

Contributors

Natalya Bekhta is Senior Research Fellow at the Tampere Institute for Advanced Study, where she is working on a book project entitled “After Utopia: A World-Literary Reconstruction of the Former ‘Second World.’” Her research interests combine utopia, narratology, world-literary theory and contemporary Ukrainian fiction. Her recent work includes a monograph on *We-Narratives: Collective Storytelling in Contemporary Fiction* (2020, winner of the Barbara Perkins and George Perkins Prize) and an essay on collective agency and futural imagination with the title “Narrating the Future: A World-Literary Take on the Crisis of Imagination and the Novel” (*Poetics Today*, 2023).

Martin Butler is Professor of American Literary and Cultural Studies at the University of Oldenburg, Germany. His research focuses on popular music, forms and figures of cultural mobility, and cultures of participation in new media environments. Apart from a broad range of articles in these fields, he has published a monograph on Woody Guthrie (*Voices of the Down and Out*, 2007) and co-edited a number of essay collections, including *Sound Fabrics: Studies on the Intermedial and Institutional Dimensions of Popular Music* (2009, with Patrick Burger and Arvi Sepp), *EthniCities: Metropolitan Cultures and Ethnic Identities in the Americas* (2011, with Jens Gurr), *Precarious Alliances: Cultures of Participation in Print and Other Media* (2016, with Albrecht Hausmann and Anton Kirchner), a special issue of *Popular Music and Society* on musical autobiographies (2015, with Daniel Stein) as well as a volume on *Resistance: Subjects, Representations and Contexts* (2017, with Paul Mecheril and Lea Brenningmeyer).

Marco Caracciolo is Associate Professor of English and Literary Theory at Ghent University, Belgium. Drawing inspiration from cognitive science, the philosophy of mind, and the environmental humanities, his work explores the forms of experience afforded by narrative in literary fiction and other media (especially video games). He is the author of several books, including most recently *Contemporary Fiction and Climate Uncertainty: Narrating Unstable Futures* (Bloomsbury, 2022) and *Contemporary Narrative and the Spectrum of Materiality* (De Gruyter, 2023).

James Dorson is Assistant Professor of Literature at the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies, Free University of Berlin, Germany. He has been a visiting professor at Brown University and the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich. His book publications include *Counternarrative Possibilities: Virgin Land, Homeland, and Cormac McCarthy's Westerns* (Campus 2016) and the co-edited volumes *Fictions of Management: Efficiency and Control in American Literature and Culture* (Winter 2019) and *Anecdotal Modernity: Making and Unmaking History* (De Gruyter 2020). Besides currently writing a book on competing forms of organization in American literary naturalism at the turn of the twentieth century, he has published widely in the fields of literary theory and history, economic criticism, and the environmental humanities.

Katharina Fackler is a Lecturer and Postdoctoral Researcher in the North American Studies Program at the University of Bonn. She is the author of *Picturing the Poor: Photography and the Politics of Poverty in the 1960s* (Penn State University Press, forthcoming) and co-editor of three essay collections, among them the 2023 special issue of *Atlantic Studies: Global Currents* on “Kinship as Critical Idiom in Oceanic Studies.” She co-leads the DFG-funded research network “The Cultural Politics of Reconciliation” and is a member of the Bonn-Melbourne research group “Water as Method: Reading the Hydrocolony in Global Literature.” Her second book project explores literary responses to large-scale resource extraction in the Pacific.

Matti Kangaskoski is a poet, scholar, and performer based in Helsinki, Finland. Kangaskoski’s academic work concerns the cultural logic of digital media and their influence on thought and values. He is the author of three books of poetry and a novel. Currently, Kangaskoski is writing a cosmotechnical novel, endowed by a three-year artist grant from Arts Promotion Centre Finland, to be published in 2024. Both his recent academic and artistic work is an attempt at finding new approaches to the deadlock of the Anthropocene.

Simone Knewitz is Senior Lecturer of North American Studies at the University of Bonn, Germany. She has also taught as interim professor of American Studies at the Universities of Münster, Hamburg and Mannheim. Her research focuses on poetry and poetics, cultural aesthetics and rhetoric, and the intersections of law, economics, and culture. Her current projects explore collective agency in twenty-first century North American poetry and social movements, and the politics of whiteness in contemporary U.S. political discourses. She is the author of *The Politics of Private Property: Contested Claims to Ownership in U.S. Cultural Discourse* (Lexington, 2021) and *Modernist Authenticities: The Material Body and the Poetics of Amy Lowell and William Carlos Williams* (Winter, 2014). With Sabine Sielke and Christian Kloeckner, she has coedited the volumes *Knowledge Landscapes North America* (Winter, 2016) and *Beyond*

9/11: *Transdisciplinary Perspectives on Twenty-First Century U.S. American Culture* (Lang, 2013).

Katharina Motyl is an Assistant Professor of American Studies at the University of Mannheim and principal investigator of the research network “The Failure of Knowledge – Knowledges of Failure” funded by the German Research Foundation. Her second-book project investigates cultural, medical, and legal discourses surrounding drugs and social minorities in the U.S. Her publications include a co-edited special issue of *Studies in American Naturalism* on “Intimate Knowledge in American Naturalism and Realism” (2021) and the co-edited volumes *Who Can Speak and Who Is Heard/Hurt? Facing Problems of Race, Racism and Ethnic Diversity in the Humanities in Germany* (transcript, 2019) as well as *The Failed Individual – Amid Exclusion, Resistance, and the Pleasure of Non-Conformity* (Campus, 2017). Articles have appeared in *Interconnections: Journal of Posthumanism* and *European Journal of English Studies*. She obtained her PhD with a dissertation on Arab American literature since 9/11 from Free University of Berlin in 2013.

Stefanie Mueller is Professor of North American Literature at Freie Universität Berlin, Germany. Her research areas include the environmental, legal, and economic humanities, with current research projects exploring citizenship in contemporary U.S. lyric poetry and law as well as the representation of the scales of climate change in literature. Her publications include *The Corporation in the Nineteenth-Century American Imagination* (Edinburgh University Press, 2022), *The Presence of the Past in the Novels of Toni Morrison* (Winter, 2013), and *Reading the Social in American Studies* (co-edited with Astrid Franke and Katja Sarkowsky, Palgrave Macmillan, 2022).

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Heather Suzanne Woods is a scholar, higher ed leader, and emerging tech strategist. She has been researching the relationship between technology and culture for over a decade. Woods is the author of two books: *Make America Meme Again: The Rhetoric of the Alt-Right* (with Leslie Hahner, Lang 2019) and *Threshold: How Smart Homes Change Us Inside and Out* (University of Alabama Press, forthcoming, 2024). Her research on emerging technology provides crucial insight for scholars, (non)governmental and advocacy organizations. As a leader, she empowers communities in higher ed to build resilient, adaptive, inclusive processes and structures in preparation for a changing technological future. Her work has been featured in *Wired*, *The New York Times*, *Atlantic*, *CBC's Spark*, *The Washington Post*, *The LA Times*, and more. She is presently Associate Professor of Rhetoric and Technology and Associate Director of Graduate Programs and Research in the A.Q. Miller School of Media and Communication at Kansas State University.