

Editorial Note

1 *Review Section*

The editors of *JLS/TLW* have decided to replace the review section with a review essay section and announcements of new books, thereby achieving two objectives. Firstly, we hope to provide authors with the opportunity of developing their comments into comprehensive critiques of particular topics or fields of study. Secondly, we aim at rendering a service to our readers by reporting on the latest publications pertaining to literary theory.

We envisage review essays in which one or more books on a specific subject will be discussed and which will, by implication, preferably constitute a re-appraisal of some aspect of literary theory. Review essays should be the same length as articles to qualify as “overview articles” which, contrary to “ordinary” reviews, can be considered for subsidy in terms of categories specified by the Department of National Education. Should review essays be accepted for publication in an accredited journal, they will qualify for subsidy after being subjected to the same selection process valid for all articles submitted to *JLS/TLW*.

We invite contributions to the review essay section. If you need further information, please contact either the editors or the review editor. We hope to create a forum for debate and discussion on issues of a literary-theoretical nature and which have bearing on the present and future of literary studies in South Africa.

2 *Special Issues: General Guidelines*

The editors wish to encourage initiatives and proposals for future special issues of *JLS/TLW*. While the journal has, as its specific focus, research within literary theory, this discipline continues to make connections with a variety of other disciplines, practices and sites of intellectual interest. Broadly, literary theory occupies a central position within current research into forms of human knowledge, the technologies of culture and meaning, and the relation between language and power. The range of topics and problems which could be located within these fields of inquiry is enormous. Moreover, as South African universities and their academic departments undergo accelerated change, new pedagogical imperatives and possibilities require scholarly attention.

JLS/TLW may act as a forum for a range of positions and interests which intersects with the concerns of literary theory, methodology and criticism. Furthermore, it is anticipated that special issues may attract topical and focused debate in response to the papers presented, in subsequent issues of the journal.

3 *Reconsidering Literatures: Directions in South African Literary Studies* *Festschrift for Andries W. Oliphant*

In a 2004 article, Andries W. Oliphant writes that “a national literature does not exist in South Africa. [...] Taken separately or together, [the distinct literatures of the country] do not constitute a national literature”, since such a national literature “presupposes a single all-embracing narrative with a nationalist theme in which all the literatures are shown to have participated over time” (2004: 22-23). More than fifteen years later, one wonders how much has changed since. The socio-cultural pendulum seems to be swinging away from what Oliphant in the

early years of the century called a “putative post-nationalist epoch of globalisation”, with its concomitant questioning of the nation-state and acceptance of “multiplicity, diversity and difference” (2004: 23). It seems apt to ask, then, whether literature and our conceptions of literary studies have similarly changed direction(s).

The *Journal of Literary Studies* would like to invite abstracts for a Festschrift in honour of Prof. Oliphant for his contributions to literary studies and culture in South Africa. Oliphant is well known as literary scholar and author in South Africa and abroad. For many years, he headed the Theory of Literature section in the Department of Afrikaans and Theory of Literature at the University of South Africa (Unisa), in addition to serving as one of the editors of the *Journal of Literary Studies*, the journal of the Literature Association of South Africa (LASA; formerly SAVAL/SASGLS) and advising the South African Department of Arts and Culture on numerous policies during the course of the last 25 years. In addition to his many contributions to the field of literary studies, he has also received the Thomas Pringle Award for Short Stories.

Interested scholars are invited to submit contributions of around 6000 words that engage broadly with any of the following topics:

- The transformation and decolonisation of South African literary studies.
- Writing, publishing and reading practices beyond the language silos set by apartheid.
- South African literatures on the world stage.
- Transnationalism, post-transitionality, Rainbow nationalism and South African exceptionalism.
- Resurgent nationalism and ethnicism and their impacts on literature and literary studies.
- Genres in South African literature(s).
- Comparative perspectives (locally, but also beyond South Africa).

While the point of departure for the collection is the diverse literary landscape of South Africa, contributions focusing on other regions and languages are also welcomed in the interest of including broader comparative perspectives. Contributions will be subject to a double-blind peer review process.

The Festschrift will be published as a special issue of the *Journal of Literary Studies* and will be edited by Dr Reinhardt Fourie (Department of English Studies, Unisa), Prof. Alan Northover (Department of Afrikaans and Theory of Literature, Unisa) and Prof. Hein Viljoen (Research Unit: Languages and Literature in the South African Context, North-West University). Contributions can be in English or Afrikaans. Abstracts of around 300 words should be submitted by 1 March 2021. Complete articles will be due by 1 June 2021. All submissions can be sent to Dr Reinhardt Fourie (fourir@unisa.ac.za).

The *Journal of Literary Studies* is indexed in the Arts and Humanities Citation Index (AHCI) of Web of Science; the British Humanities Index; the Humanities International Index; the Index to South African Periodicals; Scopus; and the MLA International Bibliography. It is published by Taylor & Francis in collaboration with Unisa Press.

Redaksionele nota

1 *Resensieafdeling*

Die redaksie van *JLS/TLW* het besluit om die resensieafdeling te verander om voorsiening te maak vir afdelings oor sowel resensieartikels as die aankondiging van nuwe boeke. Ons hoop om twee doelwitte met hierdie verandering te bereik. In die eerste plek wil ons outeurs graag die geleentheid bied om hulle kommentaar te ontwikkel tot uitgebreide kritieke van spesifieke onderwerpe of studieterreine. In die tweede plek wil ons 'n diens aan lesers lewer deur verslag te doen van resente literêr-teoretiese publikasies.

Ons stel resensieartikels in die vooruitsig wat oor die bespreking van een of meer resente boeke oor 'n spesifieke onderwerp, verkieslik 'n hertaksering van een of ander literêr-teoretiese aspek, sal handel. Die lengte van dergelike resensieartikels moet ooreenstem met die lengte van artikels ten einde te kan kwalifiseer as “oorsigartikels” wat, anders as wat die geval is met “gewone” resensies, oorweeg kan word vir subsidie in ooreenstemming met die kategorieë wat deur die Departement van Nasionale Opvoeding gespesifiseer is. Aangesien resensieartikels wat in geakkrediteerde tydskrifte geplaas word in aanmerking kom vir subsidie, sal hierdie bydraes ook onderhewig wees aan dieselfde keuringsproses wat geld vir enige artikel wat aan die tydskrif vir publikasie voorgelê word.

Ons nooi medewerkers uit om resensieartikels voor te lê. Indien u verdere inligting verlang, kontak asseblief die redakteurs of die resensieredakteur. Ons hoop om 'n debatsforum te skep vir die bespreking van vraagstukke van 'n literêr-teoretiese aard, wat ook betrekking het op die huidige en toekomstige aard van literatuurstudie in Suid-Afrika.

2 *Spesiale uitgawes: Algemene riglyne*

Die redaksie wil graag inisiatiewe en voorstelle vir toekomstige spesiale uitgawes van *JLS/TLW* aanmoedig. Die tydskrif het wel navorsing binne die literêre teorie as spesifieke fokus, dog dit het ook raakpunte met 'n verskeidenheid ander dissiplines, praktyke en terreine van algemene belang. In die breë gesien, beklee literêre teorie 'n sentrale plek ten opsigte van die huidige bestel rakende fasette van mensekennis, die tegnologieë van kultuur en betekenis, en die relasie tussen taal en magsoorwig. Moontlikhede vir die bespreking van onderwerpe en probleme aangaande die onderhawige terreine is legio. Aangesien Suid-Afrikaanse universiteite en hulle akademiese departemente tans teen 'n versnelde pas veranderinge ondergaan, noop die nuwe pedagogiese imperatiewe en moontlikhede kundige bemoeienis.

Die *JLS/TLW* kan dus as 'n forum dien vir standpunte en spitspunte wat die belange van literêre teorie, metodologie en kritiek by mekaar kan uitbring. Spesiale uitgawes word in die vooruitsig gestel wat, in antwoord op die gepubliseerde artikels, aktuele en doelgerigte debat sal uitlok, wat in die daaropvolgende uitgawes van die tydskrif sal verskyn.

3 *Letterkundes heroorweeg: Rigtings in die Suid-Afrikaanse literatuurstudie Festschrift vir Andries W. Oliphant*

In 2004 skryf Andries W. Oliphant dat 'n nasionale letterkunde nie in Suid-Afrika bestaan nie: “Taken separately or together, [the distinct literatures of the country]

do not constitute a national literature, [since such a national literature] presupposes a single all-embracing narrative with a nationalist theme in which all the literatures are shown to have participated over time” (2004:22-23). Meer as vyftien jaar later wonder ’n mens hoeveel verandering sedertdien plaasgevind het. Dit lyk tans of die sosio-kulturele pendulum aan ’t wegswaai is van dit wat Oliphant in die vroeë jare van die eeu genoem het ’n “putative post-nationalist epoch of globalisation”, met die gepaardgaande bevraagtekening van die nasiestaat en die aanvaarding van “multiplicity, diversity and difference” (2004:23). Daar kan daarom tereg gevra word of die letterkunde en ons opvattinge oor die literatuurstudie insgelyks van rigting(s) verander het.

Die *Tydskrif vir Literatuurwetenskap* nooi navorsers uit om opsommings voor te lê vir ’n Festschrift ter ere van prof. Oliphant vir sy bydraes tot die literatuurstudie en kultuur in Suid-Afrika. Oliphant is welbekend as literator en outeur in Suid-Afrika en internasionaal. Hy was baie jare lank die hoof van die Literatuurwetenskapafdeling van die Departement Afrikaans en Algemene Literatuurwetenskap aan die Universiteit van Suid-Afrika (Unisa), terwyl hy ook gedien het as een van die redakteurs van die *Tydskrif vir Literatuurwetenskap*, die tydskrif van die Letterkundeassosiasie van Suid-Afrika (LASA; voorheen SAVAL/-SASGLS) en in die loop van die afgelope 25 jaar ook die Suid-Afrikaanse Departement van Kuns en Kultuur van raad bedien het oor beleid. Benewens sy vele bydraes tot die literatuurstudie, is hy ook die ontvanger van die Thomas Pringle-prys vir Kortverhale.

Belangstellende navorsers word uitgenooi om bydraes van ongeveer 6000 woorde voor te lê wat breedweg oor enige van die volgende onderwerpe handel:

- Die transformasie en dekolonisasie van die Suid-Afrikaanse literatuurstudie.
- Skryf-, uitgee- en leespraktyke verby die taalsilo’s van apartheid.
- Suid-Afrikaanse letterkundes op die wêreldtoneel.
- Transnasionale, post-transnasionale, Reënboognasionalisme en Suid-Afrikaanse uitsonderlikheid.
- Hernieude nasionalisme en etnisisme en die uitwerking daarvan op die letterkunde en die literatuurstudie.
- Genres in die Suid-Afrikaanse letterkunde(s).
- Vergelykende perspektiewe (plaaslik, maar ook van buite Suid-Afrika).

Hoewel die bundel die diverse literêre landskap van Suid-Afrika as vertrekpunt neem, word bydraes wat op ander streke en tale fokus ook verwelkom ter wille van die insluiting van breër vergelykende perspektiewe. Bydraes sal dubbelblind gekeur word deur twee eweknieë.

Die Festschrift sal uitgegee word as ’n spesiale uitgawe van die *Tydskrif vir Literatuurwetenskap*, met as gasredakteurs dr. Reinhardt Fourie (Departement Engels, Unisa), prof. Alan Northover (Departement Afrikaans en Algemene Literatuurwetenskap, Unisa) en prof. Hein Viljoen (Navorsingseenheid: Tale en Literatuur in die Suid-Afrikaanse Konteks, Noordwes-Universiteit). Bydraes kan in Afrikaans of Engels wees. Opsommings van ongeveer 300 woorde moet voorgelê word teen 1 Maart 2021. Artikels word teen 1 Junie 2021 ingewag. Alle bydraes kan aan dr. Reinhardt Fourie gestuur word (fourir@unisa.ac.za).

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Contributors

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Her research interests include the history of urban development and the culture of crime and policing. She is the author of *Modern Women in China and Japan* (2012) and the co-editor of *Cityscapes in History* (2014). She is also the co-editor of the “Pacific Worlds” series from the University of Nebraska Press, covering the histories and cultures of the Pacific.

Mzukisi Jerrey Lento graduated with PhD from the University of South Africa in English Studies in 2015. His PhD focussed on Double Consciousness in African American Autobiographies. Dr. Lento is a senior lecturer in the department of English Studies where he teaches African Literature in English. Dr Lento has published articles in accredited journals such as *Imbizo* and *Commonwealth Youth and Development*. Dr Lento’s current interests are in African American Literature, popular culture and African Literary studies.

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He has been combining his work as literature teacher and researcher with his duties of Director of University Outreach of (UPV/EUH) in Álava and his hobby as fantasy writer.

Jessica Murray is a full professor in the Department of English Studies at University of South Africa. As a Commonwealth scholar, she obtained her PhD at the University of York. Her current research project investigates how gender, race, class and species privilege intersect to render specific life forms vulnerable to extreme forms of cruelty and exploitation. As a NIHSS mentor, she is active in South African doctoral capacity development initiatives, and she was awarded the Unisa Chancellor’s Prize for Excellence in Research in 2012.

Florence Y. Ndiyah obtained her PhD in Creative Writing from the University of Pretoria, South Africa, after a Master's degree from Lancaster University, UK. Apart from being a creative writer, she is also a budding public health researcher, given her background in Microbiology/Laboratory Technology and Public Health. She has mostly worked as a freelance writer and consultant with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in and out of her native Cameroon.

Harry Sewlall, a rated researcher of the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa, is an extraordinary professor at North-West University (South Africa). He is an alumnus of Unisa and North-West University, where, respectively, he obtained his MA cum laude on Philip Larkin and PhD on the early works of Joseph Conrad. A former inspector of schools, he joined academia in 1997 and has taught at Vista, Unisa, Fort Hare, North-West and Venda. His fields of interest include Joseph Conrad, Zakes Mda, Animal Studies and Popular Culture – to wit, Elvis Presley.

Neil van Heerden studied at the University of Pretoria, completing a PhD in 2018 on the relationship between crime fiction and the literary canon in Afrikaans, with specific reference to the novels of Deon Meyer. He is currently affiliated with the Department of Afrikaans and Theory of Literature at the University of South Africa, where he teaches Afrikaans literature. His academic interests include narratology, postcolonial theory, ecocriticism, popular fiction and crime fiction.