

## About our Contributors

**Aaron Aquilina** is a FASS-funded PhD student at Lancaster University. His research looks at how certain literary works propose challenging existential, phenomenological, and ontological questions of death, pointing to the unthinkable beyond of Heideggerian *Jemeinigkeit*. He has previously published essays on posthumanism and on the concept of scale/human significance, as well as book reviews and an interview with Judith Butler (the latter co-authored with Kurt Borg). He is the founder and general editor of the interdisciplinary journal *antae*

**Jeffrey Micallef** graduated from the University of Malta with a BA (Honours) in English, and an MA in Modern and Contemporary Literature and Criticism. His research interests are eclectic, and straddle various disciplines, including Russian literature of the nineteenth century. Micallef is currently reading an MA in Social Policy from the University of Malta.

**Adrian Abela** studied architecture in Malta and Milan, and currently lives and studies in Los Angeles. His interdisciplinary output includes drawings, paintings, sculptures, performances, and videos, with projects leading from an interest in particular materials or narratives into attempts at understanding the human condition and surroundings.

**Alfred Sant** studied physics and mathematics, private and public administration, economy, and politics, and has worked in Malta, France, Belgium, Libya, and the United States. He has been active in diplomacy, teaching, cultural and political journalism, private and public managerial leadership, economic consultancy, Maltese and European politics (as a member of the Labour Party), literary writing, and in several aspects of cultural organisation and theatrical production. He has published novels, short stories, and plays, as well as essays and socio-political commentary.

**Joseph Buttigieg** graduated with a BA in English and Maltese from the university of Malta, and now teaches at St Michael School. He has previously published a collection of poetry, titled *Siegha Vjola*, which along with later works deals with the challenging aspects of a lived experience of faith.

**Gioele Galea** read Theology at the University of Malta. For fourteen years he led a solitary life in a hermitage. He has published five collections of poetry, all of which give witness to an uncompromising spiritual journey where bareness is as overwhelming as it is essential.

**Abigail Ardelle Zammit** obtained a PhD from Lancaster university, and teaches English and Creative Writing. She has published two collections of poetry, *Voices from the Land of Trees* (Smokestack, Middlesbrough, 2007) and *Portrait of a Woman with Sea Urchin* (SPM, London, 2015) which won second prize in the Sentinel Poetry Book Competition. She has been published in a variety of international journals.

**Victoria-Melita Zammit** graduated from the University of Malta with a BA (Hons.) in English in 2016, and is currently reading for a Master's in Interpreting Studies at the same university. As a writer, her work mostly focuses on low-fantasy narratives, but she also writes poetry and spoken word whenever the Muse inspires her.

**Amber Duivenvoorden** got her M.A. in Creative Writing from Lancaster University in 2017, and is a Maltese writer. She works on short stories, with particular concern for familial relationships and disappointment within them. In most of her work, she has Malta in mind; the gender and socio-economic problems related to it, the landscape, and how it affects the individual.

**Karen Elizabeth Steed** moved to France in 1998, where she studied French literature and music, after a long career in Canada as a journalist, writer, editor, publisher and literary agent. Since moving to Malta, she has written several short stories and a memoir and cultural commentary titled *Malta: The Beautiful Hour* to be published in October 2017 by Miranda Publishers.

**Kurt Borg** is a PhD candidate in Philosophy at Staffordshire University, UK. His current research draws on the work of Michel Foucault and Judith Butler to analyse the ethics and politics of narrating trauma in institutional contexts. He graduated with a BA and an MA by research in Philosophy from the University of Malta, with a dissertation on the relation between Michel Foucault's work on power and ethics.

**Krista Bonello Rutter Giappone** lectures in the English Department at the University of Malta, and is a member of the Centre for Critical Thought at the University of Kent, Canterbury (UKC). She obtained her PhD from the UKC, researching punk and alternative comedy under the supervision of Oliver Double. She is a member of the Punk Scholars Network and the Game Philosophy Network. She has published articles on comedy, including an article on videogames (in *Game Studies*), and has co-written a book chapter on comedy in comics (in *Deadpool and Philosophy*). She is currently writing a monograph on punk and stand-up comedy, which will be published with Palgrave Macmillan. Her research interests include comedy, Shakespeare, punk, horror film, videogames, and comics.

**Christine Caruana** is an MA graduate in Modern and Contemporary Literature and Criticism. Her research interests include silliness (and humour studies more broadly), style, and literariness.

**Nikki Petroni** read for a BA in Art History at the University of Malta and was awarded an MA in the same subject from University College London (UCL). She is a PhD candidate in the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Malta researching Maltese modern and contemporary art.

**Valerie Visanich**, B.A. (Hons) (Melit), M.A. (Melit.), Ph.D. (Lough.), completed her doctoral studies in Sociology at Loughborough University. She is a resident lecturer at the Department

of Sociology, University of Malta. She is also chair (2017-2019) of the European Sociological Association, Research Network Sociology of Art (RN2) and the co-founder and chairperson of the Malta Sociological Association (VO/1323). Her areas of specialisation are within the field of Cultural Studies and Sociology of the Arts.