

List of Contributors

Ralph J. Poole is Professor of American Studies at Salzburg University. From 2004 - 2008 he was Associate Professor of English at Fatih University in Istanbul, Turkey. He studied English, American, and German Literature, Musicology and Psychology at Heidelberg, Munich and New York where he was also visiting scholar at the Center for Advanced Studies in Theater Arts at the City University. He received his Ph.D. and Habilitation from Munich University, Germany, was post-doctoral fellow at the Postgraduate Center for "Gender and Literature" in Munich, and taught at Venice International University, Italy. His publications include *Performing Bodies: Transgressions of Gender Boundaries in the Theatre of the Avant-Garde* (1996) and *Cannibal (P)Acts: Satirical and Autoethnographical Writing as Intercultural Negotiation from Herman Melville to Marianne Wiggins* (2005). He also edited a collection on melodrama with his colleague Ilka Saal, called *Passionate Politics: The Cultural Work of American Melodrama from the Early Republic to the Present* (2008).

Tobias Schmidt is a Ph.D. candidate in American and English Studies at the University of Cologne. His master's thesis dealt with the Deleuzian conception of knowledge as a topology of and on specific planes. Currently, he is working in the field of television and media studies with a project focusing on different aspects of violence in American Sitcoms.

Dirk Schulz is a postdoctoral researcher at the English Department of the University of Cologne. He has a Master's degree in English/American Studies, Philosophy, and German Studies (2000) and completed his Ph.D. with a dissertation entitled *Setting the Record Queer. The Question of Performativity in The Picture of Dorian Gray, Mrs. Dalloway, and their Recent Rewritings* in 2008. He teaches courses in anglophone literature and culture as well as critical theory and recent publications deal with popular culture, semiotics and gender theory.

Anne Lauppe-Dunbar was born in South Africa to parents who had escaped Germany during World War II and were subsequently faced with living in the apartheid system. Returning briefly to Germany then Scotland and eventually England, Anne developed a strong relationship with her German relatives; along with a lifelong passion to write about the former German Democratic Republic.

In 2003 Anne was awarded a bursary at Swansea University, to study for an MA in Creative and Media writing, earning a distinction. Currently she is lecturing in Creative Writing at Swansea University and completing her Creative Writing PhD. Her novel and thesis *Dark*

Mermaids is based on the doping scam 'Theme 14.25' during the time of former German Democratic Republic. The story of this hidden past told through the voice of a former GDR Olympic swimmer. The novel will be published in 2012.