



Postcolonial Studies Association
Newsletter #23
Postcolonialism and Visual Culture



Image courtesy of David Firth

#23 - August 2019

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Editorial

Welcome to our second special issue as editors of the *PSA Newsletter*, focusing on the topic of Postcolonialism and Visual Culture. Our contributors examine how the relationship between these two fields has evolved in the last ten years, and we ask how postcolonial visual culture represents and engages with the histories and processes of the colonial and the postcolonial. By extension, we're also interested in the relationship between postcolonial visual and textual cultures, such as in terms of the aesthetic strategies that they use, but equally taking into account that the visual is often considered as more 'authentic' or 'real,' whereas text is more often linked to fiction. Are these types of cultural production still considered to be discrete and indeed doing different work? How do we engage with postcolonial work at the intersection of the visual and the textual, for example graphic novels and virtual reality experiences? Our contributors approach these concerns via a wide range of contemporary visual cultures, including newly emerging visual media technologies.

Xavier Guégan considers how *The Mysterious Cities of Gold* – a staple of French children's television from the 1980s – introduced his generation to the brutalities of colonial rule, and shaped their sense of a postcolonial French national identity.

Partha Bhattacharjee and **Priyanka Tripathi** explore how Indian mythology, folklore, fables, and epic literature has shaped the country's burgeoning comic book industry, where they combine with contemporary forms of storytelling like social media.

Rebecca Anastasi addresses the ethical questions arising from Western film adaptations of postcolonial literature, specifically regarding the imperative towards fidelity with the source material that, Anastasi claims, eclipses consideration of these adaptations' inherent intertextuality.

Claire Griffiths explores how cultures of political critique in Francophone Africa are turning from textual to visual forms of communication, with particular focus on the work of Beninese artist Romuald Hazoumè.

Dashiell Moore reports on 'Caribbean Meridians', the Australian Association for Caribbean Studies conference for 2019, hosted by Western Sydney University, and featuring a keynote address by Alexis Wright.

David Firth reports on 'Experiencing Intersectionality: Other Perspectives, Other Lives', an International Showcase event using Virtual Reality to explore intersectionality and the representation of other perspectives and experiences.

Sofia Aatkar and **Emily Timms** report on the launch of New Voices in Postcolonial Studies, a network for early career scholars working in the field.

We are also excited to feature **reviews** of Rizwhan Akhtar's poetry collection *Lahore, I am Coming* (reviewed by **Nafhesa Ali**), and *New Directions in Diaspora Studies: Cultural and Literary Approaches*, edited by Sarah Illott, Ana Cristina Mendes, and Lucinda Newns (reviewed by **Ouissal Harize**) in this issue of the newsletter.

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.



News

Call for Contributions

PSA Newsletter #24: PSA Convention Issue

This issue of the PSA newsletter focuses on the PSA Convention and its theme of Postcolonial Justice. We encourage original contributions from a range of disciplines that examine the relationship between postcolonialism and justice.

Contributions might consider, but are not limited to, the following questions from the Convention Call for Papers:

- Is it possible to articulate the many different kinds of justice pursued by postcolonialist interests under one overarching goal, or is there value in a plurality of competing ideas of justice – in speaking of *justices*?
- What kind of justice(s) should postcolonialists pursue?
- Are some kinds of justice pursued by postcolonialists preferable to others?
- How do postcolonial considerations of justice intersect with those in other disciplines or areas such as disability studies, queerness, feminism, indigeneity, religion and so on?
- What does justice look like when fully achieved/put into practice?
- What questions of ethics and care arise in considering justice?
- How are notions of postcolonial justice inflected by the posthuman and the non-human?
- What historical and contemporary contexts of justice need to be considered?
- When is justice and repair impossible or undesirable?

We also welcome reports on the PSA Convention itself, either on individual panels or the conference as a whole. Contributions should be between 700 and 1,200 words, and should be fully referenced using the Harvard Referencing Style.

Contributors should feel free to contact the editors Edward Powell (edjohnpowell@gmail.com) and Isabelle Hesse (isabelle.hesse@sydney.edu.au) as soon as possible with any inquiries or proposals. The deadline for submissions is **15th October 2019**. Please submit your contribution via email to the editors Edward Powell (edjohnpowell@gmail.com) and Isabelle Hesse (isabelle.hesse@sydney.edu.au)

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>

Additionally, we are especially keen for our next issue (which will focus on the PSA's 2019 Convention next month) to feature reviews of the following books by the Convention's keynote speakers:

- David Theo Goldberg, *Are We all Postracial Yet? Debating Race*. Wiley, 2015. <https://www.wiley.com/en-gb/Are+We+All+Postracial+Yet%3F-p-9780745689715>
- David Theo Goldberg, *Sites of Race: Conversations with Susan Searls Giroux*. Polity Press, 2014. <http://politybooks.com/bookdetail/?isbn=9780745671789>
- David Theo Goldberg, *The Future of Thinking: Learning Institutions in a Digital Age*. MIT Press, 2009. <https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/future-learning-institutions-digital-age>
- David Theo Goldberg, *The Threat of Race: Reflections on Racial Neoliberalism*. Wiley, 2008. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/book/10.1002/9781444304695>
- Nayanika Mookherjee, *The Spectral Wound: Sexual Violence and Public Memories and the Bangladesh War of 1971*. Duke University Press, 2015. <https://www.dukeupress.edu/the-spectral-wound>
- Pablo Mukherjee, *Postcolonial Environments: Nature, Culture and Contemporary Indian Novel in English*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2010. <https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9780230219373>

<https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9781137001122>

- Pablo Mukherjee, *Final Frontiers: Science Fiction and Techno-Science in Non-Aligned India*. Liverpool University Press, 2019.

<https://www.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/books/id/51584/>

If you are interested in reviewing any of these books, please contact the newsletter editors Edward Powell (edjohnpowell@gmail.com) and Isabelle Hesse (isabelle.hesse@sydney.edu.au). We would also be interested in any proposals for reviews of recently-published books relevant to the Convention theme of Justice.



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/>

Do you know about your new PSA member benefits?

FIND OUT MORE >>
WWW.ROUTLEDGE.COM/COLLECTIONS/14211

PSA Routledge Taylor & Francis Group

The PSA have partnered with Routledge and are delighted to offer you the following benefits:

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- Enjoy a 20% discount across the whole range of Routledge books
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- Download free resources to help you in your Academic career
- All PSA members are entered into a prize draw to win up to £200 worth of Routledge books

Please see here for further information:

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

Notes

PSA OFFICERS

Chair: Anshuman Mondal a.mondal@uea.ac.uk

Vice-Chair: Alberto Fernandez-Carbajal albertofcarbajal@gmail.com

Executive Secretary: David Firth d.h.firth@manchester.ac.uk

Treasurer: Jenni Ramone jenni.ramone@ntu.ac.uk

Membership Secretary: Anne-Marie Pouchet Anne-Marie.Pouchet@sta.uwi.edu

Website Officer: Lucinda News lucinda.news@gmail.com

E-mail Bulletin Co-ordinator: Esha Sil eshasil111@gmail.com

Newsletter Editors: Isabelle Hesse isabelle.hesse@sydney.edu.au and Edward Powell edjohnpowell@gmail.com

Internationalisation Officer: Kasia Mika kmaria.mika@gmail.com

Social Media Officer: Rabaha Arshad rabaha.arshad@gmail.com

Postgraduate Officer/Early Career Representative: Rachel Fox r.h.fox@lancaster.ac.uk

Interdisciplinarity Officer: Hannah Kershaw hannah.kershaw@york.ac.uk

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

psa@postcolonialstudiesassociation.co.uk

www.postcolonialstudiesassociation.co.uk/

Postcolonial Studies Association Armstrong House, First Avenue, Robin Hood Airport
Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN9 3GA, UK

CREDITS Newsletter Design: Isabelle Hesse and Edward Powell

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