

Our authors

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Albena Stambolova holds a PhD in Psychoanalytic Literary Theory and an MA from Sofia University, DEA in Semiotics and Psychoanalysis (University Paris VII, D. Diderot). From 1991 to 1999 she worked at the DEP (Department of Continuing Education) at the University Paris IX, Dauphine and taught courses at the University of Paris III, Censier. She has extensive experience in group and individual psychotherapy and has worked as an organizational consultant and expert in social psychology in France and Bulgaria. Since 2017 Ms. Stambolova is the Head of the Specialized Consultancy Unit at the New Bulgarian University. She has written four novels, two collections of short stories, and the monograph *Sickness into Death*, a psychoanalytic study. Her books have been published in the USA, Poland, the Czech Republic, and Serbia. She is working presently on a study of fairy tales. She has translated into Bulgarian works by R. Barthes, T. Todorov, G. Bachelard, C. Levi-Strauss, M. Mauss, M. Druon, M. Duras, J. Kristeva, D. Boulanger, R. Pouertolas, A. de Saint-Exupery etc.

Anand Raja teaches Sociology at the Prof. Rajendra Singh (Rajju Bhaiya) University, India. He is a graduate in Psychology from the University of Birmingham, UK, a Masters in Sociology from the University of Rajasthan, and holds a DPhil in Social Science from the TATA Institute of Social Sciences. His thesis, *Three Ways of Creating Symbols: Study of a Political Symbol*, is a study of the semiotic self-reflexivity of India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Raja is working on a project to look into the semiotics of the Ujjwala Yojna, an initiative to give cooking gas to the needy. His writing interests lie in the intersection of Semiotics, Social Theory, and Political Science, with an abiding tilt towards the individualist dimension.

Bogdana Paskaleva teaches Ancient and Medieval Literature and Literature of Western Europe at the Faculty of Slavic Studies, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Bulgaria. Her central scholar interests concern the problems of literary theory and

history, especially the literature of Classical Antiquity and Italian Renaissance, as well as the problems of visual and literary image. She is the author of a monograph dedicated to Ovid's *Metamorphoses*.

Elena Lazaridou holds a PhD from the Department of History and Ethnology at the Democritus University of Thrace. She also holds two Master's degrees, an MA in Intercultural Communication and an MA in Semiotics, Culture, and Communication from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Additionally, she has earned a Bachelor's degree in Italian Language and Literature (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) and graduated from the Public Relations and Communications Department at the University of Western Macedonia in Kastoria. Her research interests primarily focus on the semiotics of clothing, advertising, image, memory, and culture.

Frances Restuccia is a professor of English at Boston College, teaches contemporary theory, modernism, and the non-Western novel. She is the author of *James Joyce and the Law of the Father* (Yale UP); *Melancholics in Love: Representing Women's Depression and Domestic Abuse* (Rowman & Littlefield); *Amorous Acts: Lacanian Ethics in Modernism, Film, and Queer Theory* (Stanford UP); *The Blue Box: Kristevan/Lacanian Readings of Contemporary Film* (Continuum), and *Agamben's Political Ontology of Nudity in Literature and Art* (Routledge). She has published essays on Austen, Wharton, Woolf, Forster, Greene, Kundera, Sebald, Pamuk, Cha, Antoon, Gide, and Saint Augustine. She served for five years on the MLA Executive Division Committee on Psychology, Psychoanalysis, and Literature and has co-chaired the Psychoanalytic Practices seminar at the Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard for decades. She is currently working on the psychoanalytic underpinnings of Afropessimism as well as the intersection of psychoanalysis and Christianity as it emerges in Foucault's *Confessions of the Flesh*.

Jasmina Tacheva is Assistant Professor in the School of Information Studies at Syracuse University where she studies the social effects of data and artificial intelligence and co-directs the

Human-Centered Computing and Design Lab (HCC+D). Tacheva's main interest is at the intersection of technology and transnational queer and feminist theory, and her work in this area has appeared in journals such as *Big Data & Society*. She graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo with a PhD in Management and is currently working on her second doctorate in Comparative Literature.

Joanna Neykova was born in 1995 in Kazanlak. She completed her Bachelor's degree in Bulgarian Philology in 2018 and her Master's degree in Literary Studies in 2019 at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", with her master's thesis focusing on the multi-faceted representation of the city in Lawrence Durrell's 'The Alexandria Quartet'. From 2020 to 2024, she pursued her doctoral studies at the Department of Literary Theory, Sofia University. The title of her dissertation is *The Fragmentary Exigency and the Possibility of Literary Transgression*. Since 2021, she has been an honorary lecturer in Literary Theory at her Alma Mater. More broadly, Neykova is interested in modernist and postmodernist literature, avant-garde movements in art and literature, and contemporary philosophy.

Kamelia Spassova is an Associate professor of Comparative Literature and Chair of the Department of Theory and History of Literature at Sofia University, Bulgaria. She taught at the Philosophy Department of the Slavic Institute at the University of Cologne (2016–2018). Her book *Event and Example in Plato and Aristotle* (2012) explores the poetics of the example and her last book *Modern Mimesis. Self-Reflexivity in Literature* (2021) traces the transformations of the concept of mimesis in the 20th century. She is an editor of *Literary Journal* and the author of two books of poetry: *Plot No. 17* (2007) and *Kenosis – a Book of Emptiness* (2016). Her poems have been translated into English, German, Russian, Romanian, Greek, Turkish, Croatian, Danish, Serbian and Italian.

Lenka Vojtišková is a PhD student in the Semiotics and Philosophy of Communication Department at the Faculty of Humanities of Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. Her research

interests include semiology, theories of subjectivity, philosophy of literature and theoretical psychoanalysis. Her dissertation focuses on the philosophical and psychoanalytical roots of Kristeva's theory of intertextuality. She is the author of several articles on this topic, the co-editor of a volume *Sémiotika a ideologie* [*Semiotics and Ideology*], and the recipient of the 2023 Charles S. Peirce Young Scholar Award. She is currently working on the research project "The Relationship of Festival and Literature in Georges Bataille and Julia Kristeva", supported by the Charles University Grant Agency.

Lilia Trifonova (1995) is a PhD student and assistant professor at the Department of Theory of Literature at the Faculty of Slavic Studies, Sofia University. In 2019 she defended her MA thesis *Post-Impressionism in Roger Fry's Aesthetics and Virginia Woolf's Early Fiction* in the same department. In her dissertation she's working on the development of a typology of the figure of the femme fatale in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Western European literature.

Tanya Loughead is a philosopher and activist in Buffalo, NY. She is Professor in the Department of Philosophy at Canisius College where she is also President of the AAUP chapter and director of Women & Gender Studies. She completed her PhD at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium. Loughead specializes in Contemporary Continental Philosophy and has published on the works of Maurice Blanchot, Emmanuel Levinas, Simone Weil, Angela Davis, and Sara Ahmed, amongst others. She has published two books, *Critical University* (2015, Lexington) and *The Politics of Maturing* (2023, Lexington).