



This work has been submitted to **NECTAR**, the **Northampton Electronic Collection of Theses and Research**.

Conference or Workshop Item

Title: Journal of Postcolonial Writing - 10th anniversary

Creator: Wilson, J. M.

Example citation: Wilson, J. M. (2015) Journal of Postcolonial Writing - 10th anniversary. Invited Presentation presented to: *Postcolonial Studies Association 2015 Convention: Diasporas, University of Leicester, 07-09 September 2015*.

Version: Presented version

<http://nectar.northampton.ac.uk/8036/>



JPW 10th Anniversary Celebrations, PSA Conference on Diasporas, University of Leicester 8th September 2015

Welcome to you all it is wonderful to see so many of you all at this special celebration of 10 years of JPW with T&F. I like to begin by thanking T&F for their support over the years—two of their team, Rachel Drew and Marita Elfttheridou are here now, And of course just as this is a celebration of a ten year publishing relationship with T&F it is also a celebration of our slightly shorter one with PSA. JPW is one of the journals that is associated with the work of the PSA since its founding in 2008 (which means you get a 25% discount from a personal sub if you are a PSA member) and so it seems logical to mark this occasion in conjunction with the PSA conference and through a speaker we all admire and whom, Anshuman Mondal, the Chair of the PSA has invited—Paul Gilroy, So special thanks to both the PSA organisers (and I would like to thank Alberto Carbajal in this context for all his efficient/speedy communications) and T&F for helping to bring about this occasion and giving us the opportunity to come together for this anniversary celebration, for organizing the reception, and for arranging with Paul Giulroy to address us today.

A few words about the history of the JPW which from the start has filled a gap for scholars and students working in this field and which has gone from strength to strength since it was taken over by T&F in 2005. If I had thought I would be here now 10 years ago, I would never have believed myself, We started off with a different profile- for in fact this journal was originally called *World Literature Written in English*, it originated in the late 60s as part of the MLA when it wanted to cover 'other literatures' and it was published for a while in Canada (Diana Bryden) and then in Singapore (Kirpal Singh). It came to Northampton in early 2001 from Singapore. In fact one of the very first meeting of myself with colleagues at Northampton (Sarah Lawson Welsh, Chris Ringrose, Alison Struselis, and Peter Brooker), took place on 9/11 at the very moment the twin towers were attacked, very auspicious sign for such a journal (some of our most popular essays have been on topics of terrorism concerning 9/11).

After four years of producing WLWE, and catching up with the subscribers and finding a printer, I approached T&F -- after they agreed to take over the production of the journal they wanted to do a remake and rebranding-- and asked us to change the title, insisting on the word postcolonial. This seemed to indicate that the discipline had come to stay, at least in publishing terms for now JPW is part of a suite of journals like *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*, *Postcolonial Studies* and *Wasafiri*. But fashions change and in a decade we seem to have gone full circle, as the concept of World Literature and Global literature has meanwhile come back, and in some institutions replaced the label of Postcolonial Literature.

At first our output was also modest—just two issues a year, and most of the editing done in a more leisurely fashion than today; but this decade has witnessed the rise of online and electronic publishing and distribution methods and so our production increased, we went to three issues within two years, then when T&F developed an integrated online platform enabling us to streamline the editing process, we went to five issues in 2010, and last year to the unbelievable number of 6. The team has grown as well from the initial editors of me and Sarah and a handful of colleagues to now 14 (including a reviews editor a special issues editor, a creative writing editor and a marketing manager). We also now have an expanded and geographically diverse International Advisory Board, one of whom, Louise Bethlehem, has come

to today from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem to share this occasion.

With online publishing and distribution by full text downloads, giving global accessibility to the issues, in ways not possible with just hard copy, and with new ways of attracting and measuring the reading public through the social media – by networking with twitter, facebook etc, the face of journal production has this decade changed beyond recognition, But it is also true to say that the field of postcolonial studies has expanded exponentially in this same period (and absorbed other disciplinary frameworks like diaspora studies world literature, globalisation – these labels intersect and circulate) - and we now can put out 6 issues per year because of the increasing amounts of material available to publish-- even though we might reject 70% of all articles,. In part this is because we have increasingly turned to special issues which are a popular way of publishing conference proceedings or to focus on some topic that is currently trending or is unknown (we have one coming out on Andalusia e.g.). Another advantage is that they can after two years be converted into book format as has happened with one or two.

Some of our highlights have been the focus on particular topics, e.g. the double special issue on Terrorism published in 2010 (edited by Stephen Morton, Anastasia Vassalopolous and Robert Spender), 3804 downloads, and *Beyond Geography, Literature Violence and Politics in Pakistan* in 2011 with 2381 downloads. These have been helped by T&F marketing campaigns of free online collections, such as Comic Books and Graphic Novel Collections, a Focus on Islam, and another one on What's Trending in Literature, all of which feature specific articles from JPW publications. As it says on the flier, the most popular articles-- can be viewed on the T&F website—20 are available to download this month as a special gesture towards this anniversary. So do make the most of this opportunity. E.g. Peter Morey's *The Rules of the Game* have changed, MOhsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* and post 9/11 Fiction; and Anna Hartnell's *Moving Through America, Place, Race and Resistance* in Moshin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*

Before I finish I would like to take this opportunity to say that we are always receptive to new work and this is just the kind of conference where we will be looking out for it, (so don't be surprised if someone taps you on the shoulder). There may well be a chance for you to present your papers in a more extended form to our online submission system. If you would like to discuss this please do talk to a member of the editorial team. [And talking of postcolonial segueing into world literature that Chris Ringrose, my co editor on JPW, and I are starting a new series with Ibidem Verlag, called Studies in world Literature, There are fliers in your conference packs and again if you are interested in presenting a proposal please do contact us]

PSA/JPW Postgraduate ESSAY PRIZE

I would now like to move on to present this years JPW/PSA Postgraduate Essay Prize, taking over in this task from Dr Lucienne Loh who is responsible for coordinating the JPW and the PSA efforts and judges the prize with me. Unfortunately due to illness she cannot be here today.

The Postgraduate Essay Prize now in its 6th year, is jointly judged and financed by PSA and JPW, and reflects the special relationship between us. Its aim is to give winners, younger scholars working in this field, the chance to publish their essay in in a prestigious academic journal.

I have great pleasure in announcing the 2015 winner as Annalisa Hoehling, U of Massachussets. Amherst for her essay. **'The Productive "Marvelous**

Real”: Alejo Carpentier’s En-Folding of Revolution in The Kingdom of This World’.

The judges say this is possibly the best entry they have ever received in the 6 years of judging. As she cannot be here tonight to receive this in person, Annalisa will be sent a cheque of £250 and has already been invited to submit her essay to the JPW for publication.

This year two also tied for the runner up place:

Mahruba Tasneem Mowtushi (King’s College London) with the essay **‘The “Artful” Body and the Bengali Art Critic: Hemendrakumar Roy in Search of Beauty’** and Stefanie Rudig (University of Innsbruck), for **‘Lady Barker – Writing Colonial New Zealand’**

As this is the first time we have been able to feature the prize in a public venue like this, so I though I would add a few words about it. It started as an initiative in 2010 from JPW to showcase emerging talent in postcolonial studies and we approached the PSA to advertise it among their constituency, co-finance and co judge it (i.e. provide the initial round of judging, and the JPW a second round (usually confirming the PSA judges).

A brief history of the prize winners is available online, but I will also mention them now and the topics of their published essays:

The 2010 Winner: Joshua McNamara,
School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London:
“Against ‘Third Cinema’: The Non-revolutionary Revolution of Ian Gabriel’s Forgiveness”
(published in JPW 47.1 (2011):

The 2011 Winner: Charlotta Salmi, Linacre College, University of Oxford. **"Reflections on a National Cartography: The Freedom to Roam and the Right to Imagine in Raja Shehadeh's Travel Writing"** JPW 2012, Volume 48, Issue 4.

In that year special mention was given to AMANDA WAUGH, University of Massachusetts, Amherst: for her essay **“Labor That Scars: Colonial and Child Exploitation in Charlotte Yonge’s The Clever Woman of the Family”**

2012, **Catherine Rashid (University of Cambridge)**, for her essay *“Secular Time and Muslim Fiction ”* JPW 2015, Volume 51, Issue 3.

The 2013 Winner: **Henghameh Saroukhani**, **"Penguinizing dub: Paratextual frames for transnational protest in Linton Kwesi Johnson's *Mi Revalueshanary Fren***

2014 Winner is Joy Hayward-Jansen, University of Massachusetts, Amherst (USA), for her essay **‘Queering the Plaasroman: Homoeroticism in Marlene Van Niekerk’s *Agaat*’.**

I also wish to take the opportunity to thank all the judges who help to judge the prize each year for their careful, judicious comments; this year’s excellent judges are: Anna Bernard (KCL), Lorna Burns (St Andrews), Claire Chambers (York), Corinne Fowler (Leicester), Dave Gunning (Birmingham) and Robert Spencer (Manchester), and also to thank **Taylor and Francis** for contributing to the prize and the **PSA** for helping to manage and organise the prize .

I now hand over to Anshuman Mondal of the PSA, who will introduce the speaker Paul Gilroy **“Europe Otherwise: Mare Nostrum and the Banality of Good Competition”**