

About the Contributors

Georgiana Banita is Senior Lecturer in North American Literature and Culture at the University of Bamberg. She is the author of the literary study *Plotting Justice: Narrative Ethics and Literary Culture after 9/11* (2012) and of the nonfiction book *Phantombilder: Die Polizei und der verdächtige Fremde* (2023, forthcoming in English as *Bullets, Bombs, and Big Data: Racial Prejudice and the Evolution of Police Violence*). She co-edited *Electoral Cultures: American Democracy and Choice* (2015) and is also the editor of an upcoming special issue on race and predictive technologies from the *Journal of American Studies*, where she currently serves as a member of the Editorial Board. In addition to issues of intersectionality and justice, she has published widely in the fields of Energy and Environmental Humanities, energy transition, and U.S. visual media cultures.

Birte Christ is Assistant Professor of American Literature, Culture, and Media at Justus-Liebig-University Giessen. She has worked on gender and sexuality studies, law and literature, reading cultures and the canon, and contemporary American politics. She co-edited the volume *Obama and the Paradigm Shift* with Greta Olson in 2012 and has published work on Hillary Clinton, Michelle Obama, and George W. Bush. Her latest monograph, *Imagining the American Death Penalty*, which treats films and TV series that negotiate capital punishment, will appear with Oxford University Press in 2025.

Esther Edelmann is an Assistant Professor at Leiden University in the Netherlands. She currently teaches and conducts research in the field of “Literature and Law” and is preparing her new research project on the far-right perspective on climate change in Germany and the Netherlands. Her first book manuscript, “Inverted Worlds and Belated Baroques,” is currently under review at Brill Publishing and deals with modern and contemporary literature

from the German- and Spanish-speaking world on the topic of financial crises. The book highlights three (neo)-baroque literary and philosophical commonplaces: the inverted world, the world as a stage, and the figure of the rogue or picaresque, and argues that these topoi should also be considered as politico-economic concepts of the present.

K. Allison Hammer is an Assistant Professor and coordinator in the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. Their monograph, *Masculinity in Transition*, was published in 2023 by the University of Minnesota Press. Their work on queer and trans subjectivity and American cultural production is also featured in *Queering Desire: Lesbians, Gender, and Subjectivity* (2024), *The Routledge Companion to Art and Disability* (2022), *Transgender Studies Quarterly*, *Women's Studies Quarterly*, *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*, *NORMA: International Journal for Masculinity Studies*, among others. Hammer received their PhD in English literature with a certificate in Women's and Gender Studies from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York in 2017. After receiving their PhD, Hammer was a Senior Lecturer at Vanderbilt University in the Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies. Through international collaborations, they seek to forge connections between literary study, history, and political theory.

Christine M. Klapeer is a Professor of Political Science and Gender Studies and a board member of the Center for Diversity, Media, and Law (DiML) at the Justus-Liebig University of Gießen. Before joining the University of Gießen, Christine held visiting professorships, teaching, and research positions at several universities, including the University of Vienna, the Central European University in Budapest, the York University in Toronto, the University of Göttingen and the University of Kassel. She is the co-founder of the LGBTQ+ Studies Caucus in the German Political Science Association (DVPW) and a core group member of the COST Action "LGBTI+ Social and Economic (In)Equalities" (CA19103). Christine is committed to a 'queering' of Political Science and publishes in the areas of queer-feminist state theory, (transnational) LGBTQ+ politics, sexual citizenship, institutionalized heteronormativity, and new forms of anti-gender mobilizations.

Frans-Willem Korsten is Professor of Literature, Culture, and Law at the Leiden University Centre for the Arts in Society in the Netherlands. He participated in the NWO/FWO funded program: "Imagining Techniques in the

Early Modern Period” as well as in the NWO-funded program “Playing Politics: Media Platforms, Making Worlds.” He published on sovereignty and the Republican baroque, in *Sovereignty as Inviolability* (Verloren, 2009); *A Dutch Republican Baroque* (AUP, 2017); and in *Marketing Violence: The Affective Economy of Violent Imageries in the Dutch Republic* (Cambridge UP, 2023). Another major focal point is the relation between literature, art, justice and law, in *Art as an Interface of Law and Justice: Affirmation, Disturbance, Disruption* (Hart, 2021); *Cultural Interactions: Conflict and Cooperation* (AUP, 2022). The theme of justice is developed recently in relation to urbanism and climate-justice in *Imagining Urban Complexity: A Humanities Approach in Tropes, Media, and Genres* (Routledge, 2024; together with Anthony T. Albright).

Melanie Kreitler is a postdoc at the University of Giessen, Germany, in the Department of Anglophone Literary, Cultural, and Media Studies. Her book *Mental Illness and Narrative Complexity: An Experiential Approach to Puzzle Films and Complex Television* will be published with Edinburgh UP in 2025. Her research addresses narrative complexity across media, with an emphasis on films and videogames, critical approaches to empathy, and the intersections of cultural and media discourses. She is co-editor of the special issues “Illness, Narrated” (2021), “Queer Politics in Media and Legal Cultures” (2024), and “Mental TV: Changing the Narratives of Mental Disorders on Television” (2025).

Sabine N. Meyer is Professor of American Studies and Co-Director of the North American Studies Program at the University of Bonn. Her recent research has focused on Native American writing and law/politics from the nineteenth century onward, and on representations of Native Americans/Indigenous people in North American popular culture. Meyer is the author of *We Are What We Drink: The Temperance Battle in Minnesota* (2015) and *Native Removal Writing: Narratives of Peoplehood, Politics, and Law* (2022). Her publications also include articles in scholarly journals such as *American Indian Quarterly*, *Law & Literature*, *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, and *The Journal of American History*. She is co-editor of the monograph series Routledge Research in Transnational Indigenous Perspectives.

Marzia Milazzo is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. Her book, *Colorblind Tools: Global Technologies of Racial Power* (Northwestern UP, 2022), which shows how white people disavow racism across national boundaries to maintain power, and how anti-Black and colo-

nial logics can be reproduced even in some decolonial literatures, won the 2023 Association for Ethnic Studies Outstanding Book Award. Her articles have appeared in *The Global South*, *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*, *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, *Research in African Literatures*, *ARIEL*, *Cultural Studies*, and other venues.

Greta Olson is Professor of American and British Literature and Cultural Studies and Director of the Center for Diversity, Media, and Law (DiML) at the University of Giessen. She is Principal Investigator of a project on images of migration and human rights in the interdisciplinary research group Human Rights Discourse in Migration Societies (MeDiMi). Greta was Fellow at the Käte Hamburger Center for Advanced Study in the Humanities “Law as Culture” in Bonn (2014, 2016), is general editor of the *European Journal of English Studies* (EJES), and, with Jeanne Gaakeer, the co-founder of the European Network for Law and Literature. Greta authored *From Law and Literature to Legality and Affect* (Oxford UP, 2022) and is co-creator of the film *Beyond the Gaze: Media Awareness for Media Inclusivity* (2023). She works and wishes to facilitate projects on the nexus between artistic practice, political activism, and academic analysis.

Maik Paap is a research associate and PhD candidate in the subproject “Migration and the Humanization of ‘Health’: Paradigms, Practices, and Conflicts” in the DFG-research group “Human Rights Discourse in Migration Societies” (MeDiMi). His work centers on human rights, migration, and health discourses in international organizations, particularly UN agencies, and their inconsistencies with domestic discourses. Maik earned a bachelor’s degree in political science and law from the Leuphana University Lüneburg and a master’s degree in International Politics and International Law from the Christian-Albrecht University of Kiel. During his studies, he worked with organizations such as Viva con Agua de St. Pauli e.V. and Refugee Law Clinics Deutschland e.V., which fueled his interest in access to rights and the representation of marginalized groups on the international level.

Sara Polak is Lecturer in American Studies, chair of the MA North American Studies, and research fellow in the NWO project “Playing Politics: Media Platforms Making Worlds” at Leiden University Centre for the Arts in Society in the Netherlands. Sara was a Rubicon fellow at the International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture at Giessen (2016–2017) and Fulbright scholar at Yale University (2014–2015). She has written *FDR in American Memory: Roosevelt and*

the Making of an Icon (Johns Hopkins UP, 2021), and co-edited *Violence and Trolling on Social Media: On the History, Affect and Effects of Online Vitriol* (Amsterdam UP, 2020) and *Embodying Contagion: The Viropolitics of Horror and Desire in Contemporary Discourse* (University of Wales Press, 2021). She regularly contributes to public media (newspapers, radio, television) about U.S. American history, politics and culture in the Netherlands, the UK, Belgium and the U.S.

Mariel Reiss works at the Center for Conflict Studies at the University of Marburg in the interdisciplinary Research Center “Transformations of Political Violence.” She conducts research on the complex relationships between changing patterns of interpretation and justifications of political violence against LGBTIQ+ persons with a focus on eastern and southern Africa. Reiss holds a PhD in political science from the University of Marburg, Germany. Her publications discuss the establishment and development of regional organizations and the role of state and non-state actors as well as the negotiation of human rights within multilevel governance systems. The geographical focus of her work is on Eastern African countries and the East African Community, Southern African countries and the Southern African Development Community, as well as the African Union and the European Union. Since January 2024, Reiss has been coordinating the scientific network “Re-centering African Subjects and Subjectivities,” which is funded by the German Research Foundation.

