

## Biographies

**Amit Chaudhuri** is the author of eight novels, the latest of which is *Sojourn*. He is also a poet, essayist, short story writer, and musician. His *New and Selected Poems* is scheduled to be published later this year in the NYRB Poets series. His works of non-fiction include, most recently, *Finding the Raga*, which received the James Tait Black Prize in 2022. Other awards his work has received include the Commonwealth Writers Prize, the Encore Prize, the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize for Fiction, the Government of India's Sahitya Akademi Award, and the inaugural Infosys Prize in Literary Studies in the Humanities. He is Professor of Creative Writing and Director of the Centre for the Creative and Critical at Ashoka University. He was Professor of Contemporary Literature at the University of East Anglia from 2006-2021.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and an honorary fellow of the Modern Language Association of America and of Balliol College, Oxford. He edits [literaryactivism.com](http://literaryactivism.com).

In 2018, he received the Sangeet Samman from the West Bengal government for his contribution to North Indian classical music. He wrote the libretto for Pandit Ravi Shankar's opera, 'Sukanya'. He has performed at Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, on BBC television's *Review Show*, at various conferences of North Indian classical music, and his version of 'Summertime' is included in BBC 4's documentary *Gershwin's Summertime: The Song that Conquered the World*. His latest album in his project in crossover music is called *Across the Universe*, and it came out this year.

**Jim English** is the John Welsh Centennial Professor of English, former director of the Wolf Humanities Center, and founding director of the Price Lab for Digital Humanities at the University of Pennsylvania. His main fields of teaching and research are the sociology and economics of literature, the history of literary studies as a discipline, and contemporary British fiction, film, and television. His books include *The Economy of Prestige: Prizes, Awards and Circulation of Cultural Value*, and *The Global Future of English Studies*. A volume of essays co-edited with Heather Love, *Literary Studies and Human Flourishing*, was published earlier this year by Oxford UP. He is currently writing *Beauty By the Numbers*, a history of rating and ranking systems in literature and the arts.

**Florencia Garramuño** received her PhD in Romance Languages and Literatures from Princeton University. She is Full Professor in the Humanities Department at University of San Andrés, and an independent researcher at CONICET.

She published *Genealogías culturales. Argentina, Brasil y Uruguay en la novela contemporánea, 1980-1990, Modernidades Primitivas: tango, samba y nación, La experiencia opaca. Literatura y desencanto, Mundos en común. Ensayos sobre la inespecificidad en el arte*, and *Brasil Caníbal. Entre la Bossa Nova y la extrema derecha*. Her latest book, *La vida impropia*, has recently been published by Edivim.

She has translated texts by Silviano Santiago, Ana Cristina Cesar, João Guimarães Rosa and Clarice Lispector, and Gonçalo Tavares, among others.

She received the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship in 2008 and was appointed Tinker Visiting Professor at Stanford University in 2018.

**Richard Jacquemond**: After graduating in Law and Sociology, Richard Jacquemond studied Arabic language both in France and in Cairo. He was then appointed Director of the Translation Department of the French Cultural Mission in Egypt (1988-1995). This experience led him to write his Doctoral Thesis, which he published later as a book (English translation: *Conscience of the Nation. Writers, State and Society in Modern Egypt*, by David Tresilian, Cairo: AUC Press, 2008). Since 1999, he teaches modern Arabic language and literature at the University of Aix-Marseille, with the grade of full professor since 2010, and is affiliated as a researcher with the Institut de Recherches et d'Etudes sur les mondes arabes et musulmans (IREMAM, CNRS, Aix-en-Provence), of which he is the current director. He publishes his research in French, English and Arabic and is a member of the editorial board of *Alif, Journal of Comparative Poetics* (AUC Press), *The Translator* (Routledge/Taylor and Francis) and *Arabica* (Brill). When he was still studying Arabic, Richard Jacquemond started translating modern Arabic literature, mainly Egyptian. Since then, he has published more than twenty translations, among them eight novels by leading Egyptian writer Sonallah Ibrahim. He was awarded the Ibn Khaldoun Senghor Prize for his latest translation, Iman Mersal's *Sur les traces d'Enayat Zayyat* (Arles: Actes Sud, 2021).

**Rebecka Kärde** is a literary critic and translator based in Sweden and Germany. She is a staff writer at the newspaper Dagens Nyheter and has been published in numerous other publications, such as the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. Between 2018 and 2020, she was on the external committee for the Nobel Prize in Literature. Her criticism has received numerous awards, including the Swedish Academy's Prize for Criticism (2018) and the Axel Liffner Prize (2022).

As a translator, Kärde's focus lies primarily on German literature, though she also translates from English. "Alles umsonst" (Swedish title: "Allt förgäves", Albert Bonniers förlag 2022) by Walter Kempowski is her latest published translation.

She holds a BA in Ancient Greek from the University of Stockholm and is currently finishing her MA in Classical and Modern Literature at the University of Heidelberg. Other engagements include hosting the literary podcast "Gästabudet" and being on the editorial board for the magazine Aiolos. She is also a part-time cheesemonger.

**Daniel Kehlmann** was born in Munich in 1975 and lives in Berlin. His novels and plays have won numerous prizes, including the Candide Prize, the Doderer Prize, the Kleist Prize, the Thomas Mann Prize and the Per Olov Enquist Prize. 2016–2017 he was a fellow at the New York Public Library's Cullman Center for Writers and Scholars. His novel *Tyll* was shortlisted for the 2020 International Booker Prize.

**Zoltán Kulcsár-Szabó** received his PhD in Comparative Literature from Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) in Budapest. He is currently Professor and Chair of the Department of Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies at ELTE. Also, he is the Director of ELTE's Doctoral School of Literary Studies. Main fields of research: lyric theory, deconstructive criticism, performativity, Hungarian and German literature of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. He has published monographs in Hungarian and co-edited several volumes, among them *Transfer and Translation* (Budapest 2002), *Signaturen des Geschehens* (Bielefeld 2014), and *Life After Literature* (Cham 2020). His most recent volume *Jeltelen felhők között* (Budapest: Ráció, 2022) deals with the history of Hungarian poetry of the last hundred years.

**Camille Laurens** is a French writer. A winner of the 2000 Prix Femina for *Dans ces bras-là* (*In their arms*), she has authored ten novels and autofictional works, translated in more than 30 languages, among which her latest, *Girl: A Novel*, has become a world bestseller. She has also published several essays, among which *Little dancer aged fourteen* - a subject to which she devoted her PhD dissertation in 2021. A graduate of humanities, she taught literature, notably in Morocco and at Science-Po Paris. From 2002 to 2022, Camille Laurens regularly chronicled literary works in newspapers, notably in "Ecritures", appearing monthly in *Liberation*, and in a weekly serial in *Le Monde*. After twelve years at the jury for the Prix Femina (2007 to 2019), she is since 2020 a member of the Académie Goncourt.

**Laura McGrath** is an Assistant Professor of English at Temple University, where she teaches contemporary American literature and digital humanities. Prior to joining the faculty at Temple, she was the Associate Director of the Literary Lab at Stanford University. She is at work on her first book, *Middlemen: Literary Agents and the Making of Contemporary American Literature*, under contract with Princeton University Press. Her writing has been published or is forthcoming in *New Literary History*, *American Literary History*, *Post45*, *CA: The Journal of Cultural Analytics*, *The Atlantic*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and *Public Books*. Her essay in ALH, "Literary Agency" was awarded the 1921 Prize in American Literature. She is the founding co-editor of the Post45 Data Collective, and the "Culture Industries" section editor at *Public Books*. Her work has been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Mellon Foundation, the Smithsonian Institute of American History, ACLS, and the Big Ten.

**B. Venkat Mani** is Evjue-Bascom Professor of the Humanities and the Senior Race, Ethnicity, and Indigeneity Fellow at the Institute for Research in the Humanities at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he teaches German and World Literatures. He's the author of *Cosmopolitical Claims* (2007), *Recoding World Literature* (2017; winner of GSA's DAAD Book Prize and MLA's Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize) and editor, most recently of Wiley Blackwell's Companion to World Literature (2020) and *German Quarterly's* Forum: "World Literature, Against Isolationist Readings" (2021). He's published widely on World Literature, German

Studies, Comparative Literature, South Asian Literatures, Migration and Refugee Studies, and Book- and Library Histories. His public humanities essays can be read in *Inside Higher Ed*, *Telos*, *The Wire* (Hindi), *The Hindustan Times*, and *The Indian Express*. He's been a recipient of many grants and fellowships including the Alexander von Humboldt Experienced Researcher Fellowship, Mellon-Sawyer Seminar Grant, a residential fellowship at Zentrum für Literaturforschung, Berlin, and a Title VI National Resource Grant for the Center for South Asia. He also teaches at Harvard's Institute for World Literature. Mani is currently working on a monograph on refugees and the global novel.

**Christopher Odhiambo Joseph** Professor of Literature and Applied Drama at Moi University. Holds a PhD in Drama and Theatre Arts from Stellenbosch University (SA), MA Literature (Kenyatta University) Bachelor of Education Arts (English and Literature, Kenyatta University). Immediate former Dean of School of Graduate Studies, Research and Innovation; has published in the fields of Literature, Applied Drama/Theatre, Popular Culture and Film. Has presented papers and keynotes on topics in Literature, Theatre and Popular Culture in conferences and Seminars. A facilitator of theatre and drama workshops in Kenya and beyond. In 2007 was awarded a two-year Mellon Research Fellowship at Wits University at the Department of African Literature and Dramatic Art Division and participated in the development and implementation of Drama for Life curriculum. In 2013 was awarded Wits University's SPARC Distinguished Scholar Award and is also 2015 & 2022 Alexander van Humboldt Senior Research Fellow. Sampled publications- *Bodii and Other Ghettoes Stories* (2022). *Reimagining Kenya cinema 2022* eds. *Theatre for Development in Kenya: In Search of Appropriate Procedure and Methodology*; *African Theatre 19; Opera & Music Theatre* (2020) eds. *Orientations of Drama, Theatre and Culture*. (1998), "Power to the People?"—*Patronage, Intervention and Transformation in African Performance Arts*" (2019)

**Irina Prokhorova**, born in Moscow in 1956, is a culture historian, literary critic, editor and publisher, social activist. She graduated from the philological department of Moscow State University specializing in English and American literature. She wrote her Ph.D. thesis on English modernism. In 1992 she founded the first independent academic bimonthly in post-Soviet Russia, then a publishing house *New Literary Observer (NLO)* which at present produces three periodicals in humanities and social sciences, as well as over 100 books per year on literary criticism, philosophy, history, cultural studies, contemporary prose and poetry. Along with the journals and books she also established 3 annual conventions on interdisciplinary studies under the *NLO* auspices. She is hosting 2 radio programs on the pressing social and cultural issues. Irina Prokhorova is also the Co-founder of the Mikhail Prokhorov Charitable Fund which priority is the support and development of new Russian culture. Awards: The State Prize for "New Literary Observer" journal as the best educational project" (2002), The Liberty Prize for the contribution to Russian-American culture (2003); Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (France) (2005); Andrei Bely Literary Prize (2006); Legion of Honor Award (France) (2012).

**Sandra Richter**, Professor of German literature at the University of Stuttgart and director of the German Literature Archive Marbach, Heinz Maier-Leibnitz Prize, Philip Leverhulme Prize. She focuses on rhetoric, poetic and aesthetics, the history of literature (the literatures) and methodology. Her publications include *Eine Weltgeschichte der deutschen Literatur*. München: C. Bertelsmann 2017 (<sup>2</sup>2018, <sup>3</sup>2019), *A History of Poetics. German Scholarly Aesthetics and Poetics in International Context, 1800-1960* (2010) and a number of publications on the history of criticism (*Die "Ars poetica" des Horaz im 16. und 17. Jh.*, 2006, "Le Bayle de l'Allemagne". *Christian Thomasius und der europäische Refuge*, 2003, *Reformierte Morallehren und deutsche Literatur von Jean Barbeyrac bis Christoph Martin Wieland*, 2002, "Critica perennis", 2001).

**Lionel Ruffel** is a literary scholar, publisher, and author. Professor of Comparative Literature at Université Paris 8, he is the founding director of the creative writing program there. Among his recent projects, he has convened (together with artist Kader Attia) "Theory Now" at La Colonie in Paris, "The Publishing Sphere" at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt (Berlin), and "Radio Brouhaha" at Pompidou Center, Paris. Ruffel is the author of five monographs: *Le Dénouement* (2005); *Volodine post-exotique* (2007); *Brouhaha, Worlds of the Contemporary* (2016 French, 2018, English), *Trompe-la-mort* (2019), *I can't sleep* (2021). He's an associate publisher at Verdier Publishing House where he runs the series *chaôid*.

**Gisèle Sapiro** is Professor of Sociology at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales and Research director at the Centre national de la recherche scientifique, member of Academia Europaea, silver Medal of the CNRS 2021. Her areas of interest are the sociology of literature and of translation. She is the author of *La Guerre des écrivains, 1940-1953* (1999; Transl. *French Writers' War*, 2014), *La Responsabilité de l'écrivain* (2011), *La Sociologie de la littérature* (2014 ; trans. Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese, Turkish, English), *Les Ecrivains et la politique en France* (2018), *Peut-on dissocier l'œuvre de l'auteur ?* (2020), *Des mots qui tuent. La responsabilité de l'intellectuel en temps de crise, 1944-1953* (2020; trans. Spanish, Portuguese, Swedish, forth. Dutch and Korean). Among the books she edited: *Translatio. Le marché de la traduction en France à l'heure de la mondialisation* (2008), *Les Contradictions de la globalisation éditoriale* (2009), *L'Espace intellectuel en Europe* (2009), *Traduire la littérature et les sciences humaines* (2012), *Sciences humaines en traduction* (2014, online), *Ideas on the move in the Social Sciences and Humanities* (2020), and *Dictionnaire international Bourdieu* (2020).

**Zeruya Shalev** is the author of seven critically-acclaimed novels, two children's books, and a book of poetry. Many of her novels have become bestsellers around the world. Shalev was born in Kibbutz Kinneret and began writing poetry at a very young age. She has an MA in Biblical Studies, and was a literary editor at the Keter Publishing house. Throughout her career, Shalev has been awarded the Book Publisher Association's Gold and Platinum Prizes. Her second novel, *LOVE LIFE* – adapted into a film in 2008 – was included in *Der Spiegel's* "20 Best Novels in World Literature." Her third novel, *HUSBAND AND WIFE* won the Corine and Amphi prize. In 2014, *THE REMAINS OF LOVE* won the Prix Femina Etranger and the Welt-Literature Prize, and was included in *The Independent's* Books of the Year in Translation. In 2019, she won the Jan Michalski Prize for her novel *PAIN*. Apart from writing, Shalev has been active in "Women Wage Peace," a grassroots Israeli-Palestinian peace movement that focuses on building trust across social divides. In 2017, she was decorated as a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres. Her fiction has been translated into twenty-eight languages.

**Ronya Othmann** was born in Munich in 1993 and lives in Berlin. She works as a freelance author and journalist. She has received the MDR Literature Prize, the Caroline Schlegel Prize for Essay Writing, the Open Mike Poetry Prize, the Gertrud Kolmar Prize, and the Audience Award of the Ingeborg Bachmann Competition, among others. In 2018, she was on the jury of the Duhok International Film Festival in the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan, Iraq, and wrote the column "OrientExpress" on Middle East politics for the taz together with Cemile Sahin until August 2020. Since 2021, she has been writing the column "Import Export" for the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung*. Hanser recently published her debut novel *Die Sommer* (2020), for which she was awarded the Mara Cassens Prize, and the poetry collection *die verbrechen* (2021), for which she received the Orphil Debut Prize and the Düsseldorf Poetry Debut Prize. This year she is on the jury of the Prize for Contemporary Literatures in Translation of Haus der Kulturen der Welt. She is founding member of the aspiring PEN Berlin.

**Adam Soboczynski** was born in 1975 in Torun, Poland. He studied German and philosophy in Bonn, St. Andrews and Berkeley and worked primarily on Germ Literature of the Enlightenment and Classical periods. Soboczynski headed the culture department of the weekly newspaper "Die ZEIT", since 2021 he heads the literary department. He has published several non-fiction books and a novel. His new book "Dreamland. My Life Between West and East" is published in September and deals with Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

**Galin Tihanov** is the George Steiner Professor of Comparative Literature at Queen Mary University of London. He has held visiting professorships at universities in Europe, North and South America, and Asia. He is the author of six books, including *The Birth and Death of Literary Theory: Regimes of Relevance in Russia and Beyond* (Stanford UP, 2019) which won the 2020 AATSEEL Prize for "best book in literary studies". Tihanov has been elected to the British Academy (2021) and to Academia Europaea (2012); he is past president of the ICLA Committee on Literary Theory and member of the Executive Board of the Institute for World Literature at Harvard University, as well as honorary scientific advisor to the Institute of Foreign Literatures, CASS, Beijing. He is currently completing *Cosmopolitanism: A Very Short Introduction* for Oxford UP.

**Juan Gabriel Vásquez** was born in Bogotá, Colombia, in 1973. He is the author of eight works of fiction, including *The Sound of Things Falling*, winner of the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, *Reputations*, winner of the Premio Real Academia Española, *The Shape of the Ruins*, shortlisted for the Man Booker

International Prize, and *Retrospective*, winner of the Mario Vargas Llosa Biennial Award and the Prix du Meilleur Livre Étranger. His political journalism is published by newspapers all over the world, and his writings in defense of the Colombian peace process were compiled in a volume entitled *Los desacuerdos de paz (The Peace Disagreements)*. He has translated works by Joseph Conrad and Victor Hugo, amongst others, into Spanish. He was made Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Minister of Culture and received the Orden Isabel la Católica from the King of Spain. In 2022 he was distinguished as an International writer by the Royal Society of Literature; in May of this year he was made a member of the Colombian Academia de la Lengua. His work is published in 30 languages worldwide.

**XU XI** 許素細 (b. 1954) [xuxiwriter.com](http://xuxiwriter.com) is an Indonesian-Chinese novelist, fiction writer and essayist from Hong Kong who became a U.S. citizen. Author of sixteen books— five novels, nine collections of fiction and essays, one memoir and one co-authored textbook— she also edited or co-edited four anthologies of Hong Kong literature in English. Recent titles include *Monkey in Residence and Other Speculations* (Signal 8 UK, 2022), *This Fish is Fowl: Essays of Being* (Nebraska 2019), *Dear Hong Kong: An Elegy for a City* (Penguin, 2017), the novel *That Man in Our Lives* (C&R, 2016), and *The Art and Craft of Asian Stories* (co-authored, Bloomsbury, 2021). She was writer-in-residence at Arizona State University, the City University of Hong Kong, the University of Iowa, among others, and directed two international MFA programs in creative writing and literary translation. Earlier, she held management positions in Asia and the U.S. at the *Asian Wall Street Journal*, Federal Express, Pinkerton's. Co-founder of [Authors at Large](#), she is currently [William H.P. Jenks Chair in Contemporary Letters](#) at the College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts. A diehard transnational, she now splits life between New York and the rest of the world. Follow her @xuxiwriter.

**Mark McGurl** is a Professor of English at Stanford University. He is the author of three books, including *The Program Era: Postwar Fiction and the Rise of Creative Writing* and, most recently, *Everything and Less: The Novel in the Age of Amazon*, which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for Criticism.

**Mats Jansson** is a Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Gothenburg. He has been a visiting scholar at St. Edmund's College, Cambridge University, and at the Scandinavian Department, UC Berkeley. His research fields include literary criticism, lyrical modernism, reception history, and intermediality. He is the author of four monographs and has edited and co-edited seven volumes, most recently *Att skriva med ljus. 13 essäer om litteratur och fotografi* (2020, Writing with light. 13 essays on literature and photography). He has translated a selection of T. S. Eliot's literary criticism into Swedish in *Om kritik* (2002, On criticism).

**Ástráður Eysteinnsson** is professor of Comparative Literature (since 1994) at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik where he also served as Dean of Humanities from 2008 to 2015. He is affiliate professor of Icelandic literature at the University of Washington, Seattle, and has been a visiting professor at universities in the US, Canada, and Denmark. He has worked in the areas of literary and cultural theory, modernism, and translation studies, and is a practicing translator. His publications include co-translations of most of Franz Kafka's narrative works into Icelandic, numerous articles in the areas of literary, cultural and translation studies, and four books: *The Concept of Modernism* (1990), *Tvímæli* (on translation and translation studies, 1996), *Umbrot* (on literature and modernity, 1999), and *Orðaskil* (on literary translation, 2017). He has edited several books, including *Heimur skáldsögunnar* (The World of the Novel, 2001) *The Cultural Reconstruction of Places* (2006), *Translation – Theory and Practice: A Historical Reader* (with Daniel Weissbort, 2006), and *Modernism* (with Vivian Liska, 2 vols., 2007).

**Magnus William-Olsson** (b. 1960) is a poet, translator and critic. For many years he run a seminar on criticism as a form av art and knowledge, where critics as well as artist of all artforms and scholars attended. In 2016 he founded Kritiklabbet (the critique lab), investigating and experimenting on how various traditions of criticism can be prolonged and developed, esthetically, technically and financially, in the "New Public Sphere". Magnus William-Olsson has translated, among many others, Sappho, Antonio Gamoneda and Gloria Gervitz into Swedish. His own poetry is widely translated and he is the editor of two series of books. Magnus William-Olsson's critical works is almost exclusively dedicated to poetry and poetics.

**Rita Felski** is John Stewart Bryan Professor of English at the University of Virginia, former Niels Bohr Professor at the University of Southern Denmark, and former editor of *New Literary History*. She is the author of seven books, including *The Gender of Modernity* (1995), *Uses of Literature* (2008), *The Limits of Critique* (2015) and *Hooked: Art and Attachment* (2020) and editor or co-editor of four volumes, including *Critique and*

*Postcritique* (2017) and *Latour and the Humanities* (2020). She is currently writing a book connecting literary studies to the contemporary Frankfurt School.

**Phillipa Chong** is a cultural sociologist who specializes in how we define and evaluate worth: this includes the value we assign to social objects (e.g., books, paintings, knowledge, opinions, etc) and social groups (e.g., experts, artists, minority groups, etc). To date, her empirical focus has been on book reviewers as market intermediaries in the cultural market.

Her recent book, *Inside the Critics' Circle: Book Reviewing in Uncertain Times*, was published by Princeton University Press. In it, she explores how fiction reviewers engage in the dual project of constructing (i) the value of new novels in the absence of objective indicators of aesthetic quality; and (ii) the legitimacy of their professional judgments given the accepted subjectivity of taste.

She currently works as an Associate Professor in Sociology, and Scholar-in-Residence at the Sherman Centre in Digital Scholarship at McMaster University in Canada. Before arriving at her current post, she earned her PhD in Sociology from the University of Toronto, and was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Sociology at Harvard University.