



Postcolonial Studies Association Newsletter #24



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The Convention Issue

#24 – January 2020

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Welcome to #24, a special issue of the PSA Newsletter, covering the 2019 Postcolonial Studies Association convention, which took place at the University of Manchester, from 11-13 September. The conference theme was 'Postcolonial Justice' and this is a topic that many of our contributions engage with in different ways.

Whether you were able to attend the PSA convention or not, we hope that our newsletter will have something interesting for everyone. We start with PSA chair **Anshuman Mondal**'s reflections on the convention, followed by **David Firth and Helen Cousins** sharing their thoughts as the organisers of the 2019 convention. **Nayanika Mookherjee** gives us an extract from her keynote entitled "'Traitors" of Justice: Sexual Violence and the Bangladesh War of 1971,' while **Caroline Koegler** examines the relationship between postcolonial studies, justice, and branding. We also feature an interview with **Bhagya Casaba Somashekar**, the 2019 JPW/PSA Essay Prize Winner.

Priyanka Shivadas then reflects on another big postcolonial studies event, the triennial Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (ACLALS) conference, which took place in July 2019 in Auckland, NZ. This is followed by reports from three PSA members who received PSA funding: **Rachel Gregory Fox** tells us about her experience of 'Refugee Tales,' **Desiree Poets** summarises the 'Indigenous Urbanisation Workshop' and **Victoria Okoye** examines how young people use community space in Ghana.

Our **book reviews** section features reviews of *Postcolonial Justice*, edited by Anke Bartels, Lars Eckstein, Nicole Waller, and Dirk Wiemann (reviewed by **Svetlana Stefanova**), *Language and Translation in Postcolonial Literatures: Multilingual Contexts, Transnational Texts*, edited by Simona Bertacco (reviewed by **Cathie Jayakumar**), and Nayanika Mookherjee's *The Spectral Wound: Sexual Violence, Public Memories and the Bangladesh War of 1971* (reviewed by **Priyanka Tripathi and Sanjib Kr. Biswas**). We conclude the newsletter with a call for contributions and a call for reviewers for #25, which will focus on '**Decolonising Academia?**'

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to this issue of the newsletter as well as the organisers of the 2019 PSA convention whose hard work and tireless effort has made this event such a great success.

Happy reading!

Edward and Isabelle

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.

Call for Contributions

PSA Newsletter #25: 'Decolonising Academia?'

Attempts to decolonise academia have been prominent in recent years. In 2015, the 'Why is my Curriculum White?' campaign was founded at University College London, challenging the lack of diversity of many university curricula. This has since spread to other universities and countries, asking teachers to critically evaluate what and how they teach. More recently, the Rhodes Must Fall Movement focused our attention on the legacies of colonialism that are often underpinning academic culture. But of course, calls for decolonising education are not new, one only has to think of Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o influential book *Decolonising the Mind: The Politics of Language in African Literature* (1986), where Ngũgĩ emphasised the importance of writing in indigenous languages and drawing on local tradition to decolonise Kenyan culture. At the same time, in a number of countries, such as Australia and Canada, there have also been calls for the need to indigenise the curriculum, and the university.

This special issue interrogates the role of decolonisation in academia, including as part of our teaching and research practice, and also examines the relationship between decolonisation and indigenisation in an academic context.

Contributions might focus on but are not limited to the following questions:

- How have recent attempts to decolonise academia influenced the way in which we teach and research?
- What are the challenges of decolonising academia?
- What might a decolonial research and/or teaching practice look like?
- How does decolonisation intersect with indigenisation in an academic context?

Original contributions should be between 700 and 1,200 words, and should be fully referenced using the Harvard Referencing Style. Reports on recent events or conferences are also welcome.

Contributors should feel free to contact the newsletter editor Isabelle Hesse (isabelle.hesse@sydney.edu.au) as soon as possible with any inquiries or proposals. The deadline for submissions is **15th April 2020**. Please submit your contribution via email to the newsletter editor.

Call for Book Reviewers

PSA Newsletter #25

We are looking for reviewers for the following books:

- Ben Holgate, *Climate and Crises: Magical Realism as Environmental Discourse*. Routledge, 2019. <https://www.routledge.com/Climate-and-Crises-Magical-Realism-as-Environmental-Discourse-1st-Edition/Holgate/p/book/9781138553484>
- Sarbani Sen Vengadasalam, *New Postcolonial Dialectics: An Intercultural Comparison of Indian and Nigerian English Plays*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2019. <https://bcla.org/2019/01/11/new-postcolonial-dialectics-an-intercultural-comparison-of-indian-and-nigerian-english-plays/>
- Lawrence Aje, Thomas Lacroix and Judith Misrahi-Barak eds., *Re-imagining the Guyanas*. Presses Universitaires de la Méditerranée, 2019. <https://www.pulm.fr/index.php/9782367812915.html>

If you are interested in reviewing any of these books, or any **recently published books relevant to the theme of 'Decolonising Academia?'** please contact the newsletter editor Isabelle Hesse (isabelle.hesse@sydney.edu.au). 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 newsletter editor Isabelle Hesse by 15th April 2020.



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

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

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