

Contributors

Lisa-Nike Bühring's research focusses on the analysis of the socio-cultural frames of ageing and gender in the West and on gaining a better understanding of how these narratives affect older people and particularly older men. She is employed as a research assistant at the private University of Applied Sciences Fresenius in Cologne where she continues her researches and is a lecturer for qualitative research and cultural studies. While her passion for teaching remains unbroken, she is also increasingly motivated by her interest in the socially and culturally constructed narratives and the way in which these influence individual lives. Lisa, therefore, pursues her development as an early career researcher actively and has contributed an entry to the *Encyclopedia of Gender, Media and Communication*. She is a member of the Centre for Women, Ageing and Media (WAM), the European Network in Ageing Studies (ENAS), Ageing + Communication + Technologies (ACT) and the North American Network of Ageing Studies (NANAS) as well as of the ERA Gender-Net Plus Project Masculine Ageing (MASCAGE).

Pepetual Mforbe Chiangong is Assistant Professor of African Literatures and Cultures at the Department of African Studies of the Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany. She holds a Ph.D. in theatre and drama studies from the University of Bayreuth, Germany. Among her publications on African drama and performance are the monograph *Rituals in Cameroon Drama: A Semiological Interpretation of the Plays of Gilbert Doho, Bole Butake and Hansel Ndumbe Eyoh* (2011), an

edited volume *Old Age in African Literary and Cultural Contexts* (2021), the co-edited collection *Alter und Geschlecht: Soziale Verhältnisse und Kulturelle Repräsentationen* (2018) with Elizabeth Reitingner and Ulrike Vedder, and “‘Transgressing’ Wisdom and Elderhood in Times of War? The Shifting Identity of the Elderly Queen in the Performance of Women of Owu” in *Under Construction: Performing Critical Identity* (2021) by Marie-Anne Kohl (Ed). Her current areas of research and teaching include intervention theatre, old age in African drama and performance, the Kenya Schools and Colleges Drama Festival and the literariness of colonial letters in British Southern Cameroon.

Katharina Fuerholzer: Originally a translator (Spanish), Katharina studied Scandinavian Studies, Comparative Literature, and American Literary History in Munich and London. In 2017, she obtained a Joint-PhD from the Universities of Münster and Ghent for a thesis on the ethics of pathographies. Afterwards, she worked at the Institute of History, Theory, and Ethics of Medicine, Ulm University. In 2019, she joined the Program of Comparative Literature & Literary Theory, University of Pennsylvania as a postdoctoral visiting scholar. Since her return in 2022, she has been working at the Department “Ageing of Individuals and Society” at the University of Rostock. Recent publications: *Lyrisk und Medizin* [Poetry and medicine]. Ed. with Florian Steger. Heidelberg: Winter 2019; *Das Ethos des Pathographen* [Ethics of pathography]. Heidelberg: Winter 2019; “Living oblivion: Poetic narratives of dementia and fatherhood in Pia Tafdrup’s *Tarkovsky’s Horses*.” *Ageing Masculinities, Alzheimer’s and Dementia Narratives*. Ed. Heike Hartung, Rüdiger Kunow and Matthew Sweney. London: Bloomsbury, 2022, 73–90.

Dagmar Gramshammer-Hohl is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Slavic Studies at the University of Graz, Austria. She studied Slavic and Romance languages, literatures, and cultures in Graz, Moscow, and Rouen and holds two master’s and a doctoral degree from the University of Graz. She specialises in literary and cultural studies with a focus on twentieth- and twenty-first-century Russian literature, gender, and ageing studies. In her Ph.D. thesis (2002) she analysed representations

of women's ageing in Russian literature. Her current research project focuses on narratives of homecoming in Slavic literatures of exile. Dagmar Gramshammer-Hohl was granted the Prof. Paul Petry Award in Ageing Studies in 1998; she is an alumna of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and a member of the European Network in Aging Studies (ENAS). Among her recent publications is the essay collection *Foreign Countries of Old Age: East and Southeast European Perspectives on Ageing*, co-edited with Oana Hergenröther (Bielefeld 2021).

Renate Hansen-Kokoruš is a retired professor of Slavic literatures and cultures at the Department of Slavic Studies at the University of Graz in Austria. Her PhD (*The Prose Works of Bulat Okudjava*) and post-doctoral degree in Slavic Studies (*Intertextuality in Ranko Marinkovic*) she completed at the University of Mannheim where she worked in several positions. She taught at the Humboldt University in Berlin, the University of Waterloo in Canada, the University of Zadar in Croatia, the State University of Tomsk in Russia, the University of Frankfurt/M in Germany as well as the University of Innsbruck in Austria. Her research interests include intertextuality and intermediality, narratology, representations of identity in literature in film, satire and humour, chronotope of the return, and memory. She is co-editor of the journal *Anzeiger für Slavische Philologie*.

Heike Hartung is an independent scholar who holds a PhD in English Studies from the Freie Universität Berlin and a PhD habil. from the University of Potsdam, Germany. She is affiliated as senior researcher at the Center for Inter-American Studies, University of Graz, Austria. In her publications she applies the methods of literary and cultural studies to the interdisciplinary fields of ageing, disability and gender studies. Recent publications include the monograph *Ageing, Gender and Illness in Anglophone Literature: Narrating the Bildungsroman* (2016) and the co-edited collection *Ageing Masculinities, Alzheimer's and Dementia Narratives* (2022). She is a founding member of the European Network in Aging Studies (ENAS) and co-editor of the Aging Studies publication series with transcript, Bielefeld.

Rüdiger Kunow is a retired Full Professor and Chair of the American Studies program at Potsdam University. He is a founding member of the European Network of Aging Studies (ENAS). He served as speaker of the international research project "Transnational American Studies", a co-operation of the University of Southern California, Dartmouth College, the Freie Universität and Humboldt University in Berlin, and Potsdam University. Furthermore, he was the speaker of the European Union research and teaching project "Putting a Human Face on Diversity: The U.S. In/Of Europe". He also served as Director of the interdisciplinary research project "Cultures in/of Mobility" at the School of Humanities of Potsdam University. Until 2008 he held the position of the President of the German Association for American Studies. His major research interests and publications focus on cultural constructions of illness and ageing, transnational American Studies and the relations of human biology and culture. He is the author of *Material Bodies* (2018).

Annette Leibing is a medical anthropologist (PhD U Hamburg), who had her first academic position at the department of psychiatry at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. There she founded and directed the CDA, a multidisciplinary centre for mental health and ageing, with a special focus on dementia. After a postdoctoral fellowship at McGill University, she is now full professor at the Nursing faculty at the Université de Montréal. Her research focuses on issues related to ageing, by studying – as an anthropologist – Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, ageing and psychiatry, pharmaceuticals, elder care and, stem cells for the body in decline, among others. At the moment, her research focuses mainly on the prevention of dementia in different national and social contexts – a topic about which an edited volume recently came out (Leibing, A. and S. Schicktanz (eds.). *Preventing Dementia? Critical Perspectives on a New Paradigm of Preparing for Old Age*. New York/Oxford, UK: Berghahn, 2020).

Roberta Maierhofer is Professor of American Studies at the University of Graz, Austria, and Adjunct Professor at Binghamton University, New York. Since 2007, she has been directing the *Center for Inter-American*

Studies of the University of Graz. Her research focuses on (Inter)American Literature and Cultural Studies, Feminist Literature and Research, Gender Studies, Transatlantic Cooperation in Education, and Age/ Aging Studies. In her publication *Salty Old Women: Gender, Age, and Identity in American Culture*, she developed a theoretical approach to gender and ageing (anocriticism) and was one of the first within the European context to define her work within the field of Cultural/ Narrative Gerontology.

Christian Schmitt-Kilb teaches English Literature at the University of Rostock. He received his MA from the University of Keele (UK), PhD from the University of Frankfurt/Main on early modern rhetoric and poetics and habilitated at Rostock University with a thesis that resulted in a monograph on the theme of absent fathers in the contemporary novel. His current research interests, editorships and essay publications are in the field of ecocriticism, ecopoetry and New Nature Writing.

Kristina Weber is a PhD candidate at the University of Rostock. She received both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in British and American Studies (the M.A. with a Transcultural focus). Her research focusses on asexuality in Anglophone postcolonial literatures and is funded by Rostock's scholarship for the university's best alumni.

Yumin Zhang is a Researcher and assistant professor in the School of Journalism and Culture Communications at Zhongnan University of Economics and Law. She received her PhD in American studies from Humboldt University of Berlin. Her fields of interest include comparative literature and culture (Chinese, American and German) and gender poetics. She is the author of the monograph *Masculinities in Transcultural Spaces – Negotiating of Masculinities in Ang Lee's Films* (2017) and the edited collection *Creative Writing Course* (2022).

Andrea Zittlau teaches at the department of North American Studies at the University of Rostock. Her monograph *Curious Exotica* (2016) explores the display of othered bodies and associated material culture. Her cur-

rent work looks at poetry and marginalized communities and its dynamics to reveal and twist dominant discourses with a continuous focus on absence and the invisible. She frequently teaches poetry in community outreach contexts such as prisons and nursing homes and has connected those communities with her research.