

## 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-transisionale, 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).

Die *Tydskrif vir Literatuurwetenskap* is opgeneem in die Arts and Humanities Citation Index (AHCI) van Web of Science; die British Humanities Index; die Humanities International Index; die Index to South African Periodicals; Scopus; en die MLA International Bibliography. Dit word uitgegee deur Taylor & Francis in samewerking met Unisa Pers.

## Contributors

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Khatija Khan is a full Professor and received her DLitt et Phil from the Department of English Studies, at UNISA in the field of popular culture.

Her main areas of research interests are the intersections between popular culture, literary studies and Mainstream media. She has published in South African and international journals on different genres in music, film, and literature. She has also contributed chapters both locally and internationally.

She has published a book; titled *Senses of Communities: Hip Hop Music, Islam and the Black Atlantic*. It is a systematic interrogation of the interface between music, language and the 'literariness' of African American Hip Hop popular culture.

Dr William Jethro Mpfu is a researcher at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. He is a founder member of the Africa Decolonial Research Network (ADERN). His research interests are in Decoloniality (Philosophy of Liberation). Mpfu's latest book is: *Robert Mugabe and the Will to Power in an African Postcolony* (2021), New York, Palgrave McMillan.

Josephine Muganiwa is a senior lecturer in the Department of Language Literature and Culture at the University of Zimbabwe where she teaches African Literature and European Literary Genres. She holds a doctorate in English from the University of South Africa and her thesis was on shifting identities of Shona women as portrayed in Zimbabwean novels 1890-2015. Her research interests are Gender and Culture in Language and Literature. She has published in various international journals and book projects on Literature, Philosophy and Religion as well as literary anthologies. In her capacity as academic and author she has sat on a number of literary boards

and judged literary competitions. Currently she has an increasing interest in how literary texts contribute to contemporary debates in Zimbabwe and internationally evident in her publications on disability (2016) Pentecostalism (2017) national healing (2020) and homosexuality (2020).

Mphathisi Ndlovu holds a PhD in Journalism from Stellenbosch University, and is also a research fellow at the same institution. His research interests are in collective memory, identity politics and new media. His publications have appeared in journals such as *African Identities*, *African Journalism Studies*, *Journal of Genocide Research* and *Nations and Nationalism*.

Urther Rwafa is a Chairperson, lecturer and Associate Professor in the Department of Film and Theatre Arts Studies at Midlands State University (Zimbabwe). He is also a Research Fellow at UNISA attached to the Department of English Studies. Professor Rwafa has written articles on Film and Cultural identity, Film censorship, Film and the representation of African violence & Genocides, The state of Creative Economies in Africa and the Prospects of Creative Industries in Southern Africa. His book on *Un/Muffling Voices: Film Censorship in Post-independent Zimbabwe* was published in 2016 by African Institute for Culture, Dialogue, Peace and Tolerance Studies.

Owen Seda is Associate Professor and Acting Head of the Department of Performing Arts and Acting Section Head at Tshwane University of Technology in Pretoria, South Africa. He has also taught at the University of Zimbabwe, Africa University, The University of Botswana and the University of Pretoria. Owen holds a DPhil in drama from the University of Zimbabwe. He has been a Commonwealth Scholar and a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence in the Department of Theatre & New Dance, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. In 2005 he was recipient of a joint Fulbright Alumni Initiatives Awards grant with the late Professor William H. Morse of the Department of Theatre & New Dance at Cal Poly Pomona.

Kgothatso B. Shai is an Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Cultural & Political Studies at the University of Limpopo in South Africa. He is a National Research Foundation (NRF) rated researcher. He is the sole author of the recently published book: *Scholarship and Politics in South Africa's Higher Education System* (2021). His latest co-edited (with Prof S. Zondi) book entitled *Dynamising Liberation Movements in Southern Africa: Quo Vadis?* (2020) was co-published by the Pretoria based Institute for Preservation and Development (IPAD) and Ziabile Publishers.

Brian Sibanda is a Researcher/Lecturer at the Centre for Teaching and Learning, University of the Free State, Qwaqwa campus. Sibanda is a

member of the English Academy of Southern Africa and the Africa Decolonial Research Network (ADERN), a free alliance of scholars that research and write on decoloniality. He holds a PhD from the University of South Africa and has published a number of articles and book chapters on a range of topical issues such as decolonising language, the discourse of genocide and social cohesion. Sibanda's main research interests include the impact of global coloniality, theory of liberation, language development and literacies.

Mbay Vunza is a lecturer of Philosophy at the University of Limpopo in South Africa. His research and teaching interests straddles the subjects of African thought and Political Philosophy, with specific reference to Southern Africa and the Great Lakes regions. He has co-supervised several Afrocentric conscious Masters' dissertations. On the other hand, Vunza is currently completing his doctoral studies in Philosophy with the University of the Free State.





# Call for Papers



*A Pedagogy of Letters* LASA  
Lecture Series  
*in collaboration with*  
**The Faculty of Education**  
**University of Johannesburg**  
**2, 9, 16 & 23 September 2020 Online**

Over the last few decades, at most universities, faculties previously organised as “Arts and Letters” or “Letters and Philosophy” have given way to more instrumentally named faculties of “Humanities”, or even “Human Sciences”. While this chimes well with governmental policy goals during the first decade of democracy (i.e. emphasis on universities’ role in the country’s economic growth through furnishing students with “practical” skills), it also reveals, when viewed from the present, an underestimation of the important role of a so-called liberal arts education. Literary studies offers us an intellectual space in which to develop interdisciplinary research traditions that brings the arts into direct dialogue with other disciplines. But within the context of a literature department, we face the question: “how does the advancement of knowledge through research, teaching and learning respond to global challenges without neglecting local complexities, particularly in a context of poverty, unemployment, disease and conflict” (Jansen & Motala, 2017: 1-2)? Within this context, we have seen new challenges arise and existing challenges exacerbated due to the global spread of COVID-19.

Much has been written in the past five years about the imperatives of decolonisation in the South African higher education landscape. Universities and academic departments throughout the country have been energised by the decolonial turn, where the argument for decolonising universities is inextricably linked with issues such as “equitable access, black identity, racial inequality, intersectionality and curriculum relevance” (Jansen & Motala, 2017: 1).

While teachers of literature have, for many decades, been engaging with many of the ideas that stand under the broad umbrella of what we might now call the decolonial turn, movements such as #RhodesMustFall and #FeesMustFall have given rise to a

new sense of urgency – not just in how scholars reconsider the very content and practices of their research, but also how they effect this in their teaching.

The broader conversation surrounding decolonisation at universities often pivots on discussions relating to the everyday practical needs of students: funding, housing, transport, etc. And in terms of transforming the curriculum, much has also already been written. But if students' practical needs are central to their experience of higher education, so too should the students' engagement with their learning content. Indeed, how can academics – and especially those who teach literature – contribute to this discussion? What can literature and the very teaching of literature at universities and schools offer as they continue to engage with the imperatives of transformation?

LASA invites both scholars and postgraduate students of literature to present papers on the current state of literature teaching at South African universities and schools. In rethinking the study of literature, we invite reflections on what we teach, how we teach and why we teach. Submissions with a focus on any of the following are therefore welcome:

- intersections between literature and educational practice
- institutional and policy frameworks for literary studies
- literature as/in education
- text selection and curriculum design
- genre (poetry, drama, prose), pedagogies and curricula
- global and/or local literary systems
- children's literature
- socially just pedagogies
- ethics and aesthetics in the study of literature
- academic freedom
- literature in values education
- literature in social science education
- teaching literature during the COVID-19 pandemic

Papers should be no longer than 20 minutes. Please submit abstracts of between 250 and 300 words by 30 June 2021 to Dr. David Robinson (davidr@uj.ac.za) and Dr. Neil van Heerden (vheern@unisa.ac.za).

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this lecture series replaces the biennial LASA conference. Papers will be spread over a series of weeks during the month of September, and will be presented one or two in a session, with some time for facilitated discussion and conversation after each paper.

\*Jansen, J. & Motala, S. 2017. Introduction - Part I. Curriculum stasis, funding and the 'decolonial turn' in universities - inclusion and exclusion in higher education in South Africa. *Journal of Education*, 68:1-2.