

Notes on Contributors

KLAUS BENESCH is Professor of English and American Studies at the University of Munich (Germany) and Director of the Bavarian American Academy. He was a 2004 Mellon Fellow at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center of the University of Texas (Austin), and has taught at the University of Massachusetts (Amherst) and Weber State University (Utah). Previous publications include: *The Power and Politics of the Aesthetic in American Culture* (editor/2007); *African Diasporas in the New and Old Worlds: Consciousness and Imagination* (editor/2006/04); *Space in America: Theory, History, Culture* (editor/2005); *The Sea and the American Imagination* (editor/2004); and *Romantic Cyborgs: Authorship and Technology in the American Renaissance* (2002).

HANJO BERRESSEM teaches American Literature and Culture at the University of Cologne. His interests include literary theory, contemporary American fiction, media studies, and the interfaces of art and science. Apart from articles situated mainly in these fields, he has published books on Thomas Pynchon (*Pynchon's Poetics: Interfacing Theory and Text*, 1992) and on Witold Gombrowicz (*Lines of Desire: Reading Gombrowicz's Fiction with Lacan*, 1998). He is the editor, together with D. Buchwald und H. Volkening, of the collection *Grenzüberschreibungen: Feminismus und Cultural Studies* (2001), and, together with D. Buchwald, of *Chaos-Control / Complexity: Chaos Theory and the Human Sciences* (2000).

ROBIN MORRIS COLLIN currently teaches law on the faculty of Willamette University College of Law which she joined in 2003 after a distinguished career teaching law at the University of Oregon, Washington & Lee College of Law, and Tulane University among other schools. She and her husband, Robert W. Collin, have published numerous works exploring the themes of the Environmental Justice Movement in the United States, and the International Movement Toward Sustainability. These include “Forever Wild, Forever Free: Sustainability and Equity” in *From Landscape to Technoscape: Concepts of Space in American Culture* (2005), “Environmental Reparations for Justice and Sustainability” in *The Quest for Environmental Justice Human Rights and the Politics of Pollution* (2005), “The Role of Communities in Environmental Decisions: Communities Speaking for Themselves” in *Journal of Environmental Law And Litigation* 13 (1998), and “Where Did All the Blue Skies Go: Sustainability and Equity: The New Paradigm” in *Journal of*

Environmental Law and Litigation 9 (1994). She was the first professor of law to teach a course on *Sustainability in Law and Policy in the United States*, and she was awarded the David Brower Lifetime Achievement Award for Environmental Activism in 2002.

PETER FREESE is Professor emeritus of American Studies at Paderborn University. He was visiting professor at universities in Britain, the U.S. and Hungary and Fellow in Residence at the Claremont Colleges, holds honorary doctorates from Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania and Dortmund University, and is the recipient of the Bundesverdienstkreuz am Bande. Among his 40 books are *Die Initiationsreise* (1971; rpt. 1998), *'America': Dream or Nightmare?* (1990; 3rd rev. edition, 1994), *The Ethnic Detective* (1992), *From Apocalypse to Entropy and Beyond* (1997), and *Teaching 'America': Selected Essays* (2002). He has contributed 180 articles to journals and anthologies and is the editor of the monograph series *Arbeiten zur Amerikanistik* and of the *VIEWFINDER* series for the advanced EFL-classroom. He is currently working on a monograph on Kurt Vonnegut's novels.

URSULA K. HEISE is Associate Professor of English & Comparative Literature at Stanford University, where she teaches contemporary literature and literary theory. Her areas of research and teaching include 20th century fiction and poetry, ecocriticism, literature and science, literature and new media, and theories of modernization and globalization. She is the author of *Chronoschisms: Time, Narrative, Postmodernism* (1997) and *Sense of Place and Sense of Planet: The Environmental Imagination of the Global* (2008). She is currently working on a book project entitled *The Avantgarde and the Forms of Nature*.

HEIKE MAYER is Assistant Professor in the Urban Affairs and Planning program at Virginia Tech's Alexandria Center. She studied at the University of Konstanz and received her master's degree and Ph.D. in Urban Studies from Portland State University. Her doctoral work focused on the evolution of Portland's high-technology industry—also known as Silicon Forest—in the absence of a major, world class research university such as MIT or Stanford. Her research interests are in regional economic development, high-technology regions, entrepreneurship and innovation. She is currently working on a variety of research projects. One examines the evolution of second-tier high-tech regions in the absence of world-class universities. The second project focuses on women high-tech entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley, Boston, Portland, and Washington D.C. She is also working on a study of

Slow Cities in Europe (with Paul Knox). Her work has been published in the *Journal of the American Planning Association*, *Journal of Urban Affairs*, *Economic Development Quarterly*, *Economic Development Journal*, and by the *Brookings Institution*.

SUZANNE NALBANTIAN is Professor of Comparative Literature, at Long Island University and an interdisciplinary scholar. Her specialization is in modern Western literature, memory study, and links to neuroscience. Her books include *Memory in Literature: From Rousseau to Neuroscience* (2003), *Aesthetic Autobiography: From Life to Art in Marcel Proust, James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, and Anaïs Nin* (1994), *Anaïs Nin: Literary Perspectives* (1997), *Seeds of Decadence in the Late Nineteenth-Century Novel* (1983), and *The Symbol of the Soul from Hölderlin to Yeats* (1977). She holds a Ph.D. from Columbia University and is a permanent member of Columbia's Society of Fellows in the Humanities. She is the winner of the TASA Award for Lifetime Scholarly Achievement at Long Island University. She has been the recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for Independent Study and Research. She has lectured widely on the subject of memory at universities in the U. S. and Europe, including Yale, Stanford, Columbia, Indiana, Carnegie-Mellon, University of Pittsburgh, and Sorbonne-Paris IV as well as, most recently, at labs such as the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory on Long Island, the Max-Planck Institute in Tübingen, Germany, and the Collège de France and the Pasteur Institute in Paris.

ALONDRA NELSON is Assistant Professor of African American Studies, American Studies, and Sociology at Yale University. She is author of *Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Politics of Health and Race* (forthcoming) and co-editor of *Technicolor: Race, Technology, and Everyday Life*. Her research centers on historical and socio-cultural studies science, technology, and medicine with an emphasis on racial formation processes, social movements, and identity. This chapter is adapted from the previously published article "Bio Science: Genetic Genealogy Testing and the Pursuit of African Ancestry," *Social Studies of Science* 38 (October 2008): 759-783.

DAVID E. NYE is the author or editor of 18 books on American history and society, most of which deal with technology and culture. His most recent book is *Technology Matters; Questions to Live With* (2006). German and French translations will appear in the autumn of 2007. In 2005 he received the Leonardo da Vinci Medal from the Society for the History

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DENISE PILATO received her doctorate in American Studies from Michigan State University in 1998. She is an Associate Professor in the College of Technology at Eastern Michigan University where she teaches in the Master of Science Program and Ph.D. Program in Technology Studies. She teaches interdisciplinary courses in American culture with a central focus on the social impact of science and technology. Her research interests address issues related to gender and technology, with a specific interest in 19th century and early 20th century women inventors. Scholarly work on historic women inventors has been a focus of much of her primary research, and include the publication of her book, *The Retrieval of a Legacy: Nineteenth Century Women Inventors*, (Praeger Publishers 2000), which places the experiences of women inventors in an historical and cultural context in 19th century America. Her work on women inventors also appears in the *International Journal of Naval History*, Vol. 1, April 2000, “Martha Coston: A Woman, a War, and a Signal to the World” and a forth coming article will appear in *Minerva: Women & War*, Spring, 2009 entitled, “The Use of Coston Flares by the U.S. Navy in Civil War Blockade Operations: “A Powerful Auxiliary of Incalculable Value.” She has presented her work at numerous national and international conferences.

REBECCA SLAYTON is a lecturer and researcher in the Science, Technology, and Society Program and an affiliate in the Center for International Security and Cooperation, both at Stanford University. She earned her doctorate in chemistry at Harvard in 2002 before retooling as a postdoctoral fellow in the Science, Technology, and Society Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Her research focuses upon public constructions of science, technology, and international security. She is writing a book about how science and engineering disciplines have shaped expert advising and debate on missile defense in the United States.

JOSEPH TABBI is the author of *Cognitive Fictions* (2002) and *Postmodern Sublime* (1995), books that examine the effects of new technologies on contemporary American fiction. He edits the electronic book review and has edited and introduced William Gaddis’s last fiction and collected non-fiction. His essay, “The Processual Page,” appears in the *Journal of New Media and Culture*. Also online (the Iowa Review Web) is an essay-narrative, titled

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