

Jessica Bundschuh is a Lecturer in English Literatures & Cultures at the University of Stuttgart. In 2024, she hosted the first Poetry Jukebox in Germany as part of an initiative from Culture Ireland, and is currently co-editing a *Handbook on Poetic Forms*, forthcoming from De Gruyter in 2025. Her publications have appeared in *Review of Irish Studies in Europe*, *Ecozon@: European Journal of Literature, Culture and Environment*, *Poetics Today*, *The Paris Review*, *EFACIS: Interfaces and Dialogues*, *An Introduction to Poetic Forms*, and *Literary Matters*, with a contribution to the most recent issue of *Études irlandaises* on Contemporary Irish Poetics.

Bill Demastes is San Diego II Alumni and William Read Professor of English at Louisiana State University. He teaches modern and contemporary American and British drama, drama as genre, and Shakespeare studies. He has numerous books on drama including *Beyond Naturalism*, *Theatre of Chaos*, *Staging Consciousness*, and *Comedy Matters*, as well as single-author studies on Tom Stoppard, John Guare, Spalding Gray, and Clifford Odets. He has edited several volumes of the annually-released *Best American Short Plays* series and served as editor of the Modern Drama Research and Production Sourcebooks series. Other edited works include *Realism and the American Dramatic Tradition* and *Interrogating America Through Theatre and Performance*. His current study, under review, is entitled *Dramatic Altruisms: Western Drama Confronts Social Darwinism*. In 2019 he was named LSU's Distinguished Research Master and has several other university teaching and research awards to his credit. In the past he has served as Director of the Master of Arts in Liberal Arts Program, Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and LSU's Faculty Athletics Representative.

Natalie Erkel is a German-American PhD student and research assistant (“wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin”) at Bochum University (RUB). She graduated from Loyola High School in Mankato, Minnesota with high honors in 2009 and graduated from the German high school “Gymnasium Antonianum Vechta” in Lower Saxony in 2011. She completed her Master of Education in French and English and her Master of Arts in North American Studies and English Language, Literatures and Cultures at the University of Göttingen in 2022. She also spent two years abroad studying French, English and comparative literature at Université de Tours in Tours, France and at the UNAM in Mexico City, Mexico. During her studies, she was a member of the German Academic Scholarship Foundation (“Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes”). In Göttingen, she taught classes on English didactics, U.S. American cultural history, short stories and academic writing. In Bochum, she has taught classes titled “Cultural History and Rhetoric: Feminism in the U.S.,” “Women’s Writing in the 19th and 20th Century,” “Feminist Utopias and Dystopias,” “Contemporary Science Fiction,” and “Manifestos.” Her research interests include feminism, gender studies, Afrofuturism, utopias, dystopias, and science fiction.

Andrew Gross is a professor of American literature at the University of Göttingen. He is author of *The Pound Reaction: Liberalism and Lyricism in Midcentury American Literature*. Other publications include the co-authored *Comedy, Avant-Garde, Scandal: Remembering the Holocaust after the End of History*; the co-edited *Pathos of Authenticity*; a guest-edited issue of *Amerikastudien* on the literature of 9/11, a special issue of the *American Studies Journal* on “Cultures of US-American Conservatism,” the co-edited collection of essays, *Surveillance/Society/Culture*, a special issue of *Hot Rocks/ Literary Matters* on “Poetry and

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Ellen Hinsey is the author of nine books of poetry, essays, dialogue and literary translation. Her most recent volume, *The Illegal Age*, explores the rise of authoritarianism and was a National Poetry Series Finalist. Hinsey’s first-hand reports on democracy are collected in *Mastering the Past: Contemporary Central and Eastern Europe and the Rise of Illiberalism*. Her other books include *The Invisible Fugue*, *Update on the Descent*, which written out of her experiences at an international criminal tribunal, *The White Fire of Time* and *Cities of Memory*, which received the Yale Series of Younger Poets Award. Her dialogue with Tomas Venclova, *Magnetic North* on post-war Eastern European culture and dissidence has appeared in seven languages. A former Berlin Prize fellow of the American Academy in Berlin, her work has appeared in publications such as *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Irish Times*, *The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* and *The Paris Review*. She is currently a visiting professor at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany.

Jesse McCarthy is Assistant Professor of English and of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. He is the author of the essay collection *Who Will Pay Reparations on My Soul?*, winner of the Whiting Award for Nonfiction, and a novel *The Fugitivities*. He is editor of the new Norton Library edition of W. E. B. Du Bois’s *The Souls of Black Folk* and co-editor with Joshua Bennett of *Minor Notes Vol. 1*, an anthology of African American poetry. His book, *The Blue Period: Black Writing in the Cold War*, was published by the University of Chicago Press in 2024.

Prof. Ph.D. **Jarosław Pluciennik**, born in 1966, specializing in cultural studies, literary studies, cognitive semantics, history of ideas, digital humanities, the culture of the Reformation and translations of psalms, editor-in-chief of the international academic journal *The Problems of Literary Genres*; former vice-rector of the University of Lodz (2012-2016); former plenipotentiary of the Rector of the University of Lodz for open educational resources (2016-2020); professor of humanities, professor at the Department of Literary Theory at the Institute of Contemporary Culture at the University of Łódź. Author of over 180 publications in the field of literary studies, cultural studies and cognitive science, including six individual books and 14 co-edited collective volumes. He publishes in the press, runs a cultural and educational blog, vlog and podcasts. He is a citizen media journalist. He was a spokesman for the local Łódź region of the Committee for the Defense of Democracy, a member of the Regional Board, and is Lay Judge of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Poland for the term 2023-2026.

Ernest Suarez is the David M. O’Connell Professor of English at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. and the executive director of the Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers. His publications include *Poetic Song Verse: Blues-Based Popular Music and Poetry* (Mike Mattison, co-author; Mississippi, 2022), and editions of bluesman Jim Dickinson’s memoir *I’m Just Dead, I’m Not Gone* (Mississippi, 2017) and of David Bottom’s poetry, *Scraps in the Blessings Jar* (LSU, 2023). He was a Fulbright Senior Lecturer in Spain and China, and was named the District of Columbia Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation in 1999. He and Mike Mattison’s book-in-progress is titled, *Ralph Ellison and Robert Penn Warren: the American Century in Black and White*.

Kenneth W. Warren is Fairfax M. Cone Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of English at the University of Chicago. He is the author of *Black and White Strangers: Race and American Literary Realism* (Chicago 1993), *So Black and Blue: Ralph Ellison and the Occasion of Criticism* (Chicago 2003), and *What Was African American Literature?* (Harvard 2010). He has also edited and written an introduction to Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* for the Norton Library. He is coeditor of *Renewing Black Intellectual History: The Material and Intellectual Foundations of African American Thought* (Paradigm 2009), *Jim Crow, Literature, and the Legacy of Sutton E. Griggs* (Georgia 2013), and *A Critical Edition of Sutton E. Griggs's Imperium in Imperio* (West Virginia University, 2022). He also serves on the editorial boards of *American Literary History* (ALH), *nonsite.org*, and *Modern Language Quarterly* (MLQ), and the Council of the ALSCW.