

# Notes on Contributors

**Alison Marmont** is a doctoral researcher in modern languages funded by the AHRC South West and Wales Doctoral Training Partnership. She graduated with an MA and an MSt in modern languages from the Universities of Glasgow and Oxford respectively. She is doing her thesis at the Universities of Southampton and Exeter and is supervised by Dr Aude Campmas, Dr Helen Vassallo and Dr Scott Soo. Her interdisciplinary project examines the novels of the contemporary French authors Marie NDiaye and Linda Lê and the socio-political context which informs them to understand the intersectional nature of racial discrimination experienced by ethnic minority women in modern-day France.

**Benjamin Shears** is a second-year Postgraduate Research Student at Exeter, and recipient of the Niklaus-Cartwright Scholarship. His undergraduate degree was in English and French at the University of Warwick; from there, he proceeded to the University of Oxford, achieving a Distinction in his Master's in Modern Languages (French). Ben then moved from Oxford to the University of Exeter to continue his research: he is now also a part of the English department, comparing the ways in which Samuel Richardson's novels and Voltaire's contes philosophiques use character to develop a refined construction of the enlightened individual; he frames this project within John Locke's epistemological argumentation. At Exeter, he is an editor of *Xanthos*, as well as an experienced seminar tutor and examiner. Outside of academia, he is also incoming Inter-varsity Captain for the University Debating Society.

**Coline Blaizeau** is a second-year doctoral student at the University of Exeter, funded by the Niklaus-Cartwright Scholarship. She specialises in late medieval French literature and language. Her research looks at the marvellous in the *Roman de Perceforest*, and the ways in which it explores notions of reality and fantasy to think of itself as a product of literature. Through this 'metafictive marvellous', she argues, the text reflects on and emphasises its inherently fabricated nature. In 2017, Coline completed an M.St. in Modern Languages (Medieval French) at St Peter's College, University of Oxford, where she graduated with Distinction. She also holds degrees in English and Spanish, and is editor-in-chief of *Xanthos*.

**Polly Duxfield** recently defended her doctoral thesis, entitled 'Digitally Editing Manuscript Prose in Castilian: The *Crónica particular de San Fernando* - A Case Study' (University of Birmingham, 2019), under the supervision of Aengus Ward. This examined the theory and practice of digitally editing medieval prose, and considered the use and usefulness of crowdsourcing as a source of transcription. She is also the editor of the *Digital 'Crónica particular de San Fernando'*, having spent five years working in the team which produced the digital edition of the *Estoria de Espanna*. Polly is now combining working part-time in academia, with stage two of the *Estoria Digital* starting imminently, this time with an increased focus on crowdsourced transcription, with teaching A-Level Spanish at a Sixth Form College in the West Midlands.

**Abdenour Bouich** is a second-year PhD candidate in English at the University of Exeter.

His research project, funded by the Algerian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, consists of a comparative study of contemporary Native American and Aboriginal Australian literary productions, drawing upon postcolonial revisions of trauma studies. Prior to his arrival in Exeter, Abdenour conducted his bachelors and masters at Bejaia University in English Literature and Civilization. He is currently Director of Communications for *Xanthos*.

**Thomas Waller** is a PhD candidate at the University of Nottingham researching Portuguese-language African literatures and cinemas with a particular focus on the cultural production of Angola and Mozambique. Working within the analytical framework of the world-systems tradition, his research looks at the ways in which cultural production from Portuguese-speaking Africa registers a tension between ‘the local’ and ‘the global’, seen for example in the conflict between local social conditions and a global cultural and economic agenda. Having completed his BA in Hispanic Studies and Portuguese and his MA in Comparative Literature at Queen Mary, University of London, Thomas successfully applied for a Midlands3Cities Doctoral Training Partnership at the University of Nottingham, where he is currently researching in the department of Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies.

**Benjamin Tomkins** is a professional composer and violinist based in Colorado. He received his master’s degree in violin performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music in 2005, where he studied with Stephen Rose. He currently performs with the Cabrillo Festival in Santa Cruz, CA, is a Master Mentor at the Denver School of the Arts and regularly performs, teaches and composes both nationally and internationally. He is currently finishing work on an octet for strings and composing the libretto and music for an opera based on the lives of the famous matadors of the 1920s in Spain and their association with the poet Federico Garcia Lorca.

**Svetlana Yefimenko** is a PhD candidate in Modern Languages at the University of Exeter. Her research investigates the phenomenon of Classical reception in Russian literature of the nineteenth century, with a current focus on the ‘anticipatory plagiarism’ between Tolstoy and Homer. She is also a published translator, author and copywriter, in addition to her work with *Xanthos*.

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