



Postcolonial Studies Association

The Ambivalent Machismo: Representation, Mediascape, and Female Leads in Cinema



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Newsletter #29

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Welcome to the PSA Newsletter #29. Francesca, Jennifer, and Priyanka are excited to share the new issue “The Ambivalent Machismo: Representation, Mediascape, and Female Leads in Cinema”, exploring notions of femininity, stereotypes of hegemonic masculinity, and the politics of media representation, especially cinema. 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, conference reports, funding reports, and interviews by colleagues from across the world.

Syed Amaan Raza Rizvi opens the newsletter with a compelling analysis of the evolution of female characters in Indian commercial cinema by comparing Indian period films from the 20th and 21st centuries. This is followed by **Esti Sugiharti**'s exploration of postcolonial Chinese femininities through analysis of Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians* film. Next, **Yasmin Chaudhuri** discusses the representation of female sexual empowerment within the landscape of postcolonial South Korea cinema. The section on original contributions concludes with **Ashmita Biswas**'s analysis of Shinya Tsukamoto's film *Kotoko*, which engages with questions of womanhood by looking at the precarities of motherhood in the modern age.

Next, readers can find **Kamil Lipinski**'s review of *The Figure of Migrant in Contemporary European Cinema* by Temenuga Trifonova, and two conference reports: one by **Jesse Arseneault** on the Canadian Association for Postcolonial Studies' annual conference and one by **Miguel Fernández Labayen, Pedro Figueiredo Neto, Mariana Liz & Gertjan Willems** on the conference “Film, Migration and the Archive”, which was organised by the Film Studies section of the European Communication and Research Association (ECREA).

The issue also features **Emily Kearon-Warrilow**'s report on her research visits to the British Library and The Women's Library in London, which was supported by the Postcolonial Studies Association's General Research Fund; and the editors' interviews with **Sam Rye** and **Poorvi Gaur**, respectively winner and runner-up of the 2022 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 in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Patna (India). She has published extensively with *Indian Literature*, *Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics*, *Postcolonial Studies*, *Economic and Political Weekly* amongst others. 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 Reviews for PSA Newsletter #30: Decolonizing the Ecological Crisis

The global ecological and climate crisis is strongly linked to modernity and its history of imperialism, colonisation, capitalism, and exploitation of resources. Postcolonial ecocriticism and its distinctive approach to environmental questions help us see these connections. By interrogating the interrelations between colonisation and environmental issues, postcolonial ecocriticism redirects customary postcolonial questions by triangulating them with the relations between the human and the more-than-human. Postcolonial ecocriticism examines the ways in which human exploitation transforms ecosystems, limits access to natural resources, and generates pollution and other hazards. More significantly, postcolonial ecocriticism shows an awareness of the local specificities of ecological issues linked to colonial history, while acknowledging their global context. As an awareness for the need to share the earth's resources sustainably and fairly has taken centre stage in the international political landscape, shifting perceptions of the environment are changing people's sense of responsibility and accountability, bringing to the fore marginalised perspectives and reconfiguring human and more-than-human relations in respectful ways.

We encourage submissions that consider how storytelling (fiction, memoirs, poetry, drama, performance, films and new media such as podcasting and video games, etc...) engages with topics such as:

- environment, justice and race / ethnicity / indigeneity;
- environment, justice and gender; ecofeminism;
- environmental justice in relation to local and global contexts;
- environmental justice and human rights;
- the Anthropocene and climate change and race/ ethnicity / indigeneity;
- the Anthropocene and climate change and gender;
- neocolonialism and toxic imperialism;
- petrocultures and/or extractivism;
- relations between the human and the nonhuman or more-than-human;
- multispecies critique

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 recent books in the field of postcolonial studies, especially in the area of postcolonial ecocriticism, for this issue. **Reviews should be between 500 and 1,000 words and should be fully referenced using Harvard Referencing Style.**

The deadline for submitting contributions is **31st May 2023**. Please submit your contribution 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.



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
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Band B Countries

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

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

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Please see here for further information:

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

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