

About the Contributors

Artists

Liala Amin is a multidisciplinary artist exploring the facets of femininity through themes of spirituality, mythology, and personal identity. While painting is her preferred medium, her work includes mixed media paintings, drawings, and textiles. She flows between mediums to explore the intuitive nature of art making. She graduated from the Peck School of the Arts at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2014 with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Fibers. Her work has been exhibited within Midwest group exhibitions and has received features in several publications. She is currently an Artist in Residence at Var West Gallery in Milwaukee.

Authors

Aya Labanieh is a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University. Her research interests include conspiracy theories, secularism, postcolonial modernity, and popular modes of political critique in twentieth-century Middle Eastern literature.

Diana Kasem is a Ph.D. student and an instructor in the Department of Communication at UMass, Amherst. She got a master's degree in Modern Culture and Media from Brown University. She earned an M.A. in Art History in The Belarusian State Academy of Arts and B.A. degrees in Theater Studies and English Literature in Syria. Her story for children, *The Apple Girl*, was published in 2012. She has written and directed for many international film festivals, as well as lectured at the Higher Institute of Theater in Damascus. She is the founder and editing manager of 7GATES for supporting art and culture.

Layla AlAmmar is a writer and academic from Kuwait with a Masters in Creative Writing from the University of Edinburgh. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at Lancaster University, researching Arab women's fiction as archives of traumatic memory. Her short stories have appeared in the *Evening Standard*, *The Red Letters St Andrews Prose Journal*, and *Aesthetica Magazine* where she was a finalist for

the Creative Writing Award 2014. She was a 2018 British Council International Writer in Residence at the Small Wonder Short Story Festival. Her debut, *The Pact We Made* (2019) was longlisted for the Authors' Club Best First Novel Award and nominated for the First Book Award at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. Her second novel, *Silence is a Sense*, will be published in March 2021. She has written for *The Guardian* and *Arablit Quarterly*.

Meltam Şafak is a Ph.D. student in the department of Comparative Literature and Intercultural Studies at the University of Georgia. Her research interests include the encounter of Ottoman Armenian and Turkish literatures during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, transnational literature, gender, and the representation of mental disorders in literary works.

Paul Piatkowski is a Ph.D. candidate in the English Department at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. His area of specialization is Post-1900 American literature, and his interests include postcolonialism, science fiction studies, posthumanism, semiotics, reading theory, and postmodern theory. His recent research is focused on the work being done through current speculative works to produce substantial cultural shifts within dominant modes of planetary thinking and action. He has had articles published in journals such as *Critique*, *Intertexts*, and *Journal of Modern Literature*.

Timothy Riggio Quevillon holds a Ph.D. in History from and is a Lecturer at the University of Houston. His first book, *Moshe & Meir: Religious Nationalism in a Postcolonial World*, examines the Israeli and American Kahane family and their impact on Jewish nationalist politics in the 20th century. His article in this volume is part of a future research project that examines representations of Jewish religious and national identities in American and Israeli popular culture and media. Tim's research interests include modern Jewish history, race and ethnicity in the US and Israel, and the impact of ethnic nationalisms on postcolonial global politics.

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Wessam Elegemi is an Assistant Professor of Language, Culture, and Communication at the University of Michigan at Dearborn. His scholarship is defined by an interdisciplinary approach to analyzing the narratives and visual media of Arab and SWANA cultures, focusing on gender and immigration. His critical anthology, *The Poetry of Arab Women from Pre-Islamic Times to Andalusia* (Routledge 2019), presents more than 200 poets, marking the first time many of the poems have been translated or analyzed.

Book Reviewers

Joan Grandjean Joan Grandjean is a PhD candidate and Assistant at the Arabic Studies Section, University of Geneva.

He started a Ph.D. thesis in 2017, entitled, “What if? Imagining the History of Contemporary Art through Arab ‘Futurisms’” that studies the use of science fiction in the Arab contemporary art scene. He is a founding member of Manazir—Swiss Platform for the Study of Visual Arts, Architecture and Heritage in the MENA Region—and *Manazir* Journal’s editorial assistant.

Joan is also a Research Fellow at the University of Geneva and is working with Prof. Silvia Naef on a research project with the United Nations Organizations in Geneva and its collections (Boninchi Foundation Research Grant).

Editors

Aisha Matthews (Managing Editor) holds a B.A. in English from Yale University, and an M.A. in English from Southern New Hampshire University. Her research interests include Afrofuturism, disability studies, young adult science fiction, womanism, biopolitics, and postmodern theory. Her first book chapter, “Conspiracies of the Flesh: Disciplinary Power and Female Embodiment in Margaret Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale*” was published in the anthology *Critical Insights: Conspiracies* (Salem Press, 2020), edited by Jim Plath, in 2020, and her forthcoming article, “Give Me Liberty or Give Me (Double)Con-

sciousness: Literacy, Orality, Print, and the Cultural Formation of Black American Identity in Harriet Jacobs’s *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* and Octavia Butler’s *Kindred*” will be featured in *Third Stone Magazine* (2021). She is also a freelance editor, and serves as the Director of Literature Programming for the Museum of Science Fiction’s Annual Escape Velocity Conference.

Anthony Dwayne Boynton (Editor) is a Southern scholar-bleerd based in Lawrence, KS and a doctoral student in English. This Georgia native earned his B.A. in English at Fort Valley State University and his M.A. in English at Georgia College & State University. He is a writer and scholar of black speculative fiction and researches sci-fi’s connections to black cultural politics.

Barbara Jasny (Editor) holds a Ph.D. from Rockefeller University and her career has been science-first, performing research in molecular biology and virology and then becoming a research Editor and Deputy Editor for *Science* magazine. She has communicated science through books, articles, posters, art displays, virtual presentations, meetings, digital media, and podcasts.

Benet Pera (Editor) holds a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from Complutense University of Madrid, Spain. As a postdoctoral researcher, he performed preclinical studies at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and investigated new therapeutic strategies to treat cancer at Weill Cornell Medicine. He is currently applying both his science background and analytical skills in the investment industry, working in equity research covering the biotech sector in an investment bank.

Doug Dluzen (Editor) holds a Ph.D. in Biology and is an Assistant Professor of Biology at Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD. He is a geneticist and has studied the genetic contributors to aging, cancer, hypertension, and other age-related diseases. Currently, he studies the biology of health disparities and the microbiome in Baltimore City. He teaches evolution, genetics, and scientific thinking and you



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can find more about him on Twitter @ripplesintime24. He loves to write about science and enjoys exploring scientific ethical and societal issues in his own speculative fiction writing.

Ibtisam Abujad (Guest Editor) is a Ph.D. Candidate in English at Marquette University. Her research interests include transnational cultural studies, with a focus on migrancy, gender, race, and the burgeoning field of Critical Muslim Studies. Her scholarly publications include “Decolonizing the Pandemic: Transnational Pedagogy and Affective Histories in the Composition and Research Class” (in the *World History Bulletin*, 2020), and forthcoming chapters “Cultivating Muslim Social Critique: The Twenty-First Century Novels of Nafisa Haji and Randa Jarrar” (Ed. Mahwash Shoaib, Lexington) and “Desiring Empire: The Colonial Violence of Hijab Pornography” (in *The Performativity of Villainy and Evil in Anglophone Literature and Media*, Ed. Nizar Zouidi, Palgrave MacMillan).

Ian Campbell (Guest Editor) holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Emory University and works as Associate Professor of World Languages & Cultures at Georgia State University. He also directs the GSU Arabic Department. His book *Labyrinths, Intellectuals, and the Revolution: The Arabic-Language Moroccan Novel, 1957–72* was published by Brill in 2013, and his most recent book, *Arabic Science Fiction* was published by Springer in 2018.

Melanie Marotta (Editor) holds a Ph.D. in English from Morgan State University, where she is currently a Lecturer in the Department of English and Language Arts. She is originally from the province of Ontario in Canada, and her research focuses on science fiction, the American West, contemporary American Literature, and Ecocriticism.