

M. Ikram Abdu-Noor

M. Ikraam Abdu-Noor is currently completing his Ph.D. in Arabic Studies and Anthropology at Yale University. His research deals with Moroccan Andalusian music in its historical and poetic dimensions. His other interests include the sociolinguistics of Arabic, literacy and orality, and theories of value. His paper, “Andalusian Strophic Poetry Between the Spoken and the Written: The Case of the Moroccan Andalusian Music,” is in press. His *Sunset in the Garden of al-Andalus* published here, provides a brief contextual introduction to Andalusian poetry, which is followed by punctilious translations of selected poems that remarkably feature the sun as their concentricity. The poems in their original Arabic form are provided with the translations for the benefit of those of us who are able to read them.

Katerina Baitinger

Katerina Baitinger is currently acting as the Coordinator of Academic Advising at Middlesex Community College. She is also standing as a Yale Fellow (2005-2006). She has published various academic essays and participated in several national and international conferences and seminars. She has been working on a book-length manuscript exploring the concept of a unified Feminist Theory, beginning with Plato. She has participated in several conferences regarding the enhancement of teaching and learning environments including conferences held at The City University of London and Capital Community College in Towson University. In her contribution to *Nebula* Baitinger casts a refreshing and controversial light on Plato’s Theory of Forms, providing a challenging feminist reading which asserts that Plato did not exclude women from either worldly wisdom or “cave” dwelling. She pursues this convincingly by consulting the text of *The Republic* in its original language.

Wendy Galgan

Wendy Galgan is a doctoral candidate at the City University of New York Graduate Center, and is an adjunct in both Philosophy and English at St. Francis College in Brooklyn, New York. In addition to poetry, she has published essays on Philip K. Dick, and science fiction and religion. In her contribution to this issue of *Nebula* Wendy grounds Samuel Delany’s renowned fantasy novel *Return to Nevèrjōn* in a world indelible from our own, whilst also moving within a larger, theoretically deconstructive, framework.

Bruce Isaacs

Bruce Isaacs is currently enrolled in his fourth year as a PhD candidate at the University of Sydney (Australia), hoping to complete a thesis on American film and pop culture aesthetics. He has contributed articles to popular culture collections such as *Jacking into the Matrix Franchise: Cultural Reception and Interpretation* (New York and London: Continuum Press, 2004) and *New Punk Cinema* due out in July from Edinburgh University Press. His short story “The Sound of the Fury of Walter Wishwell” is forthcoming in *New Writing: The International Journal for the Practice and Theory of Creative Writing*. In his poem *The Land and Nightfall* Bruce discreetly evokes millennia of transformations of a very particular geographical space which is laden with conflict, strife and renaissance.

Karen Kachra

Karen Kachra is currently completing her PhD in Philosophy at Northwestern University in Chicago on “The problem of agency: Foucault, feminism and the socially constructed subject.” She has received a SSHRC fellowship for doctoral study and she has participated in Northwestern’s Paris Program in Critical Theory. Recently she has written about French Theory for the *Bulletin de la Société de Philosophie de Langue Française* and pontificated on how “Feminism Wrecked My Yoga Class” for *Philosophy Now*. In the past she has presented work on race theory, epistemic pluralism and human rights. Her contribution to *Nebula* comes in the form of *Dwelling as a Border*, an article which is at once imaginative in the theoretical constructs it asserts and highly empathetic, illustrating a reality lived and suffered by human beings who are dispossessed of agency, representation and their basic rights to exist despite dubious corporate and “national” interests. Karen interrogates the ethical vacuum created by the building of dams throughout India which displace villagers and their villages, recalling Arundhati Roy’s passionate work on the subject.

Nejmeh Khalil-Habib

Nejmeh Khalil-Habib was born in Haifa, Palestine in 1946 and was raised in Beirut, Lebanon. She graduated with a BA from the Arab University (Beirut, Lebanon) in 1970 and received an MA in Arabic literature from the Lebanese University in 1991. In the same year, Khalil-Habib immigrated to Australia with her husband and four children. She has been teaching in the Arab and Islamic Studies Department at the University of Sydney since March 2002. She has acted as editor for the Australian-Arabic literary magazine, *Joussour* and has published innumerable essays, translations, reviews and columns in both English and Arabic journals and newspapers worldwide. Her Masters thesis, *Al-Namouthaj Al-Insani Fi Adab Ghassan Kanafani* was published by Bissan Inc. in Beirut in 1999. Bissan also published her first collection of short stories entitled *Wal Abna’ Yaddrusson* in Beirut (2001). Her latest collection of short stories, *Rabiun Lam Yuzhir* was

published in Beirut by Al-Markiz Al-Arabee Lil-Abhath Wal-Tawtheek (2003). She is currently completing a unique reader of Australian Literature in Arabic, a project for which she received a literary grant in 2003 from the Australia Council of Arts. In her contribution to *Nebula*, Khalil-Habib provides a bilingual issue of her short story *Neehal* (original written in Arabic and follows English translation here) in which she combines the eloquent innocence and preoccupation of youth, with the devastation of a political and social reality suffered by the dislocated Palestinian refugees, who made Lebanon their home as a result of the 1948 Diaspora.

Caroline Law

Caroline Law accepted a scholarship from the University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina where she received her Masters in Human Rights and Democracy (2003). She received her Bachelor of Economics and Political Science from McGill University in Montreal, Canada in 2000. Caroline is currently working as an independent scholar and has accumulated work experience from a variety of fields and organizations including working as an election campaign canvasser for Toronto City Council and as an Intern for the United Nations' Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). In her article *Development and Nationalism...* Law posits that an indelible link between economic inequity and national instability exists, although she shuns dichotomous simplifications. She provides a unique theory of intra-governmental factors + census demographics and the relationship that these have with the resultant form of government.

Corinne Lhermitte

Corinne Lhermitte is a free-lance translator and a lecturer at the University of Miami, Florida, USA. She was born in Paris, France, and received her Ph.D. in Romance Studies from the University of Miami, in December 2003. She holds a *Licence de Langues Vivantes Etrangères: Anglais, Option traduction*, and a *Maîtrise de Langues Vivantes Etrangères: Anglais, Histoire Contemporaine des États-Unis* from the University of Paris III - Sorbonne Nouvelle. She specializes in 19th- and 20th-century French literature and film studies. In her dissertation titled: "Toward an Aesthetics of Adaptation: From Text to Film in Proust and Duras," she studies film adaptation through translation and film semiotic theories, and highlights cogent correlations between adaptation and translation processes. The University of Caen published her essay titled *Adaptation as Rewriting: Evolution of a Concept*, in 2004. Corinne's contribution to this issue of *Nebula* comes in the form of *A Jakobsonian Approach to Film Adaptations of Hugo's Les Misérables*, in which she discusses the theoretical advantages of using the concept of "intersemiotic translation" as an analytical tool for broadening theories of film adaptation.

Terri Beth Miller

Terri Beth Miller is a graduate student in English Language and Literature at the University of Virginia (U.S.), where she will be earning her Master's degree in May, 2005. Her areas of specialization include post-colonial and disability studies and narrative and feminist theory. In addition to her research in post-colonial and cultural studies, she has also written extensively on the works of late nineteenth and early twentieth century British authors, focusing in particular on the writings of Virginia Woolf. Other recent publications include "Behind the Veil," an article exploring the deconstruction of Western feminist concepts of "woman" in Ahdaf Soueif's *The Map of Love*. Currently, she is engaged in the writing of her Master's thesis, in which she examines the program of linguistic/imaginative r/evolution in the Rushdie corpus. Her contribution to *Nebula* gives us a refreshing glimpse of her work in progress, as well as a glimpse of her approach to the dense allusions of *The Satanic Verses*, quite aptly implicating postmodern theories of text, signification, fracture and disjunction, in a well argued and convincing semiological approach.

Andrew Ockrim

Andrew received his Bachelor of Business Administration from Canterbury University, UK, in 1995. He has worked in information technology for over 14 years with some of Australia's biggest corporations including IBM Global Services (Australia), IBM Olympic, Caltex/Ampol Petroleum (Chevron-Texaco), NCR Asia Pacific and the NSW Dept of Education & Training, only to name a few. He is currently working for the NSW (Australia) Dept. of Juvenile Justice in information security compliance. In his Article *Information Security: What You Need to Know*, Andrew frightens us all out of liberally volunteering personal information on the web in a highly informative and concise article encompassing I.T *lingo* that has emerged in recent years. He leaves us feeling more informed of what is at stake during our increased dependence on the internet, and a little paranoid too.

Nicholas Packwood

Nicholas Packwood is a social anthropologist who is currently acting as Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University (Ontario, Canada). His recent publications include "Geography of the Blogosphere" in *Into the Blogosphere* (University of Minnesota) and "At the Wall of Darkness" in a special issue of *Space and Culture*, a journal for which he has acted as guest editor. His two art pieces featured in this issue are strangely neither poetry nor prose, neither biography nor fiction, neither narrative nor scholarship, but somehow act as evidence of the culmination of all of these in the intellect of their author. *23 Maxims of Anatomy* and *Postcard to Gilles Deleuze* are delightful experimental writings which conjure up the

feelings of disjunction between signifiers and the instability of genre that is reminiscent of postmodern American poetry.

Margaret Saad

Margaret Saad is an independent Arab American filmmaker, she has recently acted as a reporter for the *Washington File*. Margaret shares some insights she has learned whilst filming the documentary *Paradise Behind Bars* which features a host of interviews, fresh footage and factual research whilst shedding new light on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Laura Madeline Wiseman

With research interests focusing primarily in women's studies and creative writing, Laura Madeline Wiseman received her B.S. from Iowa State University in women's studies and English literature (in 2002 with Honours) and her M.A. from the University of Arizona in women's studies with a certificate in teaching (2004). She currently teaches at the University of Arizona and at The Learning Curve. Her works have appeared in *Fiction International*, *Familiar*, *Poetry Motel*, *Spire Magazine*, *Colere*, *Clare*, *42opus*, *13th Moon*, *Vs*, *Altar Magazine*, *Driftwood*, *Dacey Brown*, *Flyway Literature Review*, and other publications. She is also the imagine editor for the magazine *In the Fray* and a columnist for *Empowerment4women* and *The F-WORD*. In her contribution to *Nebula* Madeline asserts that though hegemonic ideologies of womanhood work to contain women within narrow definitions of subjectivity, occasionally media are produced which disrupt these narratives. She explores *Freeway* where the central character is neither a victim nor a survivor; the two categories assigned to women who have been sexually assaulted. This paper also discusses how Madonna in *What It Feels like for a Girl* embodies the grotesque and unruly, which catapults her behavior beyond a simple inversion of the gender hierarchy. For more information on Laura's work visit www.u.arizona.edu/~madelily