

## ALMOST ISLAND

### Contributors: Monsoon 2018

**Andrew E. Colarusso** is the author of *The Sovereign* (Dalkey Archive Press, 2017) and *Creance* (Northwestern University Press, forthcoming 2018).

**Ari Sitas** is a writer, creative socialist thinker and activist who has been described as one of the key intellectuals of the post-1980s generation in South Africa. His many books of poems include *Tropical Scars* (1989), *Shoeshine and Piano* (1992), *Slave Trades* (2000), *The RDP Poems* (2004), *Around the World in 80 Days, the India Section* (2013), *Rough Music: Selected Poems, 1989-2013* (2013) and *The Vespa Diaries* (2018).

**Arvind Krishna Mehrotra** is the author of five books of poetry and a collection of essays *Partial Recall* (2012), the author-translator of *Songs of Kabir* (2011), and the editor of the *Oxford India Anthology Twelve Modern Indian Poets* (1992).

**Christopher Nealon** is Professor of English, and from 2015-18 was Chair of the English Department, at Johns Hopkins University. He is the author of two books of criticism, *Foundlings: Lesbian and Gay Historical Emotion before Stonewall* (Duke, 2001) and *The Matter of Capital: Poetry and Crisis in The American Century* (Harvard, 2011), and three books of poetry: *The Joyous Age* (Black Square Editions, 2004), *Plummet* (Edge Books, 2009) and *Heteronomy* (Edge, 2014). He lives in Washington, DC.

**Imayam** is one of the most prominent and important writers of contemporary fiction in Tamil today. So far, he has written five novels, five short story collections and a novella. His first novel *Koveru Kazhudhaigal* ('The Mules') is considered one of the modern classics of Tamil Dalit writing; of it, the older writer Sundara Ramaswamy said, 'There is no novel that equals this one in the last 100 years of Tamil writing.' He has received numerous state- and national-level awards, including the Agni Akshara Award (1994), the Anantha Vikatan Award (2016) and the Award for Contemporary Literature in Tamil given by *The Hindu*, a prominent English newspaper (2018). Watch an interview of Imayam [here](#).

**Mantra Mukim** is a research student in the English department, Delhi University.

**Maxime Coton** was born in 1986. Devotes himself to literature in different forms and media, because books are needed but not enough. Aims to find balance between poetic and political topics. Has won several poetic awards in Belgium and abroad.

**Nandini Dhar** is a bilingual poet who writes in Bangla and English. She is the author of two full-length poetry books, *Historians of Redunant Moments* (Agape Editions, 2016) and *Jitakshara* (Aainanagar Prakashani, 2016). She is also the author of the chapbook *Occupying MyTongue*, as part of the FIVE chapbook project, undertaken by the online little magazines *Aainanagar* and *Vyavaya*. Nandini hails from Kolkata, and divides her time between Sonipat, Haryana and her hometown.

**Nathaniel Rudavsky-Brody** was born in Columbus, Ohio. He has translated the work of French and Belgian poets, including Benjamin Fondane, for which he was awarded the Susan Sontag Prize for Translation. He is also the author of two volumes of poetry in French, and has worked as a typesetter, a programmer, and a private tutor in Greece.

**Padma Narayanan** is the translator of several books of literary fiction from the Tamil, including La. Sa. Ramamritham's *Apeetha* (Oxford University Press, 2014), Aadhavan's *I, Ramaseshan* (New Horizons / Indian Writing, 2008), Indira Parthasarathy's *Poison Roots* (Amaryllis, 2014), and Ramamritham's *The Stone Laughs and Atonement* (Katha Press, 2005). Her translations have also appeared in *Agni* (Boston), *Words Without Borders*, *Caravan* (New Delhi), and elsewhere. She lives in Varanasi.

**Sara Rai** works in Hindi, Urdu and English. Her fiction includes *Ababeel ki Uraan* (1995), *Biyabaan Mein* (2005) and *Cheelvali Kothi* (2010). Books edited / translated by her include *The Golden Waist-Chain* (1992), *Imaging the Other* (1999) and *Hindi Handpicked Fictions* (2003).

**Sohini Basak** grew up in Barrackpore, India. She studied literature and creative writing at the universities of Delhi, Warwick, and East Anglia, where she was awarded the Malcolm Bradbury continuation grant for poetry. She also writes fiction, some of which has appeared in journals such as *3:AM Magazine*, *Aainanagar*, *Ambit*, *Litro*, *Out of Print*, and *Visual Verse*. *We Live in the Newness of Small Differences* (Eyewear Publishing, 2018) is her first collection of poetry. It was awarded the inaugural Beverly Series manuscript prize.

**Souradeep Roy** is a poet and translator. His latest publication is the poem "A Brief Loss of Sanity" published in *The Helter Skelter Anthology of New Writing, Vol. 6*, edited by Meena Kandasamy and Eunice de Souza. He currently lives in Delhi and is part of the editorial collective of the Indian Writers' Forum, where he manages their two sites, the *Indian Cultural Forum* and *Guftugu*.

**Subhro Bandopadhyay** (b. 1978, Calcutta, India) is the author of four books of poetry in Bengali, one of which fetched him Indian national award for young writers in 2013 (Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar), and two were translated into Spanish and published in Spain. A Bengali biographer of Pablo Neruda, he has received the Antonio Machado International Poetry Fellowship from the Government of Spain, which allowed him to participate in the residency programme under the same name in Soria, Spain and Poetas de otros mundos distinction from Fondo poético internacional, Spain. He also participated in a residency programme in Aberystwyth, Wales, as a part of Poetry Connections India-Wales organized by Literature Across Frontiers and the British Council, and he has been invited to distinguished literary festivals including the Medellin International Poetry Festival, Colombia and Expoesía, Spain, and Jaipur Literature Festival, India.

**Tsitsi Jaji** is the 2018 winner of the Cave Canem / Northwestern University Press Poetry Prize for her second book, *Mother Tongues*, excerpted here and to be published in 2019. Her first full-length collection, *Beating the Graves* (African Poetry Book Fund / U Nebraska Press, 2017) was a runner-up for the 2015 Sillerman Prize, and her chapbook, *Carnaval*, appeared in the first *New Generation African Poets* box-set. Her poems have appeared in *Prairie Schooner*, *Black Renaissance Noire*, *Harvard Review*, *Boston Review* online, the Academy of American Poets Poem-a-Day series and elsewhere. Jaji is a professor of English and African & African American Studies at Duke University. She has taught writing workshops in her home country, Zimbabwe, and is the author of *Africa in Stereo: Music, Modernism and Pan-African Solidarity* (Oxford University Press, 2014). She has held fellowships at the National Humanities Center, the Schomburg Center (NEH), the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, and at the Society for the Humanities at Cornell University.

**Vinod Kumar Shukla** (b.1937) is a modern Hindi poet, novelist and short-story writer. His works include the novels *Naukar ki Kameez* (which has been made into a film by Mani

Kaul) and *Deewar Mein Ek Khirkee Rahati Thi* (A Window Lived in a Wall), which won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1999. He lives in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.