

5th Biennial John Updike Society Conference



**University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philology
Serbia - June 1-5, 2018**

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Ian McEWAN (Keynote) is one of the most significant and respected writers in English. Like Updike, whom he knew, McEwan worked in multiple genres, the author of 14 novels, three short story collections, two plays, two children's books, five screenplays, and even a libretto. Among his numerous awards are the Booker Prize for his eighth novel, *Amsterdam* (1998); the Jerusalem Prize for the Freedom of the Individual in Society (2011); and the 50th Anniversary Gold Medal from the University of Sussex. Long an advocate for Updike's legacy and an admitted beneficiary of Updike's influence, McEwan has gone on record as saying that Updike's Rabbit quartet is the prime contender for Great American Novel. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, the Royal Society of Arts, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His most recent novel is *Nutshell* (2016), which retells the story of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* from the point of view of an unborn child.

Alexander SHURBANOV (Keynote) is a distinguished Shakespeare scholar who translated Updike's novel, *Gertrude and Claudius*, into Bulgarian. Now Professor Emeritus at the University of Sofia in Bulgaria, Shurbanov corresponded with Updike while translating the *Hamlet* "prequel" and was also a longtime friend of Blaga Dimitrova, the prototype for Vera Glavanakova from Updike's O. Henry Award-winning short story "The Bulgarian Poetess." Shurbanov, who also taught at the University of London, UCLA, and SUNY-Albany, has translated 14 texts ranging from Chaucer, Shakespeare, and the Magna Carta to Tales by Beatrix Potter and poetry by Milton, Coleridge, Dylan Thomas, Ted Hughes, and Rabindranath Tagore. As a poet and essayist he is also the author of 18 collections, including three bilingual Bulgarian-English titles: *Frost-Flowers* (Princeton, 2001), *Beware: Cats* (Sofia, 2001), and most recently *Foresun: Selected Poems* in Bulgarian and English (Sofia, 2016).

Michael UPDIKE (Plenary), a slate sculptor by profession, is the youngest son of John Updike. At the very first conference at Alvernia University in Reading, Pa., Michael took part in a panel with his mother, Mary, and sisters Elizabeth and Miranda. At the second conference at Suffolk University in Boston, he and Elizabeth mounted an extensive exhibit of objects mentioned in their father's fiction and non-fiction and Michael also led a walking tour of Ipswich, where his

father had an office within walking distance of the 18th-century house the family lived in. In Serbia he will share slides and talk about the year that his family spent in London after *Couples* was published. Included will be slides of “side vacations to Morocco, Austria, etc.”

Milica ABRAMOVIĆ was born in 1991 in Serbia. She graduated from the English Department at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade. She is currently enrolled in the doctoral studies program and working as a teaching associate at the English Department. Her main field of interest is modern and postmodern American literature, translation and translation studies.

Florentina ANGHEL is an Associate Professor in twentieth-century English and Irish literature, contemporary British and American drama and literary theory at the Faculty of Letters, University of Craiova, Romania. Holder of a Ph.D. in literature (*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* by James Joyce: The Making of the Work of Art), she is the author of books (*Approaches to Twentieth Century British Literature, Twentieth Century Irish Fiction*) and articles in her domains of research and areas of teaching. She has participated in national and international conferences and published articles in the volumes of the proceedings.

Matthew ASPREY GEAR is the author of *At the End of the Street in the Shadow: Orson Welles and the City* (Wallflower/Columbia University Press, 2016). He is presently preparing an annotated critical edition of the essay collection *Urgent Copy* (1968) for the Irwell Edition of the Works of Anthony Burgess. He lives in Edinburgh.

Zorica BEČANOVIĆ NIKOLIĆ is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, PhD and MPhil in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory, BA in English Language and Literature, BA in Comparative Literature, University of Belgrade. She is the author of books in Serbian *Looking for Shakespeare* (2013), *Shakespeare through the looking glass* (2007), *Hermeneutics and Poetics* (1998) and of numerous academic articles in Serbian, English, French and Spanish. She teaches Shakespeare, Medieval and Renaissance Literatures in Europe, Comparative Literature and Literary Theory. She was a British Academy Visiting Research Fellow at SSEES UCL in 2009, and AECI visiting scholar at the University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain (2000-2002).

Mirjana DANIČIĆ is Assistant Professor of Translatology at the English Department of the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade. Her research interests are in the areas of cultural translation, public service interpreting, court interpreting, Anglo-American literatures. She has co-authored several publications in the EFL testing and authored numerous articles in academic journals and monographs. She has been actively engaged in a number of national and international projects in the areas of translating, interpreting, translation quality control, cultural and literary translations and relations. She is Vice-Head of the English Department, member of the Accreditation Board for Serbian Higher-Education Institutions, member of the commission “Translation, Interpreting and Related Technology” at the Standardization Institute of Serbia and the Literary Section Editor of the academic journal *Philologia*.

Scott DILL is a Lecturer in the Department of English at Case Western Reserve University. His writing has appeared in *boundary 2*, *Books & Culture*, *Critique*, *Christian Century*, *Christianity & Literature*, *Literature & Theology*, *Religion & Literature*, *The John Updike Review*, as well as other collections. His forthcoming book is *A Theology of Sense: John Updike, Embodiment, and Postsecular Aesthetics* (Ohio State University Press, 2018).

Biljana DOJČINOVIĆ is the director of the national project *Knjiženstvo—theory and history of women’s writing in Serbian until 1915* and editor-in-chief of *Knjiženstvo, A Journal in Literature, Gender and Culture*. She has been a member of The John Updike Society since its founding and a member of the editorial board of *The John Updike Review* since 2010. Her Ph.D. was focused on the narrative strategies in John Updike’s novels, and in 2007 she published a monograph in Serbian on *Cartographer of the Modern World: The Novels of John Updike*. She is also the author of numerous essays on Updike’s works and other topics, as well as six more academic books.

Zorica ĐERGOVIĆ-JOKSIMOVIĆ is a professor in the Department of English Studies, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad, Serbia, where, among other courses, she teaches American History and Culture, British History and Culture, Utopia in English Literature, Science Fiction, and the Novels of Ian McEwan. She also participates in the project *Serbian Literature in*

the European Cultural Space at the Institute for Literature and Arts, Belgrade. Đergović-Joksimović is the author of *Utopija: Alternativna istorija (Utopia: An Alternative History)* (Belgrade, 2009), *Ijan Makjuan: Polifonija zla (Ian McEwan: The Polyphony of Evil)* (Belgrade, 2009), and *Pevanja Vuka i Vrane (The Songs of the Wolf and the Crow)* (Belgrade, 2016). She has published numerous articles. She has recently edited *Embracing Utopian Horizons*, a collection of her M.A. students' utopian stories.

Ivana ĐURIĆ PAUNOVIĆ is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad, Serbia. She teaches courses on contemporary American literature, literary translation, Gothic fiction and literary theory. She has written books on Edgar Allan Poe's fantasy and speculative fiction, and on Paul Auster's American chronotopes. She has translated more than thirty books (novels, short stories, essays, plays) by Samuel Beckett, Julian Barnes, Paul Auster, Lydia Davis, Angela Carter, Christopher Hope, etc. from English into Serbian, receiving several major awards for her work as a translator. Since 2010 she is the editor of *Serbian Prose in Translation* series, a joint project of Geopoetika Publishing and the Serbian Ministry of Culture, promoting contemporary Serbian novels and short stories. Currently, she is working on a book about contemporary short stories written by American women authors.

Mina ĐURIĆ is a teaching assistant for Serbian Literature of the 20th Century at the Department of Serbian Literature with South Slavic Literatures at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, Serbia. She graduated from the same Department in 2010, a year later, she received a Master's degree and in 2017 she completed her PhD thesis. Her research focuses on comparative literature, interdisciplinary study of contemporary Serbian literature in the context of the world literature and literary theory. She is a member of the research project "Change of Poetic Paradigms in Serbian Literature of the 20th century: National and European Context", a member of the Society for Serbian Language and Literature, a technical secretary of the International Committee of Slavists, a lecturer for Serbian as a foreign language at International Slavic Center. She was a scholar at Trieste James Joyce School (2010-2014) and Zurich James Joyce Foundation (2014). She participated in many national and international conferences (Austria, Bulgaria, Italy, Germany, USA, The Czech Republic, and Switzerland). Since 2009 she has published plenty of scientific papers in conference proceedings and journals

of national and international character; she is a co-author of two books for high school; an editor of books about Vuk Stefanović Karadžić in English, Russian and German.

Yoav FROMER teaches American history, politics and literature at Tel Aviv University. His research has appeared in (among other places) *Modern Intellectual History*, *Journal of American Studies* and the *John Updike Review*. He also writes about politics and culture for the *Washington Post* and *Tablet Magazine*. His book *Burning Down the House: The Political Imagination of John Updike and the Decline of New Deal Liberalism* is forthcoming next year. He is currently working on a new project about how literature influenced the politics of Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, for which he was awarded a research grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Alexandra K. GLAVANAKOVA, Assoc. Prof. Dr., has been a tenured lecturer for over 25 years at the Department of English and American Studies at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” (Bulgaria). Her monographs include *Posthuman Transformations: Bodies and Texts in Cyberspace* (2014) and *Transcultural Imaginings. Translating the Other, Translating the Self in Narratives about Migration and Terrorism* (2016). Her research fields are transcultural studies; U.S. culture and literature, immigration, race and ethnicity in the U.S.A. and Canada; the study of the Bulgarian diaspora in the U.S. and Canada; the major cultural shifts in literacy, education, literary studies, the creation and reception of texts under the impact of digital technology. She has been involved in a number of projects on e-learning, and teaches courses in digital culture, multimodal writing and literature in the age of the Internet.

Nemanja GLINTIĆ is a master professor of language and literature. He obtained a Bachelor and Master degree at the Department for Serbian literature and language with General literature at the Faculty of Philology of the University of Belgrade. In 2016 he started doctoral studies at the same faculty on the Literature module. He works as a Serbian language and culture lecturer at the Faculty of European languages and cultures of Guangdong University of Foreign Studies (Guangzhou, PR China). His previous work experience includes teaching Serbian language at Harbin Normal University (Harbin, PR China), coordinating the Competition for best satirical story of Nušićijada Festival (Ivanjica, Serbia), working as a member of the Organizing

Committee of The 5th Biennial Conference of The John Updike Society and teaching Serbian language and literature in the Secondary School „Veljko Dugošević“ (Belgrade, Serbia). The main fields of his research interests include comparative literature, interdisciplinary studies, imagology, postcolonial literature and literature of holocaust.

Shalom GOLDMAN teaches at Middlebury College, where he is the Tillinghast Professor of Religion. His recent books are *Zeal for Zion: Christians, Jews and the Promised Land* and *Jewish-Christian Difference and Modern Jewish Identity*.

Louis GORDON holds a Master's in Professional Writing (Fiction) and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Southern California. He teaches Middle East Politics in the Department of Political Science at California State University at San Bernardino, and is a member of the National Book Critics Circle. His work has appeared in such publication as *The Forward*, *International Journal of Comic Art*, *Jerusalem Post*, *Jerusalem Report*, *The Journal of Israeli History/Studies in Zionism*, *Midstream*, *Middle East Quarterly*, *New York Sun*, *Pasadena Star-News*, *Tikkun* and *Times of Israel*. His chapter “Three Voices or One, Philip Roth and Zionism” appeared in Claudia Bruehwiler's and Lee Trepanier's *Political Companion to Philip Roth* (University Press of Kentucky, 2017). He is the co-author with Ian Oxnevad of *Middle East Politics for the New Millennium* (Lexington Books, 2016).

Avis HEWITT is a Professor in the Department of English Language and Literature at Grand Valley State University in Michigan. Her areas of specialist research include theological issues in the short fiction of John Updike. Her publications include “Intimations of Immortality: Mastered Irony in John Updike's ‘Pigeon Feathers’” in *Christianity and Literature* 49.4 (Summer 2000): 499-509 and “‘The Obligation to Live’: Duty and Desire in John Updike's Self-Consciousness”, *John Updike and Religion: The Sense of the Sacred and the Motions of Grace*, Ed. James O. Yerkes. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999, 31-49.

Jon HOULON is a Philadelphia-based singer-songwriter and bandleader of two groups: John Train (a folk-country outfit) and the Donuts (a pop-rock combo). With these bands, he has released 12 critically acclaimed albums of his original compositions and performed both

nationally and internationally. Jon has been a member of the John Updike Society since its inception and has attended all four conferences. At the 2014 conference, he performed his song “Talkin’ Rabbit” in the John Updike Childhood Home in Shillington. In 2016, his short film of Talkin’ Rabbit (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iE2Nvm2vN9c>) premiered at the JUS conference in Columbia, South Carolina. Jon looks forward to performing his “Ballad of Henry Bech” at the JUS conference in Serbia in June 2018. More information about Jon and his musical endeavors can be found at www.trainarmy.com.

Radojka JEVTIĆ is a PhD student at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade. She completed her undergraduate studies and her master studies at the Department of English Language, Literature and Culture at the Faculty of Philology. She has been the holder of the scholarship of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia since 2015. She is also a young researcher on the project financed and supported by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development – *Knjiženstvo, Theory and History of Women’s Writing in Serbian until 1915*. Her field of interest includes gender studies, as well as postmodern and postcolonial literature.

Sandra JOSIPOVIĆ obtained her B.A. degree and M.A. degree in American literature, and PhD degree in English literature at the Faculty of Philology, Belgrade. She had her papers published in the *Cambridge Scholars Publishing* publications and in the journals: *Philologia*, *Romanian Journal of English Studies*, *Folia Linguistica et Litteraria*, etc. She also had her papers published in the conference proceedings after she had presented her papers at the international conferences which took place in Morocco, Austria, Denmark, Montenegro, Serbia. She is an interpreter for the English language and she also translates literary and non-literary texts from the English language into the Serbian language and vice versa.

Olga KARASIK is an Associate Professor at the Department of Russian and World Literature at Kazan Federal University, Kazan, Russia. She obtained her PhD and habilitation degrees in American Literature after writing her theses *The Ethnic Peculiarities of Philip Roth's Novels* (2006) and *The Creative Evolution of Jewish American Writers in the Late Twentieth and Early Twenty First Centuries* (2015) Her research interests include contemporary American literature

and multiculturalism in American literature. She has taught courses in the History of British and American Literature, Multiculturalism in American Literature, Contemporary American Literature, Philological Analysis. She is a member of the Philip Roth Society and the European Association for American Studies.

Kazuko KASHIHARA is Professor of English and American literature at Kansai Gaidai University in Japan. She has published more than ten essays, mainly in Japanese, on various Updike novels, including the Rabbit tetralogy, *Roger's Version*, *S.*, and *Gertrude ad Claudius*. Her current interests pertain to Updike's thinking and philosophy in his later years.

Matt KOCH is an Associate Professor of English at Tarrant County College in Fort Worth, TX. Having received his PhD from Texas Christian University in 2011 with a specialization in 20th century American literature and culture, his current research explores the intersections between identity and constructs of socioeconomic status and ethnicity. His recent work includes the 2017 publication of an essay titled "From Shillington to Ipswich: John Updike's Mid-Century Suburbia" in the journal *ANQ*.

Natia KVACHAKIDZE was born on March 14, 1981 in Kutaisi, Georgia. She is a member of the English Philology Department at Kutaisi Akaki Tsereteli State University. Having completed her PhD studies at the same university, Natia successfully defended her dissertation on Ernest Hemingway's Nick Adams stories in 2017. The short story is the genre she mainly works on and John Updike's short fiction is another field of her interests. Natia is a member of the Hemingway Society and is honored to have been accepted as a member of The John Updike Society.

Lynn LEIBOWITZ-WHITEHEAD is a licensed social worker who is in the process of changing careers, pursuing a second Master's degree in English at Mercy College. Literature is her passion, and she is a constant reader whose goal is to become an English professor. In addition to her membership in the Updike society, she is a member of the Hemingway Society and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Society. She lives in Liberty, N.Y.

Robert M. LUSCHER is Professor of English at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. The author of *John Updike: A Study of the Short Fiction* and “Updike’s *Olinger Stories*: New Light among the Shadows,” he has also published essays on Updike and his short fiction in the *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, the *Blackwell Companion to the American Short Story*, *Eureka Studies in Short Fiction*, and the *John Updike Review*. Beyond Updike, his scholarship focuses on the short story sequence, with published essays on volumes of short fiction by Ernest Gaines, Mary Wilkins Freeman, Clark Blaise, and Robert Olen Butler, among others.

Wei-lun LU is currently a Research Fellow in the Center for Chinese Studies of Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic. Dr. Lu holds a Ph.D. in Linguistics from National Taiwan University. Prior to his appointment at the Center, he was a Fulbrighter to Rice University (2009-10), U.S.A., Guest Researcher at Leiden University (2011-12), The Netherlands, Assistant Professor at National Taipei University of Nursing and Health Sciences (Fall 2012), and a Research Fellow in the English Department of Masaryk University (Spring 2013-Fall 2015). He adopts a linguistic (discourse-analytic) approach to cross-cultural pragmatics and stylistics. He mainly uses translation of world masterpieces in his research.

Sergej MACURA is Assistant Professor of American literature in the English Department at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, Serbia. He has taught courses ranging from *Beowulf* to McEwan and from Columbus to Hemingway. He received his M.A. on Henry James’s dramatical and theatrical views in 2007, and he obtained his Ph.D. on Thomas Pynchon’s narrative techniques in 2016. His fields of expertise include narrative theory and the encyclopaedic tradition in literature, with some research into phenomenology, Foucauldian epistemology and film adaptation. He has written on Milton, Joyce, Eliot, Coetzee, Shakespeare, Yeats, Eco, Borges, Christopher Nolan and predominantly Pynchon.

Sylvie MATHÉ is Professor Emerita of American Literature at Aix Marseille University in Aix-en-Provence (France), a charter member of the John Updike Society and a Director of the Board. She is a graduate of the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris and she has previously taught at Oxford University, Yale University, Wellesley College and MIT. She wrote her PhD dissertation at the Sorbonne on *The Daily and the Sacred in John Updike's Fiction*. She is the author of

various articles on Updike in French and in English as well as of the only monograph written in French on Updike, *John Updike: La Nostalgie de l'Amérique* (Paris: Belin, 2002). She is a member of the editorial board of *The John Updike Review*. From 2008 to 2014 she was editor in chief of the online journal *E-Rea*. Though Updike is not her only center of interest and she has published on a wide range of American writers, he remains the “Midpoint” of her academic geography.

Robert MORACE is Distinguished Professor of English at Daemen College in Amherst, New York. He is the author and editor of six books, as well as numerous articles, on contemporary fiction. He serves on the editorial boards of *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction* and *Symbiosis: A Journal of Transatlantic Literary and Cultural Relations*. He has recently co-chaired the 2017 Symbiosis Conference and served as advisor on two volumes in the *Contemporary Literary Criticism* series. In addition to teaching at Daemen College, he has taught in Beijing (2010, 2012 and 2015) and Warsaw (1985-1987), where he will return this spring to teach at Warsaw University’s American Studies Center.

Damjana MRAOVIĆ-O'HARE is an Assistant Professor of English and Director of the Writing Center at Carson-Newman University, TN. She has previously published in *Criticism*, *Twentieth Century Literature*, *Postmodern Culture*, *Modern Language Studies*, *World Literature Today*, *Canadian Slavonic Papers*, and *Serbian Studies* both on contemporary American and Serbian literature, and has participated in numerous U.S. and international conferences. Her research focus is contemporary American literature, especially politics associated with American immigrant and ethnic literature. She has a doctoral degree from the Pennsylvania State University, where she studied under Dr. Michael Bérubé.

Gideon NACHMAN received his B.A. from Harvard in 2016, where he wrote his undergraduate honors thesis on John Updike’s Early Stories. An edited excerpt of this thesis will be published in the Winter 2018 edition of *The John Updike Review*. He is a co-recipient of The John Updike Review’s Annual Emerging Writers Prize, and currently resides in London. He is very excited to attend the upcoming John Updike Society Conference in Serbia as it will be his first academic conference.

Takashi NAKATANI was born in Nagoya, Aichi on July 30th, 1964, and is presently Associate Professor of English at Yokohama City University, Japan, where he teaches American literature, literary theories, and film studies. After attending public schools in a suburb of Nagoya, where he grew up, he received undergraduate and postgraduate education at the University of Tokyo. His recent publications include “Metamorphosis of Yoknapatawpha Leading to *Absalom, Absalom!* : What the ‘Water’ and the ‘Mask’ Explored in Faulkner’s Experiences in New Orleans,” *Faulkner* no. 19 (2017) in Japanese, whose English version is to follow at the website of The William Faulkner Society of Japan. He is now working on a book based on the symposium “Aspects of the ‘Conservative’ in contemporary American Novels” at the Tokyo American Literature Society conference in December 2016, in which he delivered his paper “End of the Cold War and Changes in the Updikean Middle Class.”

Susan NORTON is a lecturer of English in the Dublin Institute of Technology. Her work on John Updike has appeared in *The John Updike Review*, *The Explicator*, and, with Laurence W. Mazzeno, in *The Irish Journal for American Studies*. Their co-edited volume, *European Perspectives on John Updike*, will be published by Camden House in Spring of 2018.

Shawn O’HARE is Professor and Chair of English at Carson-Newman University in Jefferson City, Tennessee. He is the founding editor of *Nua: Studies in Contemporary Irish Writing* (now defunct), and has published essays about the work of Samuel Beckett, Frank O’Connor, Roddy Doyle, Joseph O’Connor, Colm Tóibín, and the role of baseball in American culture (in *Northsiders: Essays on the History and Culture of the Chicago Cubs* and *Baseball/Literature/Culture: Essays*, 2006-2007).

Zoran PAUNOVIĆ (1962), as a Professor of English Literature teaches English Literature of the 19th and 20th centuries at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad and the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade. He is the author of four books *Consumed by Pale Fire* (Vladimir Nabokov’s American Novels), Prosveta, Belgrade, 1997; *History, Fiction, Myth* (Essays on Anglo-American Literature), Geopoetika, Belgrade, 2006; *The Rear Window* (Essays on Anglo-

American and Serbian Literature), Geopoetika, Belgrade, 2017; and *The Age of Heroes* (Essays on Popular Culture), Geopoetika, Belgrade, 2018. In his scientific work, (more than one hundred papers and articles) he is primarily focused upon contemporary English and American Literature. He is also an active literary translator, with several major awards. His translations include, among others, the works of James Joyce, Vladimir Nabokov, Don DeLillo and Julian Barnes.

James PLATH is the R. Forrest Colwell Endowed Chair and Professor of English at Illinois Wesleyan University, where he has taught journalism, creative writing, film, and American literature for the past thirty years. He is one of the founders and president of The John Updike Society and past president of the Illinois College Press Association, one of the largest organizations of its kind. Recently he has appeared on radio and panels to talk about the problem of fake news and the problems facing American journalists today. Involved in Updike criticism and scholarship since the Eighties, his essays on Updike have been included in four critical anthologies. In addition to editing *Conversations with John Updike* (1994) and *John Updike's Pennsylvania Interviews* (2016) he has written or edited two volumes on Ernest Hemingway and one each on Raymond Carver and the film *Casablanca*. His most recent publication is the poetry chapbook *Everything Shapes Itself to the Sea*.

JAMES SCHIFF is the author or editor of five books on contemporary American fiction, including *John Updike Revisited*, *Understanding Reynolds Price*, and *Updike in Cincinnati*. His work has appeared in *American Literature*, *The Southern Review*, *Tin House*, *Critique*, *Studies in American Fiction*, and elsewhere. He teaches at the University of Cincinnati and was recently named by the John H. Updike Literary Trust to edit a volume of Updike's letters. He serves as editor of the *John Updike Review* and as a consulting editor of *Critique* and *Philip Roth Studies*.

Pradipta SENGUPTA is an Associate Professor of English at M.U.C. Women's College, Burdwan, West Bengal, India. He did his Ph.D. on "The 'Hawthorne Novels' of John Updike" from the University of Burdwan. He also completed a Postdoctoral research project on "Recasting Contemporary America: A Study of John Updike's 'Rabbit Tetralogy'" as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow from Osmania University Center for International Program, Hyderabad during September- October 2013. He has published national and international articles

on Keats, Hawthorne, Tagore, Dickens, Robert Frost, Peter Carey, Joseph Heller, W. B. Yeats, Emerson and Updike, including publications in such journals as *The Belgrade BELLS* (University of Belgrade) and *The John Updike Review* (University of Cincinnati). Sengupta has prepared study materials on the select poetry of W.B.Yeats, Emily Dickinson and Robert Frost for M.A. students of Directorate of Distant Education, The University of Burdwan. His book *Introducing American Literature to Indian Learners* will be published shortly. His area of interest is American Literature in general and American fiction in particular.

Jovana SREĆKOVIĆ is a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade. The main areas of her academic interest are postmodernism and popular culture. She has worked as a translator and an English teacher at an elementary school, high school and the Faculty of Electrical Engineering in Belgrade. She currently holds a position of an English teacher at a private school where she works with both young learners and adults at all levels, preparing them for taking internationally recognized exams and tests. While pursuing her PhD degree, she also attends international and national conferences where she presents her papers. So far, she has published four research papers in several different academic journals, with two more research papers that are yet to be published.

Aristi TRENDEL is associate professor in Le Mans University, France, where she offers courses in American civilisation and Business. She has taught American literature and Creative Writing for several years at the School of Management of Strasbourg, France. Her doctoral dissertation focused on John Updike's short fiction. She has published book chapters and articles on American writers (John Updike, Philip Roth, Bernard Malamud, Flannery O'Connor, Djuna Barnes, Jeffrey Eugenides, etc.) in American and European journals (*The Psychoanalytic Review*, *The John Updike Review*, *Philip Roth Studies*, *The Columbia Journal of American Studies*, *The Journal of the Short Story in English*, *EJAS*, etc.), book reviews, and fiction in literary magazines. She is the author of four books of fiction. Her forthcoming books are *Seine and Insane Poems I* (Rodakio, 2018), *Academic Politics: Master and Disciple in the American Novel since the 80s* (Lexington Books, 2019).

Radojka VUKČEVIĆ is Professor of American Literature in the English Department at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade. She has published several books on American and Canadian literature (*Faulkner and Myth, In the Shadow of Myth, A History of American Literature, Perspectives on American Literature*), numerous academic papers, and several translations. Radojka is the Editor-in-Chief of several literary and cultural journals. She is a member of a number of domestic and international professional associations. Radojka Vukcevic is a two-time recipient of the Fulbright Fellowship (Urbana, Harvard). She has also conducted research at many other universities in America and Europe. Her fields of interests include American modernism, cultural studies, postmodernism, gender studies, American literary criticism.

Aleksandra VUKOTIĆ is Assistant Professor of American Literature in the English Department at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade. She obtained her PhD on history and fiction in the novels of Don DeLillo. She has taught courses in English and American Literature, from Shakespeare's Major Tragedies to Postmodern American Fiction. She is a member of the editorial board of the *Belgrade BELLS* journal published by the University of Belgrade. Her current research focuses on the interfaces between contemporary anglophone literature and film, media and technology.

ZHAO Cheng is Associate Professor in the School of Foreign Languages at Suzhou University of Science and Technology. He is Deputy Director of Public English Division and a Ph.D. candidate of the School of Foreign Languages, Soochow University. He has published 22 scientific papers (including 6 core papers), presided over a social science fund project in Jiangsu Province, Jiangsu Provincial Department of Education project a social sciences, Jiangsu Province, the CASS foreign language quality research project two. He is a member of The John Updike Society, China Association of Translators, National American Literature Research Association, Jiangsu Institute of Foreign Languages, International Literary Ethics Association. He teaches English major courses such as English-Chinese translation, English and American literature, English-Chinese language comparison, and academic dissertation writing. He has presided over a project of education reform in Jiangsu Province, Suzhou University of Science

