

## Contributors

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**Michaela Beck** received her MA in English and American Studies in 2015. Her research has focused on first-person plural narration in recent American novels, with an emphasis on the ‘cultural work’ of ‘we’ narration in the context of what has been variably labelled ‘post-postmodernism’ or ‘new sincerity’ in twenty-first-century US fiction. Her other research foci have included theories of the novel and narrative studies, specifically regarding marginal or border cases of the narrative form. She has been a member of the DFG-funded research network “Narrative Liminality and/in the Formation of American Modernities.” Part of her research has been published in *Forms at Work: New Formalist Approaches in the Study of Literature, Culture, and Media* (edited by Kovach et al., WVT, 2021).

**Sebastian Domsch** teaches Anglophone Literatures at the University of Greifswald. He holds a PhD from Bamberg University and a *Habilitation* from the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich. His major fields of interest are contemporary literature and culture, graphic novels, the history and theory of literary criticism, Romantic literature, and eighteenth-century literature. He is the author of books on Robert Coover (*Absenz - Simulation - Karneval: Eine Untersuchung der postmodernen Erzählverfahren in Robert Coovers gesamtem Romanwerk* [2005]) and Cormac McCarthy (2012), as well as of a book on *The Emergence of Literary Criticism in 18th-Century Britain* (2014) and a book on video games and narrative in a series on “Future Narratives” (*Storyplaying: Agency and Narrative in Video Games* [2013]). He is the editor of collections on American and Canadian twenty-first-century fiction (*Amerikanisches Erzählen nach 2000: Eine Bestandsaufnahme* [2008] and *Kanadische Gegenwartsliteratur* [2020]) and a coeditor of the *Handbook on Comics and Graphic Novels* (2021).

**James Dorson** is Assistant Professor of Literature at the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies, Freie Universität Berlin. He is the author of *Counter-narrative Possibilities: Virgin Land, Homeland, and Cormac McCarthy’s Westerns* (Campus, 2016) and the coeditor of the volumes *Fictions of Management: Efficiency and Control*

in *American Literature and Culture* (Winter, 2019) and *Anecdotal Modernity: Making and Unmaking History* (De Gruyter, 2020). He has also coedited the special journal issues *Data Fiction: Naturalism, Narratives, and Numbers* (in *Studies in American Naturalism*, 2017) and *Cormac McCarthy Between Worlds* (in *European Journal of American Studies*, 2017). Between 2019 and 2021 he was a Feodor Lynen Fellow at Brown University. His research interests include critical theory, literature and science, the new formalism, economic literary criticism, and organizational theory. He is currently writing a book on competing forms of organization in US literary naturalism at the turn of the twentieth century.

**Katharina Gerund** is a senior lecturer in American Studies at Friedrich-Alexander-University (FAU) Erlangen-Nürnberg. She has studied at FAU and the University of Wisconsin (Madison) and received her PhD from the University of Bremen. Katharina Gerund has been a BAA fellow at Yale University's Gilder Lehrman Center (2012) and at Harvard's Mellon School for Theater and Performance Studies (2018). She is the author of *Transatlantic Cultural Exchange: African American Women's Art and Activism in West Germany* (2013) and the coeditor of several volumes, including *Revealing Tacit Knowledge: Embodiment and Explication* (2015) and *Die amerikanische Reeducation-Politik nach 1945: Interdisziplinäre Perspektiven auf "America's Germany"* (2015). She has lectured and published widely on questions of race and gender in US (popular) culture and in the transatlantic sphere. Her research interests cover affect studies and sentimentality, feminism and women's studies, critical race theory, and critical military studies. Her current book project is tentatively entitled "Happy Home Front Heroines? Military Spouses in the Cultural Imaginary of the US."

**Leon Gurevitch** is Associate Professor and Associate Dean of Research at Victoria University of Wellington's Faculty of Architecture and Design. His work focuses on design sociology, labor and the global creative industries, transformative technologies, and complex systems design. He has held Royal Society of New Zealand funding for research on global computational industries, is a member of the Visual Effects Society, and has published research and exhibited design work around the world. He teaches game design, photographics, and design history/theory in the Media Lab at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

**Sebastian M. Herrmann** is the author of *Presidential Unrealities: Epistemic Panic, Cultural Work, and the US Presidency* (2014, Universitätsverlag Winter) and a coeditor of *Poetics of Politics: Textuality and Social Relevance in Contemporary American Literature and*

*Culture* and two other edited collections on American literary and cultural studies. Based at American Studies Leipzig, he has received several grants to pursue the learning and teaching innovation project SHRIMP and other projects, and he has recently been awarded a grant by the VolkswagenStiftung to work on the post-narrative quality of contemporary populism. His book-length postdoctoral project, *Data Imaginary: Literature and Data in Nineteenth-Century US Culture*, is scheduled to be in print later in 2021.

**Katja Kanzler** is Professor of American Literature at Leipzig University. Her work has focused on the intersectionalities of ‘race,’ class, and gender in US American literature and popular culture, on genres of popular culture past and present, and on the dynamics of narrativity and textuality in different genres and media. Among other things, she has published on *Star Trek*’s self-description as multicultural utopia (*‘Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations’: The Multicultural Evolution of Star Trek*, Universitätsverlag Winter, 2004), on representations of women’s work in nineteenth-century literature and ‘para-literature’ (*The Kitchen and the Factory: Spaces of Women’s Work and the Negotiation of Social Difference in Antebellum American Literature*, Universitätsverlag Winter, 2016), on the cultural work of meta-narrativity in legal drama fiction, and on the poetics and politics of disparagement in contemporary TV culture.

**Maurice S. Lee** is Professor of English at Boston University, where his work focuses on nineteenth-century US and British literature. He is the author of *Slavery, Philosophy, and American Literature, 1830-1860* (Cambridge UP, 2005), *Uncertain Chances: Science, Skepticism, and Belief in Nineteenth-Century America Literature* (Oxford UP, 2012), and *Overwhelmed: Literature, Aesthetics, and the Nineteenth-Century Information Revolution* (Princeton UP, 2019). Maurice Lee has also edited *The Cambridge Companion to Frederick Douglass* (Cambridge UP, 2009) and received awards from the Melville Society, Poe Studies Association, and the Association of College and Research Libraries, as well as fellowships from the NEH, ACLS, and Radcliffe Institute of Harvard University.

**Caroline Levine** is David and Kathleen Ryan Professor of the Humanities at Cornell University. She is the author of three books: *The Serious Pleasures of Suspense: Victorian Realism and Narrative Doubt* (2003); *Provoking Democracy: Why We Need the Arts* (2007); and *Forms: Whole, Rhythm, Hierarchy, Network* (2015), which won the James Russell Lowell Prize from the Modern Language Association. She is the nineteenth-century editor for the *Norton Anthology of World Literature*. Caroline Levine has been active in

the fossil fuel divestment movement and has written op-eds on carbon pricing and ways to reduce the carbon footprint of academic travel. She is currently finishing a book on the humanities and the climate crisis.

**Sarah J. Link** is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Wuppertal. She studied English Literature and Literary Theory at the University of Freiburg and at Trent University in Peterborough, Canada, and wrote her PhD as a member of the ERC-funded project “Lists in Literature and Culture.” Her PhD project explores lists in the genre of detective fiction from a cognitive point of view. Her research interests include narratology; popular culture; sensation and detective fiction; literature and science, particularly in the 19th century; Romanticism; and cognitive literary studies.

**Christina Meyer** holds a PhD in American Studies. Her postdoctoral thesis was completed in 2017. Currently, Christina Meyer is working at TU Braunschweig. Previously she was a Visiting Professor at the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at the FU Berlin. She is the author of *Producing Mass Entertainment: The Serial Life of the Yellow Kid* (Ohio State University Press, 2019, nominated for the 2020 Eisner Award in the category “Best Scholarly/Academic Work”), *Novelists, Lawmakers, the Yellow Press, and Modern Mass Culture: Intellectual Battlefields in Late Nineteenth-century America* (forthcoming, 2022), and *War and Trauma Images in Vietnam War Representations* (Olms, 2008). She is coeditor of *New Perspectives on American Comic Books and Graphic Novels* (a special issue of *Amerikastudien/American Studies*, 2011) and *Transnational Perspectives on Graphic Narratives: Comics at the Crossroads* (2013). Together with Monika Pietrzak-Franger, Christina Meyer edits the volume *Transmedia Practices in the Long Nineteenth Century* (Routledge, 2022). Her areas of research include popular culture, visual culture, periodical studies, comics studies, modernity, mass culture, seriality, transmediality, children's literature, fashion discourses, and trauma.

**Sascha Pöhlmann** is Professor of North American Literature and Culture at the University of Innsbruck. He studied and/or worked at the University of Bayreuth, Trinity College Dublin, Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, LMU Munich, and the University of Konstanz. He is the author of the monographs *Pynchon's Postnational Imagination* (2010), *Future-Founding Poetry: Topographies of Beginnings from Whitman to the Twenty-First Century* (2015), *Stadt und Straße: Anfangsorte in der amerikanischen Literatur* (2018), and *Vote with a Bullet: Assassination in American Fiction* (2021). He edited and coedited essay collections on Thomas Pynchon, foundational places

in/of modernity, electoral cultures, American music, unpopular culture, and video games. Besides a number of essays, his work on Mark Z. Danielewski includes editing the essay collection *Revolutionary Leaves* as well as a special issue on *The Familiar* of the open-access *Orbit: A Journal of American Literature*.

**Regina Schober** is Professor for American Studies at Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf. She teaches American literature and culture with a focus on digital culture, intermediality, and theories of the global information age. She is author of *Unexpected Chords: Musico-Poetic Intermediality in Amy Lowell's Poetry and Poetics* (Winter, 2011) and of the book manuscript *Spiderweb, Labyrinth, Tighrope Walk: Network Concepts in US-American Literature and Culture* and co-editor of *The Failed Individual: Amid Exclusion, Resistance, and the Pleasure of Non-Conformity* (Campus, with Katharina Motyl, 2011), of *Data Fiction: Naturalism, Numbers, Narrative* (special issue of *Studies in American Naturalism*, with James Dorson, 2011), and of *Laboring Bodies and the Quantified Self* (transcript, with Ulfried Reichardt, 2020). She was visiting scholar at the University of California, Santa Barbara (2017) and at Harvard University as well as at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville (2008). Her research interests include network studies, transformations of subjectivity in the information age, artificial intelligence, the quantified self, discourses of failure, theories of reading, and the attention economy. She is currently part of the research networks *The Failure of Knowledge/Knowledges of Failure* and of *Model Aesthetics: Between Literary and Economic Knowledge* (both funded by the German Research Foundation, DFG) as well as of the project *ai4all* (funded by the German Ministry of Education and Science, BMBF).

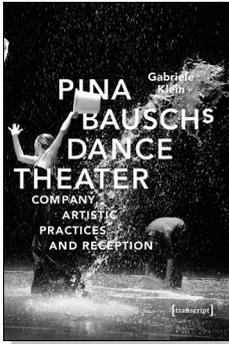
**Sören Schoppmeier** is a teacher and independent scholar based in Berlin. His research is located at the intersections of game studies and cultural studies. Sören Schoppmeier recently completed his PhD at the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at Freie Universität Berlin, with a dissertation titled "Playing American: Open-World Videogames, Ambient Operations, and the Reproduction of American Culture." His work on videogames and franchises like *Grand Theft Auto*, *Watch Dogs*, *Red Dead Redemption*, *Far Cry 5*, and *Pony Island* has been published in a variety of academic journals and edited volumes.

**Stefan Schubert** researches and teaches at the Institute for American Studies at Leipzig University. His main interests include US popular culture, postmodernism, cultural politics, 19th-century literature, and questions of textuality and narrativity. He has published a number of articles on the intersection of these topics as well as

a monograph—originally his dissertation—titled *Narrative Instability: Destabilizing Identities, Realities, and Textualities in Contemporary American Popular Culture* (2019). He is coeditor of *Poetics of Politics: Textuality and Social Relevance in Contemporary American Literature and Culture* (2015) as well as of *Video Games and/in American Studies: Politics, Popular Culture, and Populism* (2021; special issue of *European Journal of American Studies*), among others. His postdoctoral research project focuses on the emergence of privilege in late nineteenth-century US literature and culture.

**Gesine Wegner** is a lecturer in American Studies at Philipps-Universität Marburg, where she further works as an associate editor of *Amerikastudien/American Studies*, the official journal of the German Association for American Studies. She studied English and American Studies as well as German Literary Studies and History in Dresden and is currently in the process of finishing her PhD studies at TU Dresden. In the last years, Gesine Wegner has published widely in the field of Disability Studies. A special issue on “Crippling Graphic Medicine,” coedited with Dorothee Marx, will be published in the *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* in 2022.

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Gabriele Klein

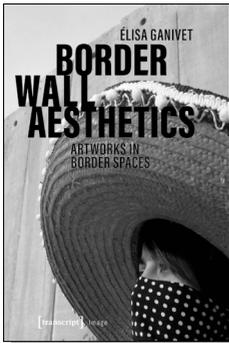
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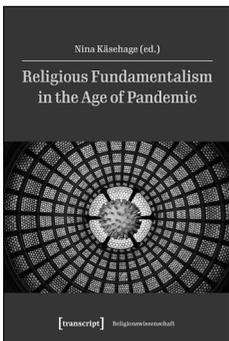
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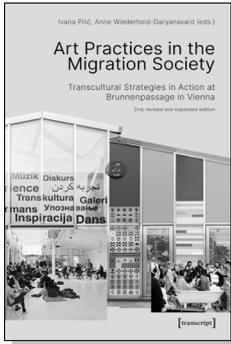
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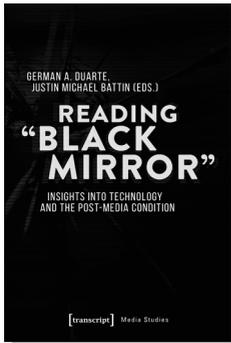
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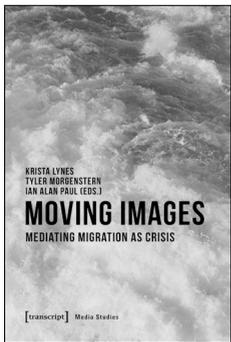
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