

A biographical note on the authors

Isabel Alonso-Breto is a lecturer on postcolonial cultures and literatures in English at the University of Barcelona. She has published articles on writing by women of Canadian, Caribbean, Indian and Sri Lankan origin. She is a member of CEA (The Centre for Australian Studies at the University of Barcelona) and of LITPOST, a research group devoted to the study of postcolonial literatures and emerging arts.

Sue Ballyn has lived in Spain since 1968. She taught English at a secondary school and at a language academy for fourteen years. She did her BA and PhD in English at the Universitat de Barcelona, joining the staff of the English Department in 1982. Her PhD on Australian poetry was the first in Spain on any Australian subject and since then she has continued her research in the area, concentrating over the last twenty years on convict studies. Over the last five years she has become involved in Human Rights and the elderly both in Spain and England. Her teaching areas are Australian Studies, Postcolonial Studies and English poetry at both under and postgraduate levels. She is the founder and Director of the Observatory: Australian Studies Centre at the university and editor of its online journal *Coolabah*. She has co-edited a number of books, among them *Changing Geographies: Australia and the Millennium* (2001) and has over 70 publications in journals and chapters in books.

Jaime de Córdoba Benedicto was born in Barcelona in 1961. He is a Professor in Fine Arts at the University of Barcelona and member of the Faculty of Fine Arts PhD programme. He has held individual exhibitions of his sculptures and drawings in Barcelona, Madrid, Gerona, The Hague, Amsterdam and Brussels. He currently works on public art projects for several architects in Barcelona. His sculptures have been acquired by public and private collections in Europe, South Korea and the USA.

Elisa Morera de la Vall is a former Associate Lecturer of the English Department at the Universitat de Barcelona and currently the Public Relations Officer and Publications Co-editor of its Australian Studies Centre. Her areas of interest and research are in the cultures and literatures of former British colonies and her main research area is Jewish fiction writers in Australia, which she formalised in her PhD (2003) on this subject. She has taught history, culture and literature of Nigeria, Canada, India, Australia, New Zealand and the Caribbean, and has presently taken an interest in Afghanistan. She has presented papers at conferences both home and abroad, published articles and papers in various journals, and contributed a chapter to the book *Anglophone Jewish Literature* (Routledge 2007).

Bill Phillips is a senior lecturer in the English and German Studies Department at the University of Barcelona. He has taught a number of courses on British poetry over the years, as well as more general courses on British, Canadian, Caribbean and other postcolonial literatures. His research and publication interests include ecocriticism, popular fiction (particularly detective and science fiction) and gender studies.

Martin Renes holds a PhD in English by the University of Barcelona and is assistant lecturer for the literature section of its Department of English. His main area of interest is the study of film and novels from a postcolonial point of view. He dedicated his minor thesis to contemporary mainstream fiction dealing with the cultural interface of

Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia, and his doctoral thesis explored the uncanny aspects of rewriting Australianness through Indigenous literature. He is vice-director of the University of Barcelona's interdisciplinary *Observatory: Australian Studies Centre*.

Catalina Ribas Segura is a teacher at the Department of Languages at the University College Alberta Giménez and runs its International Relations Office. She is also a PhD candidate at the University of Barcelona, where she furthers her research on Chinese and Greek migrant literature in Australia. She is a member of the Australian Studies Centre and in 2007 she was the guest editor of its first number *Coolabah 1: This Foreign Country*.