

About our contributors

Guest Editors

Raylene Abdilla holds a B.Com (Hons.) Banking & Finance and an M.A. in European Politics, Economics and Law, both from the University of Malta. Her M.A. thesis is titled ‘Rethinking the European Political Landscape: A Cosmopolitan Approach’. Her main research interests are European economic and political integration, current issues in the Eurozone, cosmopolitanism, contemporary social and political thought.

Elise Billiard is an anthropologist and curator. She is Visiting Lecturer at the University of Malta and the coordinator of the Exile and Conflict Strand at the Valletta 2018 Foundation (ECOC). Her research interests cover a wide range of fields, from social urbanism to visual anthropology, material culture and migration. She has written on the reduction of urban public spaces in Malta and on the invention of culinary traditions within a nationalist framework. At the Valletta 2018 foundation, she is developing a number of projects exploring new modes of imagining and inhabiting displacement bringing dissensus to the fore with public events and artistic workshops.

Kathrin Schödel is Senior Lecturer at the Department of German, University of Malta. She taught at the Universities of Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany, and the Universities of Cambridge and Leeds, U.K., before moving to Malta. Her current research focuses on political theory and literature and politics; in particular, literature and revolutions, constructions of gender roles and the political versus the private, discourses of migration and utopian thought. Recent publications include an edited volume (with Katrin Dautel) on *Insularity. Representations and Constructions of Small Worlds* (Würzburg 2016: Königshausen & Neumann) and an article in the same volume: ‘Insularity Now Here and Nowhere: Private Circles and Utopian Isles’.

Contributors

Teodor Reljić is a writer of fiction, a freelance feature and copywriter, and culture editor and film critic at MaltaToday. His debut novel, *Two*, is published by Merlin Publishers. He has previously been published in *Weird Fiction Review*, *Le Monde N’Est Pas Rond* and *Filmkrant*. He is currently busy scripting *MIBDUL*, Malta’s very first serialised comic, which will be illustrated by Inez Kristina and launched in late 2017 through Merlin Publishers. Reljić is also in the process of writing a feature-length film, to be directed and produced by Martin Bonnici, for Shadeena Films. He read English and obtained his Master’s degree from the University of Malta in 2010.

Dirk Hoyer is the author of *(ap)art Contemporary Art and Utopia* (Helsinki: Aalto Arts Books, 2015). This monograph is part of an artistic research project on the role of utopia in contemporary art and culture, which also resulted in the documentary film *(ap)art*. The film was shown at the Research Pavilion of the Venice Biennale. He holds a Doctor of Arts from

Aalto University in Helsinki and has published various articles and book chapters on the subject of utopia.

Alexander Riccio is an M.A. student of Interdisciplinary Studies at Oregon State University. Riccio's work seeks to popularise commitments to praxis, linking organisational work with the (too often) abstract discourses used in academia; debates on revolution offer Riccio the best opportunity to succeed in this goal.

Michelle Westerlaken is a PhD candidate at Malmö University (K3) in Sweden. In her research, she aims to create scenarios that challenge anthropocentric practices and invite animals to participate in future thinking. Her PhD also includes practical design work with cats, dogs, ants, and penguins. See: <http://michellewesterlaken.wordpress.com>

Jason Branford is presently undertaking his PhD at LMU Munich (Germany), having previously studied at KU Leuven (Belgium) and Monash University (Australia). He has written on the Morality of Law, Cosmopolitanism, and the Ethics of Human Enhancement. His aim is to combine these research interests to further social justice and social progress.

Francesca Borg Taylor-East is a B.A. Hons Philosophy graduate who is currently doing her Master's in Digital Games. She works in the Netherlands where she focuses on design and research. Her interests in academia include—but are not limited to—phenomenology, far eastern philosophy (focusing on the Sanskrit language and philosophy), and avatar studies. She sometimes combines aspects of all three areas of research in her work. Francesca also makes games which typically contain existential musings.

Lars Löfquist works as Senior Lecturer and as Director for the Master's Program in International Humanitarian Action at Uppsala University. His research background is in the field of ethics, as he obtained a PhD in Theological Ethics 2008. Löfquist has primarily researched in applied ethics with an emphasis on humanitarian ethics, development and energy questions. In his current research, Löfquist studies how humanitarian workers can cultivate moral character traits and especially how organizations can support these traits.