



Postcolonial Studies Association

Disability Studies in the  
Postcolonial/Decolonial World



Image available at [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Disability\\_Flag\\_Precious.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Disability_Flag_Precious.svg)

Newsletter #34

#34 – April 2026

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## Editorial

Welcome to the PSA Newsletter #34. Francesca and Jennifer are excited to share the new issue “Disability Studies in the Postcolonial/Decolonial World”, which invites reflections on the notion of disability from a postcolonial/decolonial perspective. 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, book reviews, and conference reports by colleagues from across the world.

The newsletter features **three original contributions**: **Darren Paltrowitz** discusses how the emergence of disabled villains and morally complex characters in contemporary global media raises important questions for decolonial disability scholarship. **Abigal Muchecheti** explores the interplay between disability and colonial legacies by proposing silence as a form of resistance against extractive practices of knowledge production. **Ayush Gowala** foregrounds how disability in the Global South is deeply interconnected with forms of “slow violence”, positioning the disabled child’s body as evidence of the postcolonial nation-state’s ongoing structural failures.

Next, readers can find **Sally M. Kessler’s book review** of *Quiet methodologies: Humility in the Humanities* by Suzanne Bost (2025), which is followed by **a conference report on the AISCLI Seminar** “African Cosmologies Across the Atlantic: Literary, Linguistic, Artistic and Cultural Representations” by **Alessandra Di Pietro, Aminat Emma Badmus and Lisbety Mirabal Díaz**.

The final section of the newsletter includes information about the call for the next issue and useful contacts.

Happy reading!

Francesca and Jennifer

**DR FRANCESCA MUSSI** teaches Contemporary Anglophone literatures, English language & linguistics as Associate Professor at San Raffaele University of Rome. Her research interests include postcolonial/decolonial theory, gender studies, trauma studies, ecocriticism, North American Indigenous literatures, South African literature, critical discourse analysis, stylistics, and apologies. In October 2024 her second book, *Good Medicine Stories: Literary and Critical Explorations of Settler-Colonial Trauma, the Canadian TRC, and Indigenous Resurgence*, came out with Liverpool University Press; it demonstrates the role of Indigenous fiction in foregrounding Indigenous healing, spiritual regeneration and resurgence.

**DR JENNIFER GRAY** teaches Modern British and Contemporary Anglophone literature as Associate 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.



# News

## Call for Contributions and Book Reviews for PSA Newsletter #35: Postcolonial/Decolonial Water Stories

We invite submissions exploring the dynamic intersections between colonialism (past and ongoing) and water/waterscapes through a humanities perspective. As many scholars have pointed out, “Unequal access to water and the political processes that direct management are fundamentally rooted in colonialism” (Hartwig, Jackson, Markham & Osborne 2023, p. 31) Water – oceans, rivers, seas, and wetlands – has long been central to colonial histories, shaping routes of conquest, migration, trade, and resistance. In literary texts and other cultural productions, waterscapes often emerge as sites of memory, trauma, identity formation, and ecological imagination.

This issue seeks to examine how postcolonial and Indigenous authors, as well as authors from other minority communities, engage with waterscapes to rethink space, belonging, power and relations with the more-than-human world. We welcome contributions that address diverse geographical regions and theoretical approaches, including but not limited to postcolonial ecocriticism, blue humanities, environmental justice (especially water justice and water rights), and Indigenous environmental knowledge.

Original contributions should be between 700 and 1,200 words and should be fully referenced using Harvard Referencing Style. Please also send a 100-word biographical statement.

We are also looking for book reviews in relation to any books in the field of postcolonial studies which were published within the last 5/6 years. Reviews should be between 500 and 1,000 words and should be fully referenced using Harvard Referencing Style. Please also send a 100-word biographical statement.

**The deadline for submissions is August 31, 2026.**

Please submit your contribution via email to the PSA Newsletter editorial team: Francesca Mussi [franci.mussi86@gmail.com](mailto:franci.mussi86@gmail.com) and Jennifer Gray [jgray@tntech.edu](mailto:jgray@tntech.edu). If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with either Francesca or Jennifer.

# Notes

## PSA OFFICERS

**Chair:** Smriti Singh [smritisinghiitp@gmail.com](mailto:smritisinghiitp@gmail.com)

**Vice-Chair:** Alberto Fernandez-Carbajal [albertofcarbajal@gmail.com](mailto:albertofcarbajal@gmail.com)

**Executive Secretary:** David Firth [d.h.firth@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:d.h.firth@manchester.ac.uk)

**Treasurer:** Marie Stack [marie.stack@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:marie.stack@ntu.ac.uk)

**Membership Secretary:** Paola Prieto Lopez [prietopaola@uniovi.es](mailto:prietopaola@uniovi.es)

**Newsletter Editor:** Francesca Mussi [franci.mussi86@gmail.com](mailto:franci.mussi86@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Editor:** Jennifer Gray [jgray@tntech.edu](mailto:jgray@tntech.edu)

**Website Officer:** *David Firth (temporary)* [d.h.firth@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:d.h.firth@manchester.ac.uk)

**E-mail Officer:** Esha Sil [eshasil111@gmail.com](mailto:eshasil111@gmail.com)

**Postgraduate Officer/Early Career Representative:** Luca Raimondi [luca.raimondi@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:luca.raimondi@kcl.ac.uk)

## GENERAL ENQUIRIES

[psa@postcolonialstudiesassociation.co.uk](mailto:psa@postcolonialstudiesassociation.co.uk)

<http://www.postcolonialstudiesassociation.co.uk/>

**CREDITS Newsletter Design:** Francesca Mussi and Jennifer Gray

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