



# Postcolonial Studies Association Newsletter #22



December 2018

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# Editorial

We are delighted to present Issue #22, December 2018, of the Postcolonial Studies Association Newsletter, our first open-themed issue as editors. From this issue onwards, we will use a new and simpler layout, which should hopefully lead to fewer formatting issues. We apologise for any formatting issues in the last newsletter, these were entirely our fault as editors.

Our contributors to issue #22 look back on some of the activities that the PSA have been involved with over the last year, starting with the PSA Chair, **Anshuman Mondal**, who has a special announcement for PSA members regarding our new partnership with Routledge. We then move on to reports about events that received funding from the PSA. **Anna Ball** reports on Dalit poet and activist Kalyani Thakur Charal's visit to the Postcolonial Studies Centre at Nottingham Trent University in April, two days of poetry readings, translation workshops, and engagements with publishers and cultural activists addressing the place of Dalit writers in the British literary marketplace. **Christinna Hazzard and Jennie O'Reilly** tell us about their symposium on Reality Interrupted: New Perspectives on Magical Realism, held at Liverpool John Moores University in July, which featured academics from across the UK considering how the genre – or rather 'mode' – has evolved thus far into the twenty-first century. Finally, **Amber Lascelles** reports on a symposium entitled 'Women of the Global South and its Diasporas: Rights, Representation, Activism,' organized by Women's Paths, an interdisciplinary feminist research group at the University of Leeds. This event, as well as the seminar series of this group, addressed how to reach beyond the academy, engaging in the process with women's charities based in Leeds. In the book reviews section, we feature a review by **Noella Handley** of Christel Stolz's edited collection *Language Empires in Comparative Perspective* (2015), an interdisciplinary engagement with the colonial histories underlying contemporary language inequalities, along with the role of languages in historical and contemporary imperialisms. We close issue #22 with the call for papers for

next year's PSA Convention, which will be held at the University of Manchester from 11-13 September 2019 and will focus on the theme of Justice.

We hope that you enjoy learning more about some of the groundbreaking collaborations that the PSA have helped make possible over the past year, especially the efforts of postcolonial scholars to reach beyond the academy to build dialogue with activists and communities, both local and global. Alongside this crucial work, it's also good to see our members continuing to reconsider cornerstones of postcolonial literary thought and reach towards ever greater interdisciplinarity. We hope to continue this work in the next issue of the PSA Newsletter, which will focus on the theme of Postcolonialism and Visual Culture. The call for contributions can be found on page 30.

Happy reading!

Isabelle Hesse and Edward Powell

**Dr Isabelle Hesse** is Lecturer in English at the University of Sydney, Australia. Her research is situated at the nexus of postcolonial, Jewish, and Middle Eastern studies and her first book, *The Politics of Jewishness in Contemporary World Literature: The Holocaust, Zionism, and Colonialism* was published by Bloomsbury in 2016. Her current project examines theories of world literature and world cinema in light of representing Israel and Palestine in contemporary culture.

**Dr Edward Powell** is an Academic Skills Adviser at the University of Winchester, and an independent scholar based in Basingstoke, U.K. His current research interests include technophilic eutopianism in contemporary postcolonial speculative fiction, with particular focus on space exploration within the context of combined and uneven development.

# The PSA's New Partnership with Routledge: a Bright Future by Anshuman Mondal

The PSA Executive has, for some time, been exploring ways of enhancing our offer to members so that they feel that being a member not only provides opportunities for networking with other scholars working in the field; dissemination of information about key events, publications, and opportunities; and access to funding and research support, but also more tangible and direct benefits.

I am pleased that our partnership with Routledge will deliver some especially noteworthy benefits for members:

- A 20% discount on all Routledge books;
- A specially curated selection of new and noteworthy publications in the Routledge postcolonial studies series for you to browse;
- A free chapter sampler of selected material drawn from across the range of Routledge publications in postcolonial studies on a particular topic
- A 14-day free journal trial that will help you to access up to two full issues of the latest Taylor and Francis Journals, including *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, *Wasafiri*, *Interventions*, and *Postcolonial Studies*;
- Free downloads of electronic resources that will help you develop your academic career;
- An annual prize draw that will give you the chance to win up to £200 of Routledge books.

It should be said that this is a partnership that both the PSA and Routledge see as developing over time, and already there are discussions on a number of other potential elements, including publication of selected papers from the convention, and potentially a new book series.

It is perhaps especially pleasing that the first partnership the PSA has struck with a major publisher is with Routledge, which was something of a pioneer in the field back in its nascent stages. As a graduate student back in the 1990s, I can remember mentally associating Routledge with postcolonial studies because of the number of works that early on defined the scope and nature of the field, at least in literary studies and theory: the volumes by Ashcroft, Griffiths and Tiffin, the *Post-colonial Studies Reader*, Robert Young's *White Mythologies*, Homi Bhabha's *The Location of Culture* and the edited volume *Nation and Narration*, Gayatri Spivak's *In Other Worlds* and *Outside the Teaching Machine*, and many more besides.

Since then, of course, Routledge has continued to build on that early, defining set of publications by establishing the Research in Postcolonial Literatures series, which has increasingly become more interdisciplinary; and it has for a number of years now published seminal postcolonial work in the fields of history, philosophy, theology, sociology, geography, and area studies, to name but a few.

All of this means that the archive of possibility that has now been opened up for PSA members is vast, and includes much that has been, is, or will be ground-breaking. We are particularly excited about the chapter sampler, and we would strongly encourage members to suggest topics and items for inclusion in future samplers. The first sampler is on the topic of Justice, which we felt would work well given that it is the special topic of next year's PSA Convention. The chapter samplers will become available three times a year, so there is the opportunity to build a significant resource that will help you with your scholarship and research.

With all this in mind, the opportunity to partner up with Routledge was, as they say, a no-brainer. Indeed, it is perhaps a measure of the PSA's growing reputation as the premier academic network in

the field that it was, in fact, Routledge that approached us and not the other way around. Having tried to establish other partnerships with higher education institutions to no avail – it is a bleak time at the moment in global higher education in terms of funding in many countries, but especially in the UK where we are based – this was an opportunity we could not afford to miss.

And I think it is fair that Routledge, too, see many opportunities in working with us. These are early days, but I think that what we have established so far bodes well for a thriving and mutually beneficial endeavour that will benefit both the members of the PSA and the wider field of postcolonial studies. This, in turn, should attract more new members, which should enable us to offer even more to our membership in return.

This is an exciting new venture for the PSA, and one that we on the Executive hope you will take up with enthusiasm – and don't forget to spread the word!

**Anshuman Mondal** is Professor of Modern Literature at the University of East Anglia, and Chair of the Postcolonial Studies Association.



# Membership

## Benefits include

- Regular **e-mail bulletins** about postcolonial events, publications and job listings
- 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***
- 20% discount on ***Moving Worlds: A Journal of Transcultural Writings***

## Membership fees

### Band A Countries

£32 full membership

£18 unwaged membership (inc. student, retired, etc)

### Band B Countries

£12 full membership

£8 unwaged membership (inc. student, retired, etc)

### Band C Countries

£2 full membership

£1 unwaged membership (inc. student, retired, etc)

For further information, please go to: <http://www.postcolonialstudiesassociation.co.uk/join-us/>



# Notes

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