

## Contributors' biodata

**Esterino Adami** is a researcher in English Language and Translation at the University of Turin (Department of Humanities). He has published extensively on Anglophone cultures, varieties of English (in particular South Asian Englishes), stylistics, sociolinguistics and translation studies. His research interests also extend to the semiotics of comics, intercultural discourse and English-language literacy. He is the author of *Rushdie, Kureishi, Syal. Essays in Diaspora* (New Delhi 2006), and editor of *To a Scholar Sahab. Essays in Honour of Alessandro Monti*, with C. Rozzonelli (Alessandria 2011) and *Within and Across. Language and Construction of Shifting Identities in Post-Colonial Contexts*, with A. Martelli (Alessandria 2012). He is currently working on storytelling devices in diasporic drama and post-colonial creativity in literary and non-literary texts.

**Alessandra Consolaro** is currently Research Scholar and Adjunct Professor at the Department of Humanities of the University of Torino. Her field of interest and research covers South Asia history (*Ri-orientarsi nella storiografia dell'Asia meridionale. Rappresentazioni e intersezioni*. Torino 2008; *Madre India e la Parola. La lingua hindi nelle università «nazionali» di Varanasi (1900-1940)*. Alessandria 2003); colonial and postcolonial theory; contemporary Hindi fiction: critical study and translation (*La prosa nella cultura letteraria hindī dell'India coloniale e postcoloniale*. Torino 2011); feminist critique and gender studies (*Voci e conflitti*. Alessandria 2010). Some of her latest publications are *Poesia urbana: Rajes Josi e Bhopal*. *Annali IUO Napoli*, vol. 68 (2012), p. 87-106; *Resistance in the postcolonial Hindi literary field: Mohan Das by Uday Prakash*. *Orientalia Suecana*, vol. LX (2012), p. 9-19; *Mystique and society in Gagan Gill's Avak: Kailasa-Mansarovar ek antaryatra*. *South and Southeast Asia Culture and Religion: The SSEASR Journal*, vol. 6 (2012), p. 160-175.

**Jolanda Guardi**, after teaching Arabic Language and Literature at the University of Milan and Pavia for more than a decade, is currently research fellow at the Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona where she works on a project about Feminist epistemologies and knowledge production processes. Her main research project is about *The concept of woman's citizenship as outlined in the Algerian novel written in Arabic (1970-1980)*. She is member of the scientific committee of Seminari Interdisciplinar de Metodologia de Recerca Feminista SIMREF (University of Barcelona) and of DEP, Deporate Esuli Profughe ("Ca' Foscari", University of Venice). In 2010 she was awarded the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah International Prize for Translation.

**Anna Vanzan** (Venice 1955) holds a Degree in Oriental Languages and Cultures (University Of Ca' Foscari, Venice) and a PhD in Near Eastern Studies (New York University). Though she is interested in the Middle East in general, her research is focused especially on Iran, Central Asia and the subcontinent (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Muslim India). She has been working in gender studies with a particular interest for Muslim societies. Her latest book, *Che genere di islam, omosessuali, transessuali e queer tra shari'a e nuove interpretazioni* (with J. Guardi, Ediesse, Roma, 2012) considers the multifaceted relation between Islam and homosexuality. She is editor of the Italian journal *Afriche&Orienti*. She regularly lectures in various Italian institutions on issues of multiculturalism. She has lectured at the University of Bologna, Pisa, Geneva, New York. She is currently teaching Arabic Culture at the University of Milano and is visiting lecturer at the European Master M.I.M. Ca' Foscari University where she teaches Gender and Islamic thought.

**Elena de Paz de Castro**, Doctor in Hispanic Studies, teaches Spanish Language and Translation in the Department of Studi Umanistici at University of Turin. Her research focuses on the field of 19th-century Spanish language and literature, and particularly on the work of Benito Pérez Galdós, about whom she has published several articles and a critical edition of the Episodio Nacional *Amadeo I*.

**Sergio M. Rodríguez Lorenzo** is a Spanish historian (Isla Cristina, 1972). He is member of the Belgian-Spanish Academy of History. Award «Almirante Gutiérrez de Ceballos» 2012. He has focused his research on the maritime and economic history of the early modern age.

**Maria Angellillo** obtained an MA in Modern Literatures in 2000 at the University of Milan, with an Indological dissertation on mandalas (*Mandala: prospettive orientali ed occidentali*), and in 2006 in Anthropology, discussing a thesis titled *Strategie linguistiche e dinamiche dell'identità*. In 2002 she fulfilled her Diploma in Hindi Language at IsIAO. In 2012 she completed her PhD in Indological and Tibetan Studies at the University of Turin, submitting an ethnography on the Kalbelia Daliwal community living in Pushkar (Ajmer district-Rajasthan). She has lectured at the University of Gorizia (2003/05), University of Macerata (2005/07) and University of Milan (2007/09; 2012/13), teaching Hindi Language and Indian Culture. At the moment she is particularly interested in the studying of the linguistic, historical, religious, ritual and artistic elements related to the identity of a Rajasthani Scheduled Caste, the Kalbelia Daliwal.

**Estella Carpi** is currently a PhD Candidate in Social Anthropology at the University of Sydney in Australia and PhD Fellow at the American University of Beirut. She has taught as a tutor for the courses of 'Introduction to Sociology' and 'Human Rights and Social Protest'. After studying Arabic in Milan and Damascus (2002-2008), she wrote her MA thesis on the everyday speech in contemporary Lebanon. She worked at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Office based in Cairo (2008) for the Trade and Human Development Monitor Project, meant to enhance small and medium enterprises in the Arab world. She also worked as a Junior Consultant for the International Development Research Center (IDRC) based in Cairo (2009-2010) for a project aimed to strengthen social protection systems in Egypt, Lebanon, Yemen, Morocco and Algeria.