

Dominic Davies is a DPhil student at the University of Oxford whose research explores the literary negotiations of imperial infrastructure and indigenous resistance during the height of the British Empire, particularly in India and Southern Africa. His broader interests lie in the area of colonial and post-colonial literature, colonial discourse analysis and postcolonial theory, and Marxist and materialist theory. He has written and spoken extensively on the impacts that such authors as Rudyard Kipling, Joseph Conrad and J.M. Coetzee have had on postcolonial theory.

Professor Graham Huggan is a professor of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Literatures at the University of Leeds, whose research operates across the entire field of postcolonial and cultural studies. He has a particular interest in ecocriticism, travel writing, short fiction, and film, which has led to multiple publications. Among these is *Extreme Pursuits: Travel/Writing in an Age of Globalization* (University of Michigan Press, 2009), an honest examination of contemporary tourism and the complex and potentially egocentric intents of travel writing. Interdisciplinary approaches to postcolonial studies are of long-standing interest to Professor Huggan; he is the founding co-editor of the book series 'Postcolonialism across the Disciplines' (Liverpool University Press), and 2013 will see the publication of two further books; *Nature's Saviours: Celebrity Conservationists in the Television Age* (Routledge/Earthscan) and the *Oxford Handbook of Postcolonial Studies* (Oxford University Press).

Dr Madhu Krishnan is a faculty member at Newcastle University's School Of English Literature, Language and Linguistics, who has a particular interest in the ethics of postcolonial representation, the spreading image of a transnational Africa and the junction of the aesthetic and political in African literatures. She has written numerous papers which discuss the works of writers such as Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Chris Abani. Among these is an article published in April 2013, *On National Culture and the Projective Pas'*, which explores both authors' use of Nigerian national culture, alongside the implications of memory, mythology and cultural ownership. Her current research focuses on contemporary African literary production, and a new paper, *Affiliation, Disavowal and National Commitment in Third Generation African Literature* is soon to be released.

Professor Katharine Cockin is the Head of Department for English at Hull University and convener of the MA in Modern and Contemporary Literature. Her interests range from the British women's suffrage movement to the works of Edith Craig (1869-1947) and Ellen Terry (1847-1928), and her research spans the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. She has written and edited numerous books, anthologies and journals, in addition to organising a range of conferences and seminars. In 2012 she edited a collection of essays, entitled *The Literary North* (Palgrave), in which the tenacious stereotypes of the North are examined and challenged. Including essays from Josephine Guy and Sean O'Brien, the book analyses the grim, industrial image of the North and set out the enduring effects of 1930s realism.

Professor Margaret Kelleher is the incoming professor of Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama at University College Dublin. Over the last twenty years, she has been involved with numerous publications and has reformed the field of Irish literary studies. Her research spans nineteenth-century literature, Irish literary and cultural history, famine studies, Irish women's writings, contemporary Irish fiction and digital humanities. One of her most influential works is *The Feminization of Famine: Expressions of the Inexpressible?* (Duke UP and Cork UP, 1997), in which she demonstrates that gendered representations have played a critical role in defining notions of famine. She was also co-editor for *The Cambridge History of Irish Literature* (Cambridge UP, 2006), the first comprehensive history of Irish literature in both its major languages. No critical work of this scale had previously been attempted for Irish Literature. Professor Kelleher has also spent five years as the founding director of An Foras Feasa: the Institute for Research in Irish Historical and Cultural Traditions, at NUI Maynooth. During this time she worked with colleagues on a number of pioneering digital humanities projects.

Dr Eamonn Hughes is Assistant Director for the Institute of Irish Studies and Senior Lecturer in the School of English at Queen's University Belfast. He specialises in Irish Literary and Cultural Studies, having published widely on these topics. His most recent publications include *Ireland (Ulster) Scotland: Concepts, Contexts, Comparisons* (ISAI, 2002), *"What itch of contradiction?": Belfast in Poetry* (Four Courts Press, 2003) and *"the fact of me-ness": Autobiographical Writing in the Revival Period* (Edinburgh UP, 2003). His upcoming major projects include a book on Irish autobiography, spanning from the seventeenth century to the present day and a book on ideas of place in contemporary Northern Irish poetry.

Dr Niall Carson has degrees from The University of Hertfordshire, the National University of Ireland, Cork, and the London School of Economics and Political Science. He recently completed his doctoral thesis on 'Beginnings and Blind Alleys: The Bell 1940-1954' at the University of Liverpool. After spending time at Liverpool Hope University as a teacher of English Literature and Education, he returned to the University of Liverpool where he teaches modules on James Joyce and W.B. Yeats and supervises dissertations at postgraduate level. Dr Carson has published work on the

Irish literary periodical and in relation to the author and novelist Seàn O'Faoláin and is currently readying his first monograph for publication.

Martin Wainwright recently retired as the Northern Editor of the Guardian, after occupying the position for seventeen years and writing for the paper itself for thirty-seven years. Describing his role as “promoting the North in difficult times and against the relentless effects of the metropolitan frame of mind”, he has written extensively on ideas of North and South. This is something explored in his book, *True North: In praise of England's better half* (Guardian Books, 2006), in which he challenges myths and assumptions surrounding the North. His other publications include, *The English Village: History and Traditions* (Michael O'Mara Books, 2011), an analysis of the quintessential village as the ideal gem in the countryside, and *Morris Minor: The Biography* (Aurem Press, 2010), which examines the history of the celebrated motor car.

Professor Ciaran Carson is the Director of the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry at Queen's University, Belfast, and was previously the traditional arts officer of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. He was also, in 2011, awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature by University College Dublin. His many award-winning works often engage with Ireland's history, language and traditions. His collections include *The Irish for No* (Gallery Press, 1987), which combines reality and nostalgia in its portrait of Belfast, *First Language* (Gallery Press, 1993), a winner of the T.S. Eliot Prize, and *Breaking News* (Gallery Press, 2003). Professor Carson is also renowned for his work in prose and translation, including his celebrated new translation of *The Inferno* of Dante Alighieri (Granta Books, 2002), which won the Oxford Weidenfeld Translation Prize.

Maggie Gee is Professor of Creative Writing at Bath Spa University and one of the Vice-Presidents of the Royal Society of Literature. She was one of Granta's original “Twenty Best of Young British Novelists” in 1983, since when she has published more than ten novels, including *The Ice People* (Richard Cohen Books, 1998), *My Cleaner* (Telegram, 2005) and *The White Family* (Saqi Books, 2002), an exploration of racial hatred that went on to be shortlisted for the Orange Prize for Fiction. Her work has been translated into fourteen different languages and she was awarded an OBE in 2012 for services to Literature.

Dr Corinne Fowler is a lecturer in Twentieth Century Postcolonial Literature at University of Leicester. Her research centres on British black and British Asian writing: she is the co-author of *Postcolonial Manchester: Diaspora Space and the Devolution of Literary Culture* and has also authored a short story collection entitled *The Black Devon* and directed an Arts Council project called Grassroutes: Contemporary Leicestershire Writing. Her short story collection is influenced by the twelve years that she spent living in Scotland, and there is an acute sense of the importance of the transcultural which is evident throughout both her academic and her creative work.

Dr Caroline Magennis is a lecturer in British and Irish literature, history and culture at Harlaxton College. Her diverse research interests include the complicated nature of Northern Irish identity as well as the subtle cultural difficulties which resulted from the aftermath of ‘The Troubles’. Her research also explores the relationship between contemporary literature and Northern Irish history.

Dr John Sears is a lecturer in English Literature at Manchester Metropolitan University. His research interests include cultural theory, modernism and art theory. His publications include *Utter Blackness: Figuring Sebald's Manchester* and *Dimensions of the Present Moment: George Szirtes's Bridge Passages and the Hungarian Experience of 1989*, which analyses how cultural bridges and passages become normalised and reified. He is currently working on a book entitled *Narrative and Time: The fiction of Christopher Priest*.

Seamus Heaney has been a publishing poet for more than forty years. Beginning in 1966 with his first collection, *Death of a Naturalist*, he has since addressed a vast range of themes, including the complexity of cultural identity in collections such as *North*. Heaney has also taught extensively at institutions such as Harvard University, where he was Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory from 1985-1997 and Ralph Waldo Emerson Poet in Residence from 1998 to 2006, and Oxford University, where he was elected Professor of Poetry in 1989, holding this non-residential post until 1994. Often referred to as the “national poet of Ireland”, Heaney won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1995 “for works of lyrical beauty and ethical depth, which exalt everyday miracles and the living past”.

Dr Andrew Biswell is a lecturer in the English department of Manchester Metropolitan University whose interests include contemporary fiction and poetry, literary biography and modern manuscripts. He has written extensively on many of Burgess's works, and published a biography of the author entitled *The Real Life of Anthony Burgess: Biswell's life of Burgess* in 2005. Dr Biswell has also written introductions to several recent editions of Burgess's

most renowned works, including *A Clockwork Orange: The Restored Text* (London: William Heinemann/Penguin, 2012) and *The Collected Short Stories* (London: Vintage, 2013).

Professor Peter Davidson is Chair in Renaissance Studies at the University of Aberdeen and Honorary Curator of Aberdeen University's Manuscript, Rare Book and Museum Collections from the Renaissance and Baroque Periods. Professor Davidson received acclaim for *The Idea of North* (Reaktion Books, 2005), whose fascination with the lines, both literal and imaginary, connecting North and South made it a vital text on the topic.