

# About the Authors

## Tara Brabazon

Tara Brabazon is Professor of Media at the University of Brighton, United Kingdom, director of the Popular Culture Collective, Programme Leader of the Master of Arts Creative Media, Visiting Professor at Edge Hill's SOLSTICE CETL and Fellow of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures & Commerce (RSA).

## Caoimhghin Ó Croidheáin

Caoimhghin Ó Croidheáin studied at the National College of Art and Design in Dublin where he obtained a BA (Hons) degree in Fine Art. He subsequently undertook post-graduate study in the interdisciplinary field of Cultural Studies in Dublin City University obtaining a Masters degree in Communications and Cultural Studies. Caoimhghin is an Irish speaker and holds a PhD in Language and Politics which is published under the title *Language from Below: The Irish Language, Ideology and Power in 20th-Century Ireland*. He currently works as a part-time lecturer on aesthetics and the history of Irish art for Boston University in Dublin while doing research on a database of Realist and Social Realist art from around the world. These paintings can be viewed country by country on his blog at <http://gaelart.blogspot.com>. His own art work consists of drawings and paintings and features cityscapes of Dublin, images based on Irish history and other work with social/political themes which can be viewed at <http://gaelart.net/>.

## Aleš Debeljak

Aleš Debeljak (Ph.D. Social Thought, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, New York) is a director of the Center for Cultural and Religious Studies at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, and a recurring visiting professor at College d'Europe, Natolin-Warsaw. In 2006/7, he was a Roberta Buffett Professor of International Studies at Northwestern University, Evanston-Chicago. He published 12 books of cultural criticism and seven books of poems in his native Slovenian. His books of poems in English include *Anxious Moments* (1994), *Dictionary of Silence* (1999) and *The City and the Child* (1999). His nonfiction books in English include *The Hidden Handshake: National Identity and Europe in a Post-Communist World* (2004), *Reluctant Modernity: The Institution of Art and its Historical Forms* (1998), *Twilight of the Idols: Recollections of a Lost Yugoslavia* (1994), and a comprehensive anthology *The Imagination of Terra Incognita: Slovenian Writing 1945-1995* (1997) which he edited.

## Katie Ellis

Katie Ellis is a lecturer in Media and Communications at Murdoch University. She is the author of *Disabling Diversity: The Social Construction of Disability in 1990s Australian National Cinema* (VDM 2008) and coauthor (with Mike Kent) of *Disability and New Media* (forthcoming Routledge). Her current research interests include disability and web 2.0, and representations of disability, especially the controversial ones. She can be contacted at [kathleen.ellis@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:kathleen.ellis@murdoch.edu.au)

**Mike Kent**

Mike Kent is a lecturer in Internet Studies at Curtin University. His current research is focused on disability and the internet. His most recent book, co-authored with Katie Ellis, *Disability and New Media* will be published by Routledge in November 2010. He can be contacted at [m.kent@curtin.edu.au](mailto:m.kent@curtin.edu.au)

**Mark Featherstone**

Mark Featherstone is Senior Lecturer in Sociology at Keele University, UK. His areas of specialism are social and political thought and psychoanalysis. His current research focuses on notions of utopia and dystopia in social and political thought and he recently published a monograph on this topic entitled *Tocqueville's Virus* (Routledge). He is currently working on the second volume of this study, entitled *Planet Utopia: Utopia, Dystopia, and Globalisation*, which will be published by Routledge in 2011. Apart from his focus on utopia in social and political theory, he is also interested in urbanisation, particularly in relation to processes of globalisation. He can be reached at [m.a.featherstone@appsoc.keele.ac.uk](mailto:m.a.featherstone@appsoc.keele.ac.uk).

**Henry A. Giroux**

Henry A. Giroux currently holds the Global TV Network Chair Professorship at McMaster University in the English and Cultural Studies Department. His most recent books include: *Take Back Higher Education* [co-authored with Susan Searls Giroux](Palgrave, 2004); *The University in Chains: Confronting the Military-Industrial-Academic Complex*, (Paradigm, 2007); and *Youth in a Suspect Society: Democracy or Disposability?* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009).

**Gray Kochhar-Lindgren**

Gray Kochhar-Lindgren, Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies at the University of Washington, Bothell, served as a Fulbright Scholar in General Education at the University of Hong Kong in 2009-10. His most recent publications are "Nothing Doing: Maurice Blanchot and the Irreal" (*Café Irreal: The International Imagination*) and *Night Café: The Amorous Notes of a Barista* (Eye Corner Press). He is currently completing *Spectral Aesthetics* and working, with Kanta Kochhar-Lindgren, on a book on designing the global university.

**Kamilla Pietrzyk**

Kamilla Pietrzyk is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Political Science at York University in Toronto. She earned a BA in the Political Economy of Communications and an MA in Media Studies at The University of Western Ontario. Her research interests are located at the intersection of critical political economy and communications. In her doctoral dissertation she plans to investigate social movements on a comparative basis, using a temporal perspective.

**Jason L. Powell**

Jason L. Powell is a Reader in Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Liverpool School of Sociology and Social Policy.

**James Smoot**

James Smoot recently arrived in Seattle after teaching English and media studies at a high school in Ljubljana, Slovenia. In previous incarnations, he has also worked in various countries as a journalist, community radio news producer, university EFL lecturer, copywriter for Nike and Intel, temporary cubicle dweller, car mechanic and carpenter. He has a Ph.D. in cultural studies from the University of Ljubljana.