

# *Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies*

---

*Volume 20, Issue 1*

2020

Article No. 9

## SPEAKING OF VIOLENCE

---

Contributor Bios, *Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies*, Volume 1,  
Issue 20, Spring 2020

## Contributor Bios

**Maria Capecchi** is an English PhD candidate at the University of Iowa. She holds an M.A. in English, a M.A. in Teaching, and a B.A. in English and Theater. She is working toward a PhD Certificate in Book Studies at the University of Iowa Center for the Book and takes theater courses through the University of Iowa theater department. Maria's current research interests are early modern poetry and drama, lyric theory, performance studies, and post-colonial theory. She is currently engaged in work on Philip Sidney's *Astrophel and Stella* and Edmund Spenser's *The Faerie Queen*. Maria received the MMLA Graduate Student Paper Prize in 2019, and at the University of Iowa, Maria has received the English Department's W.R. Irwin Teaching Award, the University of Iowa Council on Teaching's Outstanding Teaching Award, and first place in the 21st Annual Jakobsen Memorial Conference Prize in the Humanities.

**Lydia Craig** is a PhD candidate in the Nineteenth Century Studies program at Loyola University Chicago, focusing on nineteenth century issues of class, gender, and race. She holds a BA in English and History from the University of Georgia and an MA in English from Loyola University Chicago. Besides writing a dissertation on the fraught literary depiction of Victorian upstarts, Lydia is conducting a research project on the racial inspiration for Heathcliff in *Wuthering Heights* and another on the life of nineteenth century African American novelist Sarah E. Farro. To learn more about her work and activities, visit [www.lydiacraig.com](http://www.lydiacraig.com).

**Maddison McGann** is an English PhD candidate at the University of Iowa studying Victorian fiction and periodicals. Her literary interests include Victorian reading, reviewing, and print culture, and her current research focuses on the co-constitutive relationship between nineteenth-century print culture and the novel. In particular, Maddison is interested in exploring how the genre of the periodical review— with all of its cultural, economic, aesthetic, and ideological underpinnings— was both shaping and shaped by the Victorian novel. Before coming to the University of Iowa, Maddison earned her B.A. in English from the University of South Florida and her M.A. in the Humanities from the University of Chicago.

**Thi Nhu Trang Nguyen** (PhD, Vietnam National University-Hanoi, 2012) is a lecturer in Western Literature in the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University, Hanoi. Her research and teaching focus on modern Russian literature. She is recently also interested in cultural and translation studies, and she has written about the writings and films of Vietnamese immigrants in Europe. She has published extensively in both Vietnamese and

English; her latest writing is a contribution to *Ecologies in Southeast Asian Literatures* edited by Chi Pham, et al. (Vernon Press, 2019).

**Sabreena Niles** is a lecturer (probationary) at the Department of English of the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka. Her teaching and research interests include an intersection of theater and performance studies, queer studies, women's studies, spatial politics, and diasporic and transnational literature. Her current research foregrounds and examines the centrality of the spatial in the literary sphere and lived spaces of post-war Sri Lanka.

**Harry J. Olafsen** recently graduated from Bowling Green State University with an M.A. in English Literature. He is interested in cultural representations of women in country music, and how their image, sound, and musical content have evolved over time. He is also more broadly interested in American culture studies. He plans on pursuing a Ph.D. in the near future.

**Swatie** is a recent PhD graduate from the University of Delhi. She is interested in aspects of sexual violence and cultural memory in India. She currently teaches at Lady Shri Ram College for Women, University of Delhi.