

POSTCOLONIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

17 – 20 May 2023

University of Konstanz

GAPS 2023 Annual Conference

Program

Wednesday 17 May

- 18:00-20:00 Opening Keynote (*Wolkenstein-Saal, city center*)
Homi K. Bhabha (Harvard University)
Not All Each Day: The Infrastructures of Racial Life
Chair: Christina Wald (University of Konstanz)
- 20:00 Reception
- from 20:30* *Conference Warming at Brauhaus Johann Albrecht*

zoom.us/my/iserlecture

Thursday 18 May

- 9:00-10:45 Opening Remarks (*Room R711*)
- Keynote Lecture (*Room R711*)
Elleke Boehmer (University of Oxford)
Infrastructure, Narrative and Intervention
Chair: Timo Müller (University of Konstanz)
- 10:45-11:15 *Coffee Break*



1 Historical Perspectives (Room G420)

Chair: Jana Gohrisch (Leibniz University Hannover)

David Walther
(University of Greifswald)

Infrastructure of Trade: The Roles of Stores, Trading Posts, and Markets in Colonial and Postcolonial Societies

Alicia Haripershad
(Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory, Frankfurt)

De-missionise Education? An Exploration of the Colonial Legal Framework for Protestant Missionaries' Provision of Education in Southern Africa c. 1880 to 1930

Sofie Fingado
(University of Potsdam & University of Melbourne)

Thinking Infrastructural Relations: The Case against Exceptionality in the U.S. Prison and Detention Complex after 9/11*

*Content warning: sexual violence, abuse and mistreatment; racist, sexualized and colonial violence

2 Infrastructures in India (Room G300)

Chair: Michael Meyer (University of Koblenz-Landau)

Nadja Fakha
(Paderborn University)

Intersecting Infrastructures: The Effects of Corrupted Infrastructures on Economic, Social, and Cultural Capital in Aravind Adiga's *The White Tiger*

Sana Asif
(National Institute of Technology Patna)

Infrastructural Re-Appropriation and Making Sense of Place: Muslim Women Writing Cities in British India

Seema Sharma
(Jai Hind College, University of Mumbai)

Mark Twain's Assessment of India in *Following the Equator*: Infrastructure of the Empire and Narratives of Modernity

3 African American Roads (Room H306)

Chair: Otilia Teodorescu (University of Konstanz)

Forkan Ali
(University of New South Wales)

Mobility in a Racialized Infrastructure: Exploring *The Negro Motorist Green Book* in the Context of Black Lives Matter

Joel Duncan
(University of Konstanz)

Not Driving While Black: Claudia Rankine and Ta-Nehisi Coates

Michelle Stork
(Goethe University Frankfurt)

Infrastructural Friction in Contemporary Road Narratives



4 Academic Infrastructures (Room G421)

Chair: Mark Stein (University of Münster)

Yashka Chavan
(University of Münster)

The University: Colonial Codes, Decolonial
Dreams

Michael Westphal
(Kiel University)

The Research Infrastructure of World Englishes

Lorrie L. King
(Emory University)

Reimagining Postcolonial Classroom and Curricula
Infrastructures: A “Decolonizing Development”
Course Case Study

5 Under Construction: Homes and Identities (Room H307)

Chair: Timo Müller (University of Konstanz)

Ali Fazel
(University of Göttingen)

Mapping Home: In Between Dwelling and
Unhomeliness

Mahtab Dadkhah
(University of Erfurt)

Role of Fictional Narratives in Migration and
Identity Formation of Commonwealth Migrants in
Germany: A Phenomenological Study of Academic
African Migrants

Mohammed Muharram
(University of Bremen)

Re-Thinking the Postcolonial: Blue Postcolonialism

12:45-14:00

Lunch Break and Poster Presentations

Under Construction: Poster Presentations (Building H)

Lionel Sango
(Heidelberg University)

Perceptions of Multimodal Aspects of Apologies in
Urban Cameroon

Julia Ditter
(Independent Scholar)

Energy Infrastructures and the British Empire in the
Nineteenth-Century Periodical Press

Nadine Ellinger
(University of Augsburg)

Speaking the Unspeakable: The Maternal Voice in
Ayòbámi Adébáyò's *Stay With Me* (2017)



6 Narrative Infrastructures (Room H305)

Chair: Udith Dematagoda (University of Konstanz)

Kathleen Samson
(Osnabrück University)

(Dis)assembling Narrative Infrastructure: South African Literature After-Hope

Angela Kölling
(Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz)

Popular Fiction as Alter/Narrative Infrastructures: Lauren Wilkinson's *American Spy* (2019), Katie Kitamura's *Intimacies* (2021), and Sia Figiel's *Freelove* (2016)

7 Postcolonial Infrastructure and Ecological Violation in Africa (Room G300)

Chair: Jennifer Wenzel (Columbia University)

Dele Maxwell Ugwanyi
(Enugu State University of Science and Technology)

Ecological Violation: Rethinking Postcolonial Infrastructures in the Novels of Ngugi wa Thiong'o

Senayon Olaoluwa
(University of Ibadan)

Postcolonial Infrastructure, Ecocorpocriticism and Retributive Environmentalism in Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* and Armah's *The Beautiful Ones Are Yet Born*

Alex Nelungo Wanjala
(University of Nairobi)

Infrastructure Development at the Expense of the Poor Masses in Kenyan Society as Depicted in Kenyan Literature

8 Home as Architectural Framing of Identity in Postcolonial India (Room H306)

Chair: Christina Wald (University of Konstanz)

Fatima Z. Naveed
(University of Exeter)

"You Can't Build a Happy Home with Stolen Bricks": The Abducted Woman & Home-as-Prison in Amrita Pritam's *Pinjar* (1951)

Sheelalipi Sahana
(University of Edinburgh)

Does the "Primordial-Modern" Dyad Lead to the Postcolonial? Indian Courtyard as an Architectural Idiom in Attia Hosain's *Sunlight on a Broken Column*

Zehra Kazmi
(University of St Andrews)

Romancing Ruins: The Symbolism of Lucknow's Architectural Memory in *Gulabo Sitabo*



9 Sounding Infrastructure (Room G420)

Chair: Frank Schulze-Engler (Goethe University Frankfurt)

Olusegun Stephen Titus
(Obafemi Awolowo University)

Musical Representation of Transatlantic Mobility
and Lagos City Ports Infrastructures

Olufemi Akanji Olaleye
(Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro)

Oil Infrastructure and Mobility: Musical Narratives
of Oil Exploration and Profit Maneuvering in
Postcolonial Nigeria 1989-2022

Vebhuti Duggal
(Ambedkar University Delhi) &
Christin Hoene (Maastricht
University)

The Radio as Audible Infrastructure in Colonial
India

10 Thinking through and against Post/Colonial Hydro-Infrastructures (Room H307)

Chair: Alisa Preusser (University of Potsdam)

Baldeep Kaur
(University of Potsdam)

“The canal will never break”: Archival Trails from
the Dry Ports of Hydro-Colonial Punjab

Jennifer Leetsch
(University of Bonn)

Preliminary Thoughts on Water as Method:
Reading the Hydrocolony in Global Literature

Maya Weeks
(Independent Scholar)

Ecotoxicology: The Santa Barbara Channel, the
California Current, and Invisible Violences

11 Borders (Room G421)

Chair: Dominic Davies (City, University of London)

Victoria Herche
(University of Cologne)

The Slow Violence of Border Infrastructures

Gigi Adair
(Bielefeld University)

Mediterranean Solidarities and Informal
Infrastructures

Eman Alasah
(Northumbria University
Newcastle)

Colonial Infrastructure and Spatial Liminalities in
Post-Oslo Palestinian Life Narratives

15:30-16:00

Coffee Break



12 Infrastructural Violence and Resistance (Room H306)

Chair: Eva Gruber (University of Konstanz)

Stefanie Kemmerer & Pavan
Malreddy
(Goethe University Frankfurt)

“Resistance as Repair”: Infrastructural Violence in
Arab Spring Novels

Laura Bieger
(Ruhr University Bochum)

Reimagining, Repurposing, Reckoning: Colson
Whitehead’s *The Underground Railroad* and the
Aesthetics of Infrastructure

13 Indigenous Infrastructures (Room G420)

Chair: Lucy Gasser (Osnabrück University)

Jordan Kinder
(Harvard University)

Indigenous Infrastructuralisms in What Is Now
Called Canada

Johanna Lederer
(Catholic University of Eichstätt-
Ingolstadt)

Contesting Settler Colonial Infrastructures on
Turtle Island through Indigenous Art in Public
Spaces*

Cindy Anene Ezeugwu &
Oguejiofor Victor Omeje
(University of Nigeria)

Indigenous Knowledge and Technology and the
Challenges of Religion: Post Colonial Thoughts
from J.P. Clark’s *Ozidi*

*Content warning: residential schools and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People in relation to the artworks; does not include any detailed or graphic descriptions or depictions of violence

14 Public Transport (Room H 307)

Chair: Olusegun Stephen Titus (Obafemi Awolowo University)

Anna-Leena Toivanen
(University of Eastern Finland)

Abjection, Alienation, and the Poetics of Public
Transport Mobility in Ousmane Sembène’s
“Niiwam”

Sunčica Klaas
(University of Bonn)

The “Dangerous Nuisance” of Railroad
Infrastructures: Narrating Respiratory Harm in
African American Literary and Technological
Discourses



15 Language and/as Infrastructure (Room H305)

Chair: Leila Vaziri (University of Konstanz)

Arindam Saha
(Pondicherry University)

Why do Local Letters Matter? Remapping Vernacular and Its Historical Trajectories in the World of World Literature

Hridaya Ajgaonkar
(University of Bonn)

Linguistic Landscapes and Postcolonial Infrastructure: A Study of Bombay/Mumbai Storefronts

Aaron Pinnix
(University of Konstanz)

“Through sameness of language is produced/ sameness of sentiment and thought”: Language as Infrastructure in Myung Mi Kim’s *Penury*

16 Infrastructural Methodology (Room G300)

Chair: Michael Westphal (Kiel University)

Sophia Doyle
(University of Potsdam)

Infrastructure as Method: A Metabolic Approach

Priyam Choudhury
(University of Potsdam)

Interfacing the Archive: Mediating Infrastructures of Postcolonial Literary Research

Dominic Davies
(City, University of London)

“Infrastructure” After Empire: Postcolonial Development and the Postwar History of a Word

17 Energy (Room G421)

Chair: Senayon Olaoluwa (University of Ibadan)

Jochen Monstadt
(Utrecht University)

Coping with Urban and Infrastructural Heterogeneity: Governing Energy Infrastructures in Dar es Salaam

Michael Rubenstein
(Stony Brook University)

Life Support: Fictions of Energy and Environment

Jennifer Wenzel
(Columbia University)

Intimate Disconnect: Fossil Infrastructure and Postcolonial Futures

19:00 **Award Ceremony** (*Wolkenstein-Saal, city center*)

20:00 **Reading: Tara June Winch** (*Wolkenstein-Saal, city center*)

Moderators: Timo Müller and Christina Wald (University of Konstanz)



Friday 19 May

9:00-10:30

Panels 18-23

18 Urban Infrastructures (Room H306)

Chair: Marie Berndt (University of Bonn)

E. Nastacia Schmoll
(University of Zürich)

Recognizing the Self in the Other in Singh and Miéville's Superimposed Cities

Tamara Imboden
(University of Basel)

"Neither Remembered Nor Forgotten": Grasping the Palimpsest in Teju Cole's *Open City**

Leonie John
(University of Cologne)

A "Cluster of Mongrel Islands": Infrastructures of Connection and Disconnection in Coco Solid's *How to Loiter in a Turf War*

*Content warning: sexual violence, racial violence, slavery, 9/11

19 Postcolonial Infrastructures and the Environment (Room G201)

Chair: Jordan Kinder (Harvard University)

Burak Sezer
(University of Cologne)

Infrastructures Through Nature: Animal Corridors in Barbara Kingsolver's *Flight Behavior* and Yann Martel's *Life of Pi*

Caroline Levine
(Cornell University)

Water Infrastructure is Life: Form and Method in the Climate Crisis

Fabienne Liptay
(University of Zürich)

Paths of Oil: Filming in the Infrastructures of Petroleum

20 Migration (Room H307)

Chair: Gigi Adair (Bielefeld University)

Mridula Sharma
(University of Glasgow)

Infrastructures of Empire: Studying the Policing of Migration

Robert Kusek
(Jagiellonian University)

Transnational Homemaking: Nadine Gordimer among the Poles

Sainico Ningthoujam
(McGill University)

Infrastructures of Forgetting and Remembering in *The Black Hill*



21 Infrastructures of Postcolonial Britain (Room H305)

Chair: Jonas Kellermann (University of Konstanz)

Michael Frank
(University of Zürich)

Claiming the Streets: The Politics of Walking in
West Indian Writing about London

Emily Timms
(University of Vienna)

Restructuring Wellness in Contemporary British
Black Poetry in Performance*

Julia Wurr
(University of Oldenburg)

Identity, Inequality and Infrastructure in Natasha
Brown's *Assembly*

*Content warning: mental health, colonial history, the Grenfell Tower fire and the enslavement of African people

22 Genre and/as Infrastructure (Room G420)

Chair: Michael Rubenstein (Stony Brook University)

Ankhi Mukherjee
(University of Oxford)

Postcolonial Infrastructure as Whodunits and
Crime Fiction

Svetlana Seibel
(Saarland University)

Infrastructures of Knowledge: Greek Tragedy and
Indigenous Repatriation in Beth Piatote's *Antikoni*

Katrijn van den Bossche
(Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

"An Untethering of Self from Experience": Self-
Reflexive Narration and Genre as Infrastructure in
Natasha Brown's *Assembly* (2021)

23 Publishing Infrastructures (Room G421)

Chair: Priyam Choudhury (University of Potsdam)

Lucy Gasser
(Osnabrück University)

Cairo-Berlin-Mumbai: Making, Printing, and
Circulating Culture with the Afro-Asian Writers'
Association

Layachi El Habbouch
(Abdelmalek Essaadi University)

Infrastructural Postcolonial Editing of Anglo-
American Short Narratives on Morocco: Read to
Emancipate

Claudia Sackl
(University of Vienna)

Navigating the (Infra)Structures of the Literary
Market

10:30-11:00

Coffee Break



11:00-12:00 Reading/Performance (*Room G201*)
Magnet Theatre (Mandla Mbothwe & Mark Fleishman)
**Subterranean Infrastructures of/and (de)Colonial
Dramaturgies: Orders, Odours, and Oralities**
Moderator: Christina Wald (University of Konstanz)

12:00-13:00 *Lunch Break (with Didactics Lunch Table)*

13:00-14:00 Panels 24-28

24 A Trip to the Museum (*Room G420*)

Chair: Angela Kölling (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz)

Fogha Mc Cornilius Refem
(University of Potsdam)

The Frontier of Being: The Ethnological Museum
and the Imperial Economy of Restitution

Tobias Döring
(LMU Munich)

What Is Postcolonial German Writing? Reflections
on Volker Braun's (and Ann Cotten's) *Luf-Passion*
(2022)

25 Nuclear Infrastructures (*Room G421*)

Chair: Joel Duncan (University of Konstanz)

Kylie Crane
(University of Rostock)

The Multiple Infrastructures of Fallout

Souvik Kar
(Indian Institute of Technology
Hyderabad)

"This Joke Is Killing Me": Humour, Nuclear
Infrastructures, and Postcolonial Cultural
Imagination in 21st-Century India

26 Infrastructures and Migrants (*Room G201*)

Chair: Julia Hoydis (University of Klagenfurt)

Silke Stroh
(University of Oldenburg)

Colonial Transmigration and the Role of
Infrastructure: Practices, Narratives and Memory

Ursula Kluwick
(University of Bern)

The Global Inequalities of Infrastructure: Migrants,
Refugees, and Tourists on the Beach



27 Infrastructural Violence (Room H306)

Chair: Jonas Kellermann (University of Konstanz)

Prithiraj Borah
(VIT Vellore)

Tree of *Bixad* (Suffering): Un-Settling Colonial and Postcolonial Plantation Infrastructures through Cultural Memory

Nancy Odendaal
(University of Cape Town)

Socio-Technical Continuities in Post-Apartheid South Africa and the Persistence of Infrastructure Violence

28 Under Construction: Women and Postcolonial Infrastructure (Room H307)

Chair: Irmtraud Huber (University of Konstanz)

Brian Fulela
(University of Bayreuth)

In the Waiting Room of Post-Apartheid Freedom: Masculine Enjoyment and Woman as Infrastructure in Kgebetli Moele's *Room 207**

Jasmin Bieber
(University of Konstanz)

Vernacular Infrastructure: Mobile Women in 18th Century British Colonies

* Content warning: references to scenes of gender-based violence, sexism and misogyny

14:00-14:30 *Coffee Break*

14:30-18:00 **GAPS Members' Assembly (Room R513)**

City Tour "Konstanz Postcolonial" with Kirsten Mahlke

(Meeting Point: Minster of Our Lady, 15:30)

20:00 **Conference Dinner (Terracotta)**
(pre-order only)



Saturday 20 May

09:15-10:45

Panels 29-33

29 The (Post)colonial City (*Room G421*)

Chair: Peter Marsden (Independent Scholar)

Sophie Kriegel
(FU Berlin)

Finding One's Way in Johannesburg: A
Psychogeographic Exploration of the Infrastructure
of Literary Johannesburg

Laura A. Zander
(University of Münster)

Judging Jo'burg? Violence and Reconciliation in
the Postcolonial Cityscape

Lucinda Newns
(King's College, London)

Floating City, Drowned City: Hong Kong and the
Infrastructural Legacies of Colonialism

30 Travel and Tourism (*Room G420*)

Chair: Cecile Sandten (TU Chemnitz)

Naglaa Saad Mohamed Hassan
(Fayoum University)

The Poetics and Politics of Neo-Colonialist
Caribbean Infrastructure in Selected Works by
Derek Walcott, Edward Braithwaite and Linton
Kwesi Johnson

Nadia Butt
(Giessen University)

Automobility and Postcolonial Infrastructures:
Investigating the Dynamics of Travel and Tourism
in Bernardine Evaristo's Road Novel *Soul Tourists*
(2005)

Pooja Kalita
(South Asian University)

The Infrastructure of "Heritage": The Global,
National and Local in Bodh Gaya

31 Diaspora (*Room G300*)

Chair: Aaron Pinnix (University of Konstanz)

Ágnes Györke
(Károli Gáspár University)

Feeling the City: Cosmopolitan Sensibilities and
Postcolonial Infrastructures in 21st-Century
Diaspora Fiction

Sarah Knor
(Independent Scholar)

Maternal Infrastructures in Diasporic Fiction

Saambaviy Sivaji
(University of Colombo)

The Ritual of *Kavadi* as a Transnational Diasporic
Infrastructure



32 Sickness and Health (Room H306)

Chair: Julia Wurr (University of Oldenburg)

Annabell Fender
(University of Potsdam &
University of Melbourne)

A Settler-Colonial Infrastructure of Care: The
Varroa Mite Eradication Response in New South
Wales, Australia

Marie Rose Arong
(University of the Philippines)

The Ghosts of American Colonization in the
Philippine Health Care System

Roman Bartosch (University of
Cologne) & Julia Hoydis
(University of Klagenfurt)

Imagining Infrastructural Collapse: Modelling
Human Survival in Recent "Pandemic" Fiction

33 Digital Infrastructures (Room H307)

Chair: Dominik Steinhilber (University of Konstanz)

Anna von Rath (pocolit) & Lucy
Gasser (Osnabrück University)

macht.sprache

Sophie Burger
(Independent Scholar)

Story Dive

Kathleen Samson
(Osnabrück University)

The Minor Constellations Podcast

10:45-11:15 *Coffee Break*

11:15-13:00 Keynote Lecture (*Room G300*)

Manu Karuka (Barnard College)

The Jungle and the Garden

Chair: Dominik Steinhilber (University of Konstanz)

Closing Remarks

Conference Ends



Bios

Gigi Adair is Junior Professor for Migration and Anglophone Cultures of the Global South in the English Department at the University of Bielefeld. She works across postcolonial and gender/queer studies and on literature from around the Black Atlantic. She is the author of *Kinship Across the Black Atlantic: Writing diaspora relations* (Liverpool UP, 2019) and co-editor of the *Narratives of Precarious Migrancy in the Global South* and *Companion to Migration Literature* (both forthcoming with Routledge).

Hridaya Ajgaonkar is currently a doctoral student at the Department of South Asian Studies, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms University, Bonn, Germany. She additionally serves as a Research Aide at the Indo-Canadian Studies Centre and as a Resource Person at the Centre for European Studies of the University of Mumbai. In the field of social work, she volunteers as a consultant at Empower People, an organisation that works to combat bride-trafficking in North India. Her research interests include sociolinguistics, film, postcolonial studies, and gender studies. She has a particular academic interest in the relationship between gender, language and cultural production in cosmopolitan pockets. She has previously worked as the curator and moderator of “Gender Today”, a series of weekly lectures on the gendered socio-political, cultural, economic, and academic modalities of gender in India and beyond, in collaboration with Empower People. She enjoys languages academically and otherwise, and speaks English, Marathi, Hindi, German and some Sanskrit.

Eman Alasah is a researcher in postcolonial and literary studies. She has graduated with a BA degree in English and French from Bethlehem University in Palestine. She was later awarded with the Durham-Palestine Educational Trust scholarship, through which she did her masters in cultural and literary studies at Durham University, focusing on cultural memory and identity in the post-war German context. Currently, she is a PhD candidate at Northumbria University, working on postcolonial theory and contemporary Palestinian autobiographical and life writings. Her research interests include postcolonial and world literatures, critical theory and intersectional feminism.

Forkan Ali is a PhD student at the School of Humanities and Social sciences, University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia. His research interests include Postcolonial theory, trauma, and violence in South Asia. He belongs to UNSW’s Conflict and Society research group. Forkan has presented his research in Europe and the USA and in international reputed journals such as the *Australasian Journal of American Studies* and *Asian Studies*.

Marie Rose Arong is a faculty at the University of the Philippines Cebu. Her research interests include narratology, postcolonial literature, Cebuano history and culture, and medical humanities. Her articles have appeared in the *Global South*, *Publishing Research Quarterly*, *Postcolonial Studies*, *Kritika Kultura*, *ARIEL*, and *Text Matters*. She is the author of *A Veritable Terra Incognita: Situating the Philippines in Postcolonial Literature* (2020, University of Santo Tomas Publishing House).

Sana Asif is a PhD Candidate at the National Institute of Technology, Patna, India. She works as a Teaching Assistant and conducts language lab classes. Her research interests include Memory Studies, Spatial Studies, and Partition writings. She is working on Partition writings by Muslim women for her PhD thesis and has presented her research at various international conferences, including her recent paper presented at a conference on “Mapping ‘Post-Conflict’ Cities” organised by the UrbanMetaMapping Research Consortium at Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space (IRS) at Erkner, Germany.

Roman Bartosch is Professor of Teaching Anglophone Literatures and Cultures, Director of the Interdisciplinary Research Centre for Teaching in the Humanities (IFDG) and Co-Director of the Research Hub for Multidisciplinary Environmental Studies in the Humanities (MESH) at the University of Cologne, Germany. One of the first people in Germany to work on postcolonial ecocriticism and, more recently, literary education for sustainability, he is the author and editor



of more than 17 books and over 70 scholarly articles spanning environmental and transcultural learning, inclusive education, and the intersections of literature pedagogy and literary theory. Recent publications include the edited volume *Cultivating Sustainability in Language and Literature Pedagogy: Steps to an Educational Ecology* (Routledge 2021) and, co-authored with Julia Hoydis and Jens Martin Gurr, *Climate Change Literacy* (Cambridge University Press 2023). Together with these two and other colleagues from Cologne, Munich, Sheffield and Leeds, he is currently working on the cultural and cognitive dimensions of future-making and modelling environmental injustice in the DFG/AHRC-funded project “Just Futures”.

Homi K. Bhabha has been a leading figure in colonial and postcolonial literary studies and theory since the 1990s and has developed a number of the field's key concepts, such as hybridity, mimicry, the third space, and ambivalence. Born in Mumbai, India, and educated at the University of Bombay and the University of Oxford, Bhabha is the Anne F. Rothenberg Professor of the Humanities in the English and Comparative Literature Departments at Harvard University, where he also served as director of the Mahindra Humanities Center. He is the author of numerous influential works including *Nation and Narration*, *The Location of Culture* and *Our Neighbours, Ourselves: Contemporary Reflections on Survival* and in addition to his writing also works as an advisor to art institutions such as the Institute of Contemporary Arts London and the Whitney Museum of American Arts, New York. Currently, he is leading a research project on the Global Humanities supported by the Volkswagen and Mellon Foundations, which has direct relevance for the topic of postcolonial infrastructures. Postcolonial infrastructures are also important for his book projects *On Art, A Global Measure* and *The Right to Narrate*.

Jasmin Bieber is a doctoral student at the University of Konstanz since October 2020 under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Christina Wald (University of Konstanz) and Prof. Dr. Øyvind Eide (University of Cologne). She is a junior member of the K.H. Eberle Research Centre “Kulturen Europas in einer multipolaren Welt” and a recurrent guest presenter at the ‘Game Lab Konstanz’ and the ‘Digital Humanities Promotionsforum’ in Cologne. She is regularly teaching undergraduate courses on early modern to contemporary literature and transmediality. In her doctoral thesis “Unprecedented Paths Beyond Europe: British Female Travel Writing, 1680-1780” she strives to explore women’s travel writing with a critical perspective on the intersections of cultural, social, and spatial relations and the geo-literary representations of bordering and ‘in-between’ spaces within and beyond Europe.

Laura Bieger is Professor of American Studies at Ruhr-Universität Bochum. She is the author of *Belonging and Narrative* (transcript 2018), which considers the need to belong as a driving force of literary production and the novel as a primary place and home-making agent. In another book, *Ästhetik der Immersion* (transcript 2007), she examines public spaces from Washington DC to Las Vegas that turn world-image-relations into immersive spectacles. Her essays have appeared in *New Literary History*, *Narrative*, *Studies in American Naturalism*, *Amerikastudien/American Studies* and *ZAA*. Her current work explores the relational aesthetics of socially committed art in and across different media, with a special focus on engaged literature and the reading public.

Elleke Boehmer is a founding figure in the field of colonial and postcolonial literary studies, and internationally known for her research in the anglophone literatures of empire and anti-empire. She is Professor of World Literature in English at the University of Oxford. Her writing straddles a range of forms and genres, including cultural history, fiction, criticism, and life-writing. Boehmer’s research explores issues of migration, identity, reception, nation, race and gender representation; and world literature and postcolonial debates, particularly relating to sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and contemporary Britain. *Postcolonial Poetics* (2018), Boehmer’s sixth monograph, is a study of how we read postcolonial and world literatures today, and how the structures of that writing shape our reading. The book asks how postcolonial texts might offer ways not only of representing but of thinking through postcolonial identities. Also in 2018, with Dominic Davies, she has published the edited volume *Planned Violence: Post/Colonial Urban Infrastructure, Literature and Culture*, which explores new ways of



conceptualizing the relationship between urban planning, its often violent effects, and literature.

Prithiraj Borah has completed Post-Doctorate from the department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Bombay, India. He has contributed various journal articles in *Economic and Political Weekly*, Springer and Taylor & Francis. He broadly works in the areas of trade unions' and student associations' politics, colonial history of the plantations in South Asia and class and caste politics in Assam.

Nadia Butt is Senior Lecturer in English in the department of British and American Studies at the University of Giessen. She is the author of *Transcultural Memory and Globalised Modernity in Contemporary Indo-English Novels* published in 2015. Her main areas of research are transcultural theory, memory studies, World Anglophone literature and travel literature. Her research has appeared in journals like *Prose Studies*, *Journal of Aesthetics and Culture*, *Postcolonial Text*, *Postcolonial Interventions*, *Studies in Travel Writing*. Currently, she is working on the publication of her second book *Mapping Other Routes: The Travelling Imagination in Anglophone Literatures from the Eighteenth-Century to the Present* and a collection of essays *Twenty-First Century Anglophone Novel* together with Ansgar Nünning and Alexander Scherr.

Sophie Burger is the founder of the award-winning audiowalk platforms Storydive and Ortspiel. She is a theatre, film and media graduate and has been developing audiowalks and other site-specific formats for cultural and educational contexts for more than 10 years. She worked at the Institute for Applied Narration Research at Hochschule der Medien Stuttgart before founding SBAE GmbH (Situation-based Audio Experiences) in Hamburg in 2021. Sophie is currently working on #BlindSpots, an interactive audiowalk exploring cognitive biases, as part of the EU Media Futures programme.

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Mahtab Dadkhah worked on Foucauldian theory and power relations in her master studies in Iran before moving to Germany in 2019 to continue her PhD in communication and media studies/English language and literature. Her PhD dissertation is a mixture of media and communication and British literary studies in the University of Erfurt. It is concerned with power relations in the society in specific regard to migrants in the postmigrant society of Germany.



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Julia Ditter recently finished her PhD at Northumbria University. Her dissertation considered a range of literary forms mobilised by Scottish writers to reimagine borders along environmental lines. She is currently developing a postdoc project on energy infrastructures in nineteenth-century periodicals. Her research interest includes Anglophone literatures from the nineteenth century to the present, environmental criticism, new formalism, border and mobility studies and cultural studies.

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Michael Clemens Frank is Professor of English Literature at the University of Zürich. His PhD thesis was devoted to cross-cultural encounters and the “anxiety of cultural influence” in colonial literature of the nineteenth century. His second book, published with Routledge in 2017, traces the “cultural imaginary of terrorism” from late-Victorian fiction to post-9/11 discourse. More recently, Frank has co-edited special issues on “Global Responses to the War on Terror” (*EJES*) and “Migrations and Contacts” (*SPELL*). A co-edited volume on *The Figure of the Terrorist in Literature and Visual Culture* is forthcoming with Edinburgh University Press. Frank’s current project, which draws on previously published work on the spatial turn and its relevance to literary analysis, is dedicated to the geographical imaginaries of fiction.

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Julia Hoydis joined the University of Klagenfurt, Austria, as Full Professor of English Literature in 2023. Previously, she held positions at the Universities of Cologne, Graz, and Duisburg-



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Tamara Imboden is a doctoral assistant at the chair of North American and General Literature at the University of Basel, Switzerland. She completed her BA and MA studies at the University of Zurich. Following the completion of her MA in summer 2022, Imboden has drawn together her interests in postcolonial theory, migration and literary spaces to investigate representations of cities in English literature, exploring the potential of cities as a narrative tool of characterisation in a dissertation titled “Reflected in the City: Reading Identity Through City Spaces.” Focusing on works such as *Open City* (2011) and Arundhati Roy’s *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* (2017), the project connects questions of trauma, migration and the subaltern with those of spatial representation.

Leonie John is a literary studies postdoc and the academic project manager of “Australian Studies”, an online master’s programme that is currently being developed at the University of Cologne (UoC) in collaboration with several other universities. After completing her Master of Education (UoC/German Sports University Cologne), she pursued an English Studies PhD, successfully defending her thesis on im/mobilities in Māori short fiction in 2021. Leonie John has published on Māori texts written in English, on teaching such texts in a German context, and on literary research ethics. Her academic interests include Indigenous and postcolonial studies, Pacific literatures and networks, memory and museum studies, mobility studies, and – most recently – nuclear literature and the environmental humanities.

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Souvik Kar is a Doctoral Candidate researching Postcolonial Atomic Cultures at the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad, India. His research interests include Nuclear Cultures, Energy Humanities, Romantic Studies, Videogame studies and Science Fiction. Several concurrent projects on Indian videogames, Posthumanism, and British Romanticism, continue to engage him.

Manu Karuka is an assistant professor of American Studies, and affiliated faculty with Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies at Barnard College, where he has taught since 2014. His work centers a critique of imperialism, with a particular focus on anti-racism and Indigenous decolonization. His interest in postcolonialism and infrastructure shows most prominently in *Empire’s Tracks: Indigenous Nations, Chinese Workers, and the Transcontinental Railroad* (University of California Press, 2019). With Juliana Hu Pegues and Alyosha Goldstein he co-edited a special issue of *Theory & Event*, “On Colonial Unknowing,” (Vol. 19, No. 4, 2016) and he co-edited *The Sun Never Sets: South Asian Migrants in an Age of U.S. Power* (NYU Press, 2013).

Baldeep Kaur (they/them) is a doctoral candidate in the DFG-funded RTG “Minor Cosmopolitanisms” at the University of Potsdam. They research how a discard studies approach can be generative in the context of commercial colonialism in the Indian sub-continent. Their current contract is a 65% position with permission to stay in Germany till September 2023. Since October 2022, they have been a member of the DFG-funded Network “Waste in Motion”. Alongside their thesis, a longer-term project is to imagine velocities of



academic work that nourish slow work and protect slow workers. Identifying speed as not only a property of work but a dimension that determines the work/er, they try to realize methods that anticipate failure and exhaustion.

Zehra Kazmi (she/her) is a third-year PhD student at the School of English, University of St. Andrews, UK, where she works on nostalgia and the nation in 20th century South Asian Muslim writing.

Stefanie Kemmerer studied Cultural and Literary Studies in Mannheim and Alcalá de Henares (Spain). She earned her M.A. at Goethe University with a thesis focussing on a transcultural critique of authenticity in the ways yoga is represented on Instagram. She currently expands her research in this area in preparation for a PhD. Other research interests include Anglophone Arab Literatures as well as South Asian Literatures.

Jordan Kinder is an indigenous media studies and environmental humanities scholar from British Columbia. He is a citizen of the Métis Nation of Alberta, and is currently a SSHRC-FRQSC Postdoctoral Fellow. Over 2022-23, he will be a Postdoctoral Fellow with the Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard University. In Fall 2023, he will be an assistant professor in the Department of Communication Studies and Cultural Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University. His dissertation focused on the cultural politics of energy, media, infrastructure, and environment through a case study of the burgeoning pro-oil movement in Canada. Kinder's new research project, *Between Foreclosure and Possibility: Competing Energy Imaginaries in the Contemporary Canadian Mediascape*, investigates extractive and post-extractive energy and infrastructural imaginaries through a series of infrastructural case studies.

Lorrie L. King (she/they) For nearly 30 years, Lorrie King has traversed applied, academic, and philanthropic settings across the realms of community development and humanitarian response, concentrating her study and expertise in the realms of decolonization, gender equity, refugee resettlement, and HIV/AIDS in post-genocide settings. Before her post with Emory University, Lorrie served with United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). In tandem with the former DeKalb County Center for Torture and Trauma Survivors, she established Just Cause, Inc., a coalition serving newly arrived refugees, by providing stopgap and specialized case management services to HIV+ survivors of rape, warfare, and genocide. For six years, she was the acting Health and Human Rights Program Coordinator for the Metropolitan Atlanta American Red Cross, overseeing genocide education and delivering emergency communications to war and Holocaust survivors. In 2014, Lorrie was recognized as one of CNN's Top 10 Inspiring Women (named as "The Stigma Stopper"), and received a resolution of honor from the Georgia State House of Representatives, for her commitment to gender justice and community service. In 2012, she received a Rotary International "Peace through Service" award from the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain, GA.

Sunčica Klaas is a postdoctoral researcher at The Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies at the Bonn University. Focusing specifically on issues of mobility and diversity, her research portfolio consists of three areas, namely, "Human Rights Cultures," "Minor Migrations," and "Rac[e]ing Rails: Railroads and Transportation Justice in African American Literature and Culture." The first of these developed from her PhD thesis on "Writing Wrongs: Human Rights and the Contemporary American Autobiography," for which she was awarded a Humboldt Prize by the Humboldt University, Berlin. She has also co-developed her second research area "Minor Migrations," which maps the legal and sociopolitical vulnerabilities of displaced children in the Anglosphere. In this context, she co-organized an international symposium on Shifting Frames: Migrant Children, Politics and History (May, 2019) as well as a lecture series on Children Crossing Borders (2018-2020). Also, this project has teamed up with the Department for Teaching English as a Foreign Language at the Potsdam University, producing a list of reading recommendations for introducing German high school students to the topic of forced migration. At present, she is working on her postdoctoral project "Rac[e]ing Rails: Railroads and Mobility Justice in African American Literature and Culture," which reads



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Ursula Kluwick is Senior Researcher in the SNSF Project “The Beach in the Long Twentieth Century” at the English Department of the University of Bern, Switzerland. Among her main research interests are British and Anglophone literatures and cultures, with a specific focus on the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries, postcolonial studies, non-realist forms of writing, and the environmental, especially the blue, humanities. Her books include *Exploring Magic Realism in Salman Rushdie’s Fiction* (Routledge 2011), *The Beach in Anglophone Literatures and Cultures* (ed. with Virginia Richter; Ashgate 2015), *Nachhaltigkeit – interdisziplinär* (ed. with Evi Zemanek, UTB 2019), and *Victorian Water Writing* (University of Virginia Press, forthcoming 2024). She is currently writing a monograph on the Mediterranean beach.

Sarah Knor is a lecturer and researcher in English literature, specialising in postcolonial and diasporic writing. She studied at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich and at Royal Holloway College, University of London. Her doctoral project was part of the international Marie Curie initial training network on “Diasporic Constructions of Home and Belonging” (Cohab) involving the universities of Münster, Oxford, SOAS, Mumbai, Stockholm and Northampton. Her first monograph *Narrative Performances of Mothering in South Asian Diasporic Fiction* has just been published with Routledge.

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Jennifer Leetsch is a scholar in the field of English literature and cultural studies. In her first book on contemporary African diasporic women’s writing (Palgrave, 2021), she traced oceanic imaginaries in the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean, illuminating global interconnections in contemporary literature and culture. Her postdoctoral research at the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies focuses on Black Atlantic ecologies and the representation of the environment in black life writing. She has published on literary oceanic crossings in journals such as *Interventions* (on Shailja Patel), *JALA* (on Warsan Shire) and *EJES* (on Mary Seacole). In 2022, she was a visiting fellow at the Beniba Center for Slavery Studies at Glasgow University.

Caroline Levine is David and Kathleen Ryan Professor of Humanities at Cornell University. She has spent her career asking how and why the humanities and the arts matter, especially in democratic societies. She argues for an understanding of forms and structures as essential both to understanding links between art and society and to the challenge of taking meaningful political action. She is the author of four books. *The Activist Humanist: Form and Method in the Climate Crisis*, forthcoming from Princeton University Press in 2023, grows out of the theoretical work of *Forms: Whole, Rhythm, Hierarchy, Network* (2015). Levine has also published *The Serious Pleasures of Suspense: Victorian Realism and Narrative Doubt* (2003) and *Provoking Democracy: Why We Need the Arts* (2007). She is currently the nineteenth-century editor for the Norton Anthology of World Literature and spends much of her free time engaged in climate activism, including the drive to divest the Cornell endowment (successful in 2020).

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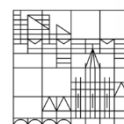
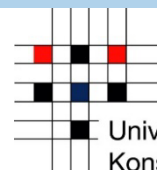
Beyond, published by Chicago and KwaZulu-Natal in 2009, was awarded Honorable Mention for the Perkins Prize by the International Society for the Study of Narrative. With Imre Szeman and Patricia Yaeger, she co-edited *Fueling Culture: 101 Words for Energy and Environment* (Fordham 2017). Her essays on postcolonial theory, environmental and energy humanities, memory studies, and African and South Asian literatures, have appeared in journals including *Alif*, *Cultural Critique*, *Modern Fiction Studies*, *PMLA*, *Postcolonial Studies*, *Public Culture*, *Research in African Literatures*, and *Resilience*.

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