

## List of Contributors

**Bärbel Höttges** is assistant professor of American Studies at the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, Germany. She has done research at the University of California, Irvine, and at Columbia University, New York. Her main areas of research are ethnic fiction, colonial literature, literature and film, grief writing, and life writing. She is currently working on her Habilitation on death and grief in American literature and culture. Her publications include *Faith Matters: Religion, Ethnicity, and Survival in Toni Morrison's and Louise Erdrich's Fiction* (Heidelberg: Winter, 2006).

**Katie Ellis** is an adjunct researcher at the Centre for Research in Entertainment, Arts, Technology, Education & Communications at Edith Cowan University in Western Australia. She is interested in how media and communications shape the experience and interpretation of disability and illness, and, as such, her research intersects across cultural studies of disability, media, youth and gender. She has taught film and television courses at several Universities in Western Australia and has participated in many feature, documentary and short film productions in various capacities. She is the author of *Disabling Diversity: The Social Construction of Disability in 1990s Australian National Cinema* (2008, VDM Verlag) and is currently co-writing a manuscript on *Disability and Web 2.0* with Dr Mike Kent as part of Routledge's *Studies in New Media and Cyberculture* series. Katie also remains committed to helping students with disability achieve their academic goals through her work in disability support at The University of Western Australia (Crawley). For more information about Dr. Ellis visit her website [www.katieellis.com](http://www.katieellis.com).

**Elizabeth J. Donaldson** is chair of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program and Associate Professor of English at New York Institute of Technology ([edonalds@nyit.edu](mailto:edonalds@nyit.edu)). She teaches courses in American literature, writing, and medical humanities, and her research interests include disability studies and cultural studies of mental illness and psychiatry. She has published on essays on mental illness in film, physiognomy and madness in *Jane Eyre*, teaching Melville online, and the poetry of Amy Lowell, among other subjects. She is currently co-editing, with Catherine Prendergast, a special edition on "Disability and Emotion" for the *Journal of Literary & Cultural Disability Studies*.

**Aimee Burke Valeras** attended Boston College for her undergraduate and MSW degrees and Arizona State University for her doctorate in social work. She has presented nationally and internationally on the topic of disability and qualitative research methodology. She currently lives in Concord, NH, working in an educational and clinical medical social work role with the New Hampshire Dartmouth Family Medicine Residency at a community health clinic for uninsured and underinsured people.

**Stella Bolaki** holds a PhD from the University of Edinburgh, where she teaches courses in English and American literature. Her research interests lie mainly in the fields of contemporary American literature, with a focus on multiethnic fiction and gender. She has published on topics as diverse as cultural translation, queer diasporas, narratives of community, loss and mourning, and on writers such as Jamaica Kincaid, Sandra Cisneros, Maxine Hong Kingston, and Audre Lorde. She is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH) at the University of Edinburgh, working on a cross-media interdisciplinary project ‘Poetics, Identity, and Witnessing in Contemporary Narratives of Illness and Disability.’ She is also Co-Director of the Scottish Universities’ International Summer School, based in Edinburgh.

**Julia Mason** is an assistant professor of Women and Gender Studies at Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Michigan, USA. She earned her doctorate in American Culture Studies, with graduate certificates in Women’s Studies and Ethnic Studies, from Bowling Green State University and a Master of Arts in American Indian Studies from The University of Arizona.