial team: Francesca Mussi franci.mussi86@gmail.com, Jennifer Gray jgray@tntech.edu, and Priyanka Tripathi priyankatripathi@iitp.ac.in by **13th January 2023**.



Membership

Benefits include

- Regular **e-mail bulletins** about postcolonial events, publications and job listings [L]
[SEP]
- Bi-annual **newsletter**
- Invitations to all **meetings and colloquia**
- Your **research interests** listed on the PSA website
- Opportunity to join any of the **PSA committees**
- a range of benefits with **Routledge** (including 20 % off Routledge Books, specially curated book collection for the PSA, access to free resources to help you in your Academic career, prize draw to win up to £200 worth of Routledge books)
- Almost 50 % discount on personal subscriptions to the *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* (£59/US\$99/€78)
- 50% discount on personal subscriptions to a number of **Intellect journals**
- 30% discount on volumes in the *Postcolonialism Across the Disciplines* series and the *Contemporary French and Francophone Cultures* series from Liverpool University Press
- 20% discount on all *Oxford Studies in Postcolonial Literatures* publications
- Special rate on personal subscriptions to *Wasafiri*
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For further information, please go to:
<http://www.postcolonialstudiesassociation.co.uk/join-us/>

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- All PSA members are entered into a prize draw to win up to £200 worth of Routledge books

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<http://www.postcolonialstudiesassociation.co.uk/members/routledge-benefits-for-psa-members/>

Notes

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