

## About Our Contributors

**Kayleigh Sacco** has recently graduated from the University of Malta with an M.A. in Modern and Contemporary Literature and Criticism. Her dissertation, entitled ‘(Dis)placing the Contemporary: Violence and Noncoincidence in Our Time’, deals with the aporia of how one can commit to the now if contemporariness entails being outside of one’s time, a notion which is advanced by Giorgio Agamben. Her current academic interests include Postcolonial Studies and exile, literature emerging from around the Mediterranean, and engagement with the Contemporary.

**Geraldine Sammut** is a student of the University of Malta Department of English, and she is currently pursuing a Master’s in Modern and Contemporary Literature and Criticism. She graduated from her undergraduate BA English (Hons.) course in 2015 with a First Class degree. Her interests include postmodernity and contemporary fiction, and memory as represented in literature.

**Maria Theuma** is currently reading for a PhD in English at the University of Malta. Her research focuses on the relationship between posthumanism and aesthetics, with a particular focus on the notion of beauty. Her other areas of academic interest include feminism, girlhood studies, and popular culture.

**Laure Keyrouz** is an adjunct professor of Arabic at the University of Trieste, born in Becharre, Lebanon. She is a second year PhD student in Literary studies at the University of Nova Gorica, Slovenia. Through her multi-artistic vision and multi-cultural background, her artwork reflects certain notions or tones of expression through the mixing of poetry and contemporary art with different forms, such as performance, installation, and video art. More can be seen at <http://www.laurekeyrouzarts.com/>.

**Bailey Betik** received her MSc in Literature and Society at the University of Edinburgh. She received her BA in English, theatre, and anthropology from Texas Christian University in 2015, and was a 2015-2016 Fulbright Scholar to India. She currently teaches high school English literature and language in Texas.

**Alan Goodson** is an MA (Hons.) graduate in English Literature. He is writing a thesis on the representation of the outsider in popular literature for an MSc by Research at the University of Edinburgh. He is a farmer by profession, has been involved in the management of various agricultural co-operatives, and has held office in the National Farmers Union of Scotland. He intends to develop his academic interests by applying for a PhD which will research the author/reader relationship and its historical and contemporary critical background.

**Ricarda Menn** is a PhD candidate at Goethe University Frankfurt/Main, where she has studied for two M.A.s, one in American Studies and Anglophone Literatures and the other in Cultures and Media. She works as a research assistant at Goethe University and holds a scholarship from the German Academic Scholarship Foundation (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes). Her

current PhD project investigates the concept of serial autofiction and ties in with her research interests in contemporary literature and aesthetics.

**Joseph St John** is an M.A. graduate from the University of Malta. He graduated in 2016 following the submission of a dissertation titled ‘The Development of the Heroic Theme in Medieval English Traditional Verse’, which entailed a study of Old English poems such as *Beowulf*, *Judith* and *The Battle of Maldon*, as well as Alliterative Revival poetry dealing with heroic themes, namely *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* and the alliterative *Morte Arthure*. In December 2016, St John published an article on the University of Malta journal *antae*, titled ‘Perspectives in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*: A Medieval Transgressive Text?’.

**Farah Aridi** is a writer and researcher from Lebanon. She is currently a second-year PhD student at the Department of English and Comparative Literature at Goldsmiths, University of London. She is working on post-Lebanese civil war novels, focusing specifically on the production and appropriation of space. Her research interests include socio-spatial everyday practices, place-identity, and the right to the city. She is specifically interested in fragmented spaces of becoming and the possible. She teaches English Literature and Culture Studies in Beirut, Lebanon.

**Amira Aloui** has held a BA since 2011. She has studied at the University of Tunis (IPELSHT), and then moved to Carthage University (ISLT), graduating in 2014. She has continued her Master’s studies in Cultural Poetics at Carthage University. Her MA defense presentation, entitled ‘Hamlet: Unfinished Business. Radical Tragedy and the Politics of Dissent’ was held in October 2017 at ISLT.

**Aran Ward Sell** is a PhD candidate at the University of Edinburgh, working on contemporary modernism in the post-crash Irish novel, in particular with representations of damaged consciousnesses. This draws upon narratology, modernist studies and Marxist theory, and focuses on the novels of Eimear McBride, Kevin Barry, Mike McCormack and Anakana Schofield. He also maintains a scholarly interest in fantasy and science fiction, in particular contemporary “weird fiction” and its capacity to offer alternative and decentred perspectives on twenty-first century modernity. His work is generously sponsored by the Wolfson Foundation.

**Aaron Aquilina** is a FASS-funded PhD student at Lancaster University. His research looks at how certain literary works propose challenging ontological questions of death, pointing to the unthinkable beyond of Heideggerian *Jemeinigkeit*. He has previously published essays on posthumanism and on the concept of scale/human significance with *Word and Text* and *Textual Practice* respectively, as well as book reviews and an interview with Judith Butler (the latter co-authored with Kurt Borg, published with *CounterText*). He is the founder and general editor of the interdisciplinary journal *antae*.