

Oswald Yuan-chin Chang

Yuan-chin Chang received his MA from the National Chengchi University in Taiwan in English and American Literature. He has previously published articles in *Journal of National Taichung Institute of Technology*, and his article on "...the Tension between Political Commentary and Existential Drama in Athol Fugard's *Sizwe Bansi is Dead*" is forthcoming in *Languages, Literary Studies and International Studies*. Chang is currently teaching Applied English Studies at the China University of Technology in Taiwan.

Yomi Daramola

Yomi Daramola is a lecturer in African Music, Musicology, Music Theory, and Music Performance at the Department of Music, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria. His research interests are in the areas of Ethnomusicology, Traditional (African) Music, Popular Music, Islamic and Islamized Music.

Steven Drakeley

Steven Drakeley PhD (University of Sydney) is a Senior Lecturer in Asian and International Studies in the School of Humanities and Languages at the University of Western Sydney, where he has taught for the last ten years. He is the author of *The History of Indonesia*, Greenwood Press, 2005 and of several book chapters and articles, and is currently researching the role of Islam in the first 25 years of post-independence Indonesian political history.

Juno Galang

Juno Galang has been writing creative fiction and poetry since childhood. As a student, she has completed several units of *English, Text and Writing* and *History, Politics and Philosophy* at the University of Western Sydney and is currently looking forward to new and different paths.

Nizar F. Hermes

Originally from Tunisia, Nizar F. Hermes is a PhD Candidate and Research Assistant at the Centre of Comparative Literature, the University of Toronto. He has published several articles and creative pieces both in English and Arabic in the U.S.A, Canada, and Britain. Forthcoming is a book entitled *Al Tajer's Journey to the Orient: A Ninth-Century Arab Merchant's Remarkable Account of India and China* (Sep. 2008: Markus Wiener Publishers, Princeton, USA). He is expecting to complete his PhD Thesis: 'Ifrajalism': Images of the [European] Other in Medieval Arabic Culture and Literature in March 2008. Routledge and Brill, among others, have expressed their interest in publishing the thesis in the latest Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada: November 17-20 (2007).

Yasmin Ibrahim

Yasmin Ibrahim is a Senior Lecturer in the division of Information and Media Studies at the University of Brighton where she lectures in globalisation and the media and political communication. Her main research interests include the use of the Internet for empowerment and political communication in repressed polities and diasporic communities, global governance and the development of alternative media theories in non-Western contexts.

Hatim Mahamid

Hatim Mahamid is a lecturer in the Dept. of Middle Eastern Studies at Ben-Gurion University. He received his PhD from Tel Aviv University in 2001, where he specialized in the History of Medieval Islam, from Fatimid to Late Mamluk Egypt and Syria. He has published numerous journal articles and contributed to three critical anthologies as well as presenting papers at numerous conferences. His book *Al-Tatawwurat fi Nizam al-Hukm wal-Idara fi Misr al-Fatimiyya* was published by al-Asil in Jerusalem in 2001.

Zaid N. Mahir

Zaid N. Mahir is a current faculty member of the University of Baghdad (College of Languages), a professional translator, and a writer. His translations include literary articles, critiques, book reviews, narrative, poetry, and two books, and have been published in Iraq and other Arab countries. He reviewed and annotated (in English) Arabic books on folklore, popular literature, and oral tradition for the Center for Studies in Oral Tradition at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he pursues graduate research towards obtaining a Ph.D. in English Literature. He is also translating into English his Arabic war-novel, *The Way to Baghdad: Day 18 of the War*. Among Mahir's research interests are multiculturalism and cross-cultural influences on the literary text.

Wisam Mansour

Wisam Mansour is a professor of English literature and literary theory at Fatih University in Istanbul. He previously taught at various universities in Jordan, Cyprus, Lithuania and Turkey. Dr. Mansour has more than 60 papers published in academic and professional journals and books, many of which are indexed in the *Arts and Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI)*.

Ryan McIlhenny

Ryan McIlhenny is a Teaching Assistant, at the University of California (Irvine), in World History. He received his Masters from California State University and his PhD on radical slave abolition rhetoric in the 19th century, from the University of

California. His article “The Austin T.E.A. Party: Home School Controversy in Texas, 1986-1994” appeared in *Religion and Education* (Vol. 30. No. 2). He has presented papers at the 4th Annual Religious Studies Symposium (Florida State University, 2005) and at the 27th Mid-America Conference on History (at the University of Kansas, 2005).

Federico Sabatini

Federico Sabatini has a Phd in Comparative Literature and currently teaches at Turin University (Italy). His literary and philosophical research deals with issues of space and perception and their visual and literary recreations in the arts of the XXth century. He has also specialized in gender studies by focussing on the relationship between gender identity and autobiography. In 2007, he has published the book *Im-marginable. Lo spazio di Joyce Beckett and Genet* (“Im-marginable. The Space of Joyce, Beckett and Genet”) which has been inserted in the annual bibliography of Samuel Beckett studies. He regularly writes for peer-reviewed magazine *Lindice*, where he reviews contemporary novels written in English, as well as for other magazines in which he has featured with a number of articles and short stories.

Joseph Taylor

Joseph Taylor is completing a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Western Sydney, Australia. He is passionate about the multifarious history of the land of Iraq and its many peoples including the history and culture of the Iraqi Assyrians to which he feels he belongs. This is his first published work.