

Biographical Sketches of Contributors

Dr. Toming Jun Liu is tenured full professor in the Department of English at California State University, Los Angeles. Currently, he is also Qiantang Scholar Endowed Professor at Hangzhou Normal University in China. He serves on the editorial committees of three academic journals: *Journal of East-West Thought* (USA), *Foreign Literature* (China) and *Chinese Translators Journal* (China). Liu was born in China and was educated in China, UK, and USA, with his Ph.D. in English from University of Massachusetts at Amherst (1992). Liu has published more than forty essays, in both English and Chinese, on a wide range of subjects such as: William Faulkner, Nietzsche, Baudelaire, Freud, Derrida, Mu Xin, deconstruction, the Enlightenment, modernity and postmodernity, diasporic literature, cultural translation, trans-civilizational imagination, memory and Chinese nationalisms, influence of Chinese ancient classics on modern Western literature, and so on. He is the author of two book-length studies: *Modernity in Fugue: Revelations from 19th Century European Literature* (2008) and *A History of American Literature* (Revised and expanded, 2008). In addition, he writes columnist articles for *Southern Weekend*, an independent-thinking newspaper in China. In his earlier career, Liu worked as a professional translator at the Secretariat of the United Nations in New York. As a translator, he has published dozens of texts of translation, including two books: Mu Xin's *An Empty Room: Stories* (New Directions, 2011) and *Cao Cao and Yang Xiu: A Beijing Opera* (Anhui Wenyi, 2012). Dr. Liu is the Editor of this Special Literary Issue of JET.

Dr. Zlatan Filipovic teaches English Literature at the University of Gothenburg and University of Jönköping, Sweden. He has a PhD and a Master of Research in English & Comparative Literature from Goldsmiths, University of London with a focus on deconstruction, post structuralism and ethics. He has an MA from Uppsala University, Sweden in Philosophy. Dr. Filipovic has organized seminars and given papers on a number of ACLA and other conferences. He has published various articles on Proust, Levinas, Benjamin, and Rushdie, among others. He is currently working on a project that focuses on ethics and politics in Paul de Man's writing intended for a monograph publication as well as on a research project that pivots on the poetics of shame in Levinas and the way it may inform our understanding of diasporic and transnational fiction.

Ms. Samantha Goldasich is an independent scholar. Originally from Harbor City, CA, she received her MA in English literature at California State University, Los Angeles in 2012, and her BA from California State University, Long Beach in 2009 in English Education with a minor in Creative Writing. Her studies in the MA program focused on European Modernism. Goldasich currently resides in Torrance, CA with her parents John and Cheryl, and she recently became engaged to her best friend Daryl.

Dr. Atef Laouyene is Assistant Professor of English at California State University, Los Angeles. His research interests include Anglophone literatures, Post colonialism, Critical Theory, and Arab diaspora studies. He has published a number of articles on the discourse of exoticism in postcolonial writing and on Arab culture and literature. He is currently working on a manuscript tentatively

titled *The Post-Exotic Arab: Orientalist Dystopias in Contemporary Postcolonial Fiction*.

Dr. Ou Li is Assistant Professor at the Department of English, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. She is the author of *Keats and Negative Capability* (London & New York: Continuum, 2009). Her research interests include Romantic poetry, Modernist poetry, and poetic tradition. She is currently working on a project, "Revolution, Repression and the Literature of Recollection".

Dr. Roberto Cantú (b. Guadalajara, México) is tenured full professor of Chicano Studies and English at California State University, Los Angeles, where he has taught since 1974. His areas of specialization are Mexican, Mexican-American, and Latin American literatures. He has edited a book titled *Tradition and Innovation in Mesoamerican Cultural History* (Munich: LINCOM, 2011), and is currently editing two books: *The Willow and the Spiral: Essays on Octavio Paz and the Poetic Imagination*, and *An Insatiable Dialectic: Essays on Critique, Modernity, and Humanism*. As project director of the Gigi-Gaucher Morales Memorial Conference Series at Cal State L.A., he has organized conferences on Mesoamerica (2009), Octavio Paz (2010), Modernity, Critique, and Humanism (2011), Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz (2011) and on Carlos Fuentes (2012). Cantú was recently honored by his campus colleagues with the 2010 President's Distinguished Professor Award.

Dr. Margarita Nieto is a native of Los Angeles, art historian, literary critic and writer. Dr. Margarita Nieto holds a PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles and is a tenured full professor at California State University, Northridge. She has been a Smithsonian Institution Senior Post-doctoral fellow at the Archives of American Art and has also been awarded a grant from the California Council of the Humanities for her exhibition and forthcoming book, "Gardens Telling Stories: The Japanese Gardens of West Los Angeles." She has also been invited to lecture in Mexico, South America and Europe under the auspices of the United States Information Agency (USIA). Her articles, critical texts and essays on California art history and Latin American art history and Latin American literature and writers have appeared in journals, catalogues and mainstream publications. Her fields of study include a monograph on the Mexican and California painter, Alfredo Ramos Martinez, (2010) and publications on Rufino Tamayo, Vladimir Cora, Rodrigo Pimentel, José Luis Cuevas and prominent Chicano artists Carlos Almaraz, John Valadez and the Chicano Collective "Los Four." She has also written on and translated the works of Octavio Paz, Carlos Fuentes and other Mexican and Latin American writers.