

## About the Authors

**MICHAEL CHAPMAN** is a Retired Professor of the Durban University of Technology, in South Africa. He is also a Professor Emeritus and a staff member at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, which he also graduated from, along with the University of London in the UK and the University of South Africa (UNISA). He began his academic career in 1978 and, in 1984, was appointed as Professor of English at the then University of Natal. He served as the Head of Department and, for 10 years, as the Dean of the Faculty of Human Sciences. Michael Chapman is the sole author of five books, has compiled and edited 15 anthologies and has published over 90 articles and chapters-in-books in accredited publications. His 500-page study *Southern African Literatures* (1996; 2003) won the Bill Venter Award for Academic Writing and continues to be cited, both locally and internationally, as the landmark book on the literature of the southern African subcontinent.

**ANNA CZABANOWSKA-WRÓBEL** is a Professor and the Head of the Chair of Literature History of Positivism and Young Poland as well as the Head of the Research Center of Children's and Young Adults' Literature at the Faculty of Polish Studies of the Jagiellonian University, and in her research concentrates on the literature at the turn of the 20th century, modernistic poetry and the theme of the child in literature. She is a member of the Literature and History Commission and the Committee of Literature Studies, both at the Polish Academy of Sciences; as well as the member of the editorial stuff of *Ruch Literacki* (*Literary Movement*) and *Pamiętnik Literacki* (*Literary Dairy*). She is the author of the following books: *Baśń w literaturze Młodej Polski* (*Fairy Tale in the Literature of Young Poland*, 1996), *Dziecko. Symbol i zagadnienie antropologiczne w literaturze Młodej Polski* (*The Child: A Symbol and Anthropological Question in the Literature of Young Poland*, 2003), *Poszukiwanie blasku. O poezji Adama Zagajewskiego* (*A Search for Radiance. On the Poetry of Adam Zagajewski*, 2005), *Złotnik i śpiewak. Poezja Leopolda Staffa i Bolesława Leśmiana w kregu modernizmu* (*The Goldsmith and the Singer. Poetry of Leopold Staff and Bolesław Leśmian within Modernism*, 2009), *Sprzeczne żywioły. Młoda Polska i okolice* (*Conflicting Elements. Young Poland and Its Surroundings*, 2013), *Utopia powtórzenia. Powtórzenie, podmiotowość, pamięć w literaturze modernizmu* (*The Utopia of Repetition:*

*Repetition, Subjectiveness and Memory in Modernist Literature*, 2019). She was also the editor of Józef Jedlicz's (1998) and Stanisław Miłaszewski's (2008) poetry. Finally, she is an editor and co-author of books devoted to 20th century literature (the most recent one being *Poezja polska ostatnich dwustu lat. Odczytania i przekroje* [*Two Centuries of Polish Poetry: Readings and Overviews*], 2022).

**KARINA JARZYŃSKA** is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Polish Studies at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. Her main research interests are the history of Polish literature of the 20th century and the relations between religion and literature. She has authored i.a. the book *Literatura jako ćwiczenie duchowe. Dzieło Czesława Miłosza w perspektywie postsekularnej* (*Literature as a Spiritual Exercise. Czesław Miłosz's Work in a Post-secular Perspective*, 2018; in Polish).

**HANS JOAS** is the Ernst Troeltsch Professor for the Sociology of Religion at Humboldt-Universität in Berlin, and a member of the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago. Hans Joas received his PhD from Freie Universität Berlin in 1979 (*G.H. Mead: A Contemporary Re-examination of His Thought*, MIT Press, 1985, 1997). He received the Niklas Luhmann Prize in 2010; in 2012, an honorary doctorate in Theology from Universität Tübingen; in 2013, an honorary doctorate in Sociology from Uppsala University and the Hans Kilian Award; in 2015, the Max Planck Research Award; in 2017 the Prix Paul Ricoeur; in 2018, the Theological Prize in Salzburg; in 2022, an honorary doctorate from Peter-Pazmanyi-University in Budapest and the Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award from the German Sociological Association. Among Joas' other books published in English are *Pragmatism and Social Theory* (1993), *The Creativity of Action* (1996), *The Genesis of Values* (2000), *War and Modernity* (2003), *Do We Need Religion? On Experiences of Self-Transcendence* (2008), *The Sacredness of the Person: A New Genealogy of Human Rights* (2013), *Faith as an Option: Possible Futures for Christianity* (2014), and *The Power of the Sacred: An Alternative to the Narrative of Disenchantment* (2021). Together with Wolfgang Knoebl, he published *Social Theory* (2009) and *War in Social Thought: Hobbes to the Present* (2013). Together with Robert Bellah, he edited *The Axial Age and Its Consequences* (2011).

**KATARZYNA KUCIA-KUŚMIERSKA** is a literary scholar and a singer. She received her degree in comparative literature studies at the Faculty of Polish Studies at the Jagiellonian University as well as in solo singing at the Music Academy in Kraków. She collaborates with early music bands *Antica Cucina* and *Il Vento*, where she performs a cantata repertoire; and with vocal ensemble *Cracow Singers*, in which she is the alto singer. She defended her PhD thesis with *summa cum laude*, under the supervision of professor Andrzej Hejmej. She is currently working as the Assistant at the Chair of Literature Theory at the Faculty of Polish Studies at the Jagiellonian University. She is interested in the question

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**GABRIEL R. LEAR** is the Chair of the Committee on Social Thought and Professor of Philosophy at the University of Chicago. She received her PhD from Princeton in 2001. Her research focuses on Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy. She has published several articles about the relation between beauty and goodness in the thought of Plato and Aristotle, investigating their ideas that the virtuous person radiates moral beauty, that practical wisdom involves aesthetic sensitivity as well as conceptual understanding, and that music and poetry play a crucial role in moral education. In addition, she continues her research into Aristotle's conception of happiness which has been initiated in articles and in her book, *Happy Lives and the Highest Good: An Essay on Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics* (Princeton, 2004). She is a founding member of the international Plato Dialogue Project and was co-editor of the first book in that series, *Plato's Philebus: A Philosophical Discussion* (Oxford, 2019).

**PHIL VAN SCHALKWYK** received his PhD in General Theory of Literature in 2004 at the North-West University in South Africa and is a Professor in the School of Languages (NWU), where he teaches Afrikaans and Dutch literature. His previous experience includes almost five years of teaching South African Studies at the Institute of English Philology at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland (2001–2006). Mainly active in the field of Comparative Literature, as an NRF rated researcher, he focuses on relationality and rhetorical constructions in Afrikaans, South African and Dutch prose and poetry. He has been (co-)editor-in-chief of the accredited journal *Literator* since 2017. In June 2021, he was appointed as research director of the NWU research entity *Languages and Literature in the SA Context*.

**BOŻENA SHALLCROSS** is the Professor of Polish literature in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Chicago. Her research takes place at the intersection of four interrelated concepts: word, image, space and matter, that may vary according to the historical period, the individual poet and their work, or the spatial framework. She has authored, edited and translated various books, including *Rzeczy i Zagłada* (2011), most recently published in Russian translation (2023). Currently, she is working on several major projects, the most advanced of which is a manuscript, tentatively entitled, *Inscriptions and Other Marks*, and an anthology of texts by various authors submitted to the press and titled *The Jewish Inn: From Architecture to Phantasm*.

**LUKASZ TISCHNER** is a literary scholar, essayist, Associate Professor, Head of the Department of the History of Polish Literature in the 20th Century (Faculty of Polish Studies, at the Jagiellonian University), editor-in-chief of *Konteksty Kultury*. He has published two books on Czesław Miłosz: *Miłosz w krainie odczarowanej* (*Miłosz in a Disenchanted Land*, 2011) and *Miłosz and the Problem of Evil* (Northwestern University Press, 2015), as well as one on Witold Gombrowicz, *Gombrowicza milczenie o Bogu* (*Gombrowicz's Silence on God*, 2013). He is a co-author and a co-editor of *Literatura a religia – wyzwania epoki świeckiej* (*Literature and Religion – The Challenges of a Secular Age*, two volumes, 2020). He specializes in the history of 20th century Polish literature and relationships between literature and philosophy/religion.

**ROSANNA WARREN** is the Hanna Holborn Gray Distinguished Service Professor (Emerita) at the University of Chicago and also a poet, critic, scholar, translator, and editor. She has published six collections of poems, several volumes of selected poems, and a collection of literary essays, among other works. Her most recent books are *So Forth*, a collection of poems, and *Max Jacob: A Life in Art and Letters*, a biography, both from W.W. Norton, 2020. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society.