About the Contributors

Editors

Valerie Henitiuk is a professor at MacEwan University, in Edmonton, Alberta, where she is also executive director of the Centre for the Advancement of Faculty Excellence and university advisor for Indigenous initiatives. Until 2013, she was director of the British Centre for Literary Translation, based at the University of East Anglia. Her books include *A Literature of Restitution: Critical Essays on W. G. Sebald* (coedited with Jeannette Baxter and Ben Hutchinson; Manchester University Press, 2013), *Worlding Sei Shônagon: The Pillow Book in Translation* (University of Ottawa Press, 2012), and *Embodied Boundaries: Images of Liminality in a Selection of Women-Authored Courtship Narratives* (Gateway Press, 2007). She has published articles in such journals as the Canadian Review of Comparative Literature, Comparative Literature Studies, Meta, TTR, and World Literature Today, as well as chapters in many collected volumes, including *Translation and Academic Journals: The Evolving Landscape of Scholarly Publishing* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015), *A Companion to Translation Studies* (John Wiley and Sons, 2014), and *Translating Women* (University of Ottawa Press, 2011). Since 2011, she has been editor-in-chief of the Routledge journal *Translation Studies*.

Supriya Kar, PhD, is an editor and translator from Bhubaneswar, Odisha. She received the Charles Wallace India Trust Fellowship in Literary Translation in 2009, with a residency at the British Centre for Literary
Translation. She has also received a junior fellowship from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India; an SRIT Library fellowship from the School of Women’s Studies, Jadavpur University; and a membership from Wolfson College, University of Cambridge for her study on life writing. Her translations include Odia classics such as Upendra Kishore Das’s novel, *Malajahna* (*The Dying Moon*; Rupantar, 2006), and one of Mohapatra Nilamoni Sahoo’s collection of short stories *Abhisapta Gandharva* (*The Fallen Gandharva and Other Stories*; Odisha Sahitya Akademi, 2016). She is also the translator of Mamata Dash’s “The Lotus Man” and Pallavi Nayak’s “Microstories,” in the present collection. She was formerly an editor with Cambridge University Press India.

Authors

**Mamata Dash** (b. 1947) writes fiction and nonfiction in Odia and translates from several languages into Odia. Her notable books include *Raaga lalita*, *Ujjala upabana*, and *Anyā jagatāra sakala*. She has also translated the works of the early-twentieth-century poet Sri Aurobindo from English to Odia. In 1987, Dash was the recipient of the Odisha Sahitya Akademi Award. She often writes about primal bonds, love and sexual desire, and the disadvantaged and marginalized.

**Banaja Devi** (b. 1941) is a homemaker who lives in Bhubaneswar. Her noteworthy publications include *Radha, Belabhumi, Marujharana*, and *Ketoti sabujapatra*. She received the Odisha Sahitya Akademi Award in 2001. Her novels and short stories blend romance (favourite themes include the perils of innocence and its loss) with comedy and satire, sometimes with hints of the supernatural and the metaphysical.

**Premalata Devi** (b. 1944) has taught Odia literature at a number of colleges in Odisha. She has to her credit two short story collections, *Punascha andhara* and *Kie bujhe kahaku*; two anthologies of poems, *Prathamā swakhyāra* and *Nishabda juara*; and two collections of essays, *Saraswata samalochana* and *Sabujaru dhurara palli*. Awards received include the Rastraduta (1988), the Varta-Urmi (1989), and the Utkala Bharati Kuntala Kumari Puraskara.
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(2008). She is currently vice-president of Lekhika Sahitya Sansad, the Odisha women writers’ association. Devi frequently writes about the complexities of modern life and a society undergoing tremendous change.

Sushila Devi (dates unknown) published “Manisa Semane” (“They Too Are Human”) in the journal Shankha in the summer of 1947. Her writings frequently deal with the themes of communal harmony and family values.

Chirashree Indrasingh (b. 1966) teaches at the Udayanath College of Science and Technology, Odisha. Her publications include Bengabati katha, Ultiani sanja, and Aparichita, and among the awards she has received are the Supriti Devi Gantayat Smruti Puraskar (1988) and the Sucharita Galpa Puraskar (1998). Her writings combine psychological insight and social realism.

Mona Lisa Jena (b. 1964) is the author of several books, including two collections of short stories and three books of poems. She has translated nine books from Assamese into Odia and, in 2007, received the Odisha Sahitya Akademi Award for translation. Her English translation of contemporary Odia short stories, Dasuram’s Script (Harper Perennial), appeared in 2013. As a writer, she reflects on the ecstasy and effervescence of romantic love, as well as human relationships and their bittersweet moments. With her skilful use of the first-person voice and her deft handling of varied moods and emotions, Jena displays a profound sense of belonging to a world that is simultaneously intimate and distant.

Golap Manjari Kar (b. 1949) has penned two novels and six collections of short stories. She received the Sucharita Award in 1996 and the Bhubaneswar Book Fair Award in 1997. She is treasurer of Lekhika Sahitya Sansad, the Odisha women writers’ association. Her stories display unexpected dramatizations of human situations, with attention to gender issues and to the misuse of power.

Suprabha Kar (dates unknown) taught at the Ravenshaw Girls’ School, in Cuttack, and was a strong proponent of women’s education, which she saw as essential to women’s empowerment. She was a frequent
contributor to contemporary literary journals, including *Utkal Sahitya*, for which she regularly wrote a column.

**Gayatri Basu Mallik** (1930–2013) began her writing career in 1965. Her publications include *Padmatola*, *Kaveri*, and *Sata sagara tera nadi pare*. Among her awards are the State Level Film Award for Best Story (1985) and the Odisha Sahitya Akademi Award (1994). Mallik is distinguished by her exploration of the feminine psyche and her delineation of memorable women characters.

**Sanghamitra Mishra** (b. 1953) was a professor of Odia literature at Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. She writes poetry, short stories, plays, and criticism and is the recipient of several prizes, including the Odisha Sahitya Akademi Award. Her books include *Galpaganga*, *Mamata upap-adya*, and *Nataka parampara o paribhasha*. Typically, Mishra’s fiction is closely bound up with reportage of the actual world and is structured around neighbourhoods, social problems, or people who live on the margins of society.

**Yashodhara Mishra** (b. 1951) taught English literature and was the guest-editor of the Sahitya Akademi’s literary journal, *Indian Literature*. Her story collections include *Dweepa o anyanya galpa*, *Jahnarati*, *Dekhanahari*, and *Rekhachitra*, and she has received both the Katha and the Odisha Sahitya Akademi awards. She has been particularly praised for her short stories about the Indian middle class, especially women, which reveal a keen capacity for observation and are distinguished by clarity, precision, and simplicity, along with an originality of language and imagery. Her stories depict women struggling to cope with quintessentially modern issues such as women entering the workforce and society’s changing attitudes toward sex and divorce.

**Binapani Mohanty** (b. 1936), now retired, was a professor of economics. A prolific writer, she is the author of many notable publications, including *Nabatarang*, *Kunti kuntala Shakuntala*, and *Pata dei*. She has received the Central Sahitya Akademi Award (1990), the Odisha Sahitya Akademi Award (1970), and the Sarala Award (2010). She is president of Lekhika
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Sahitya Sansad, the Odisha women writers’ association. Most of her writings are concerned with issues of social justice such as poverty and mental illness, with a particular focus on women’s lives.

Archana Nayak (b. 1947), who holds a PhD from Utkal University, teaches Odia literature and is an All India Radio singer. Her publications include Kete drushya, Aranya abhisara, Anya nayaika, and Jahnarati barsharati. She has received a number of awards for her writing: the Prajatantra Puraskar (1969 and 1970), the Gokarnika Puraskar (1988), and the Rashtriya Mahila Sansthan (1996). Nayak frequently addresses issues of poverty, gender, and relationships in her writing.

Pallavi Nayak (b. 1979) is a deputy collector at Mayurbhanj Collectorate, in Odisha. Her poems and short stories have been published in Odisha’s leading newspapers and journals, such as Samaja, Sambad, Jhankar, Katha, and Amrutayana. In 2014, she received the Anandapur Saraswata Kabita Samman Award. Her microstories are like sparkling gems, chiselled with care, and possess an alluring charm. Nayak’s combination of lyricism and romanticism transports readers to a dream world of imagination.

Supriya Panda (b. 1957) is a short story author and playwright whose publications include Nirvan, Nishanta, and Mugdhanadi. She works as head of material management at KIIT University, in Bhubaneswar. A master storyteller, Panda uses her writing to convey a subtle sense of beauty, a deep and empathetic grasp of reality, and an unflinching trust in humanity.

Basanta Kumari Patnaik (1923–2012) earned her MA in economics from Ravenshaw College, Cuttack. With her brother, she established the publishing firm Shanti Nibas Bani Mandira, which operated from 1959 to 1962. The three novels that established her reputation as a major writer of fiction are Amada bata, Chorabali, and Alibha chita. She is the first and only Odia woman writer to have received the Atibadi Puraskara, Odisha’s highest literary award. Her writings display an extraordinary command of Odia idiom, meticulously constructed plots, and a deep understanding of the domestic and social world of twentieth-century Odisha.
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Binodini Patra (b. 1951) is retired from the Odisha Education Service and lives in Bhubaneswar. Her publications include *Tuma pratikshare nishidina* and *Kuna paain kabita*. She uncompromisingly confronts cultural notions of gender identity, sexuality, and religion.

Aratibala Prusty (b. 1952) teaches botany at Prananath College, Khurda, and lives in Bhubaneswar. Her publications include *Budi jauthiba swapna ketoti* and, in the science fiction genre, *Paribesha mela* and *Gachhalatara sansara*. Many of her writings explore human disappointment, anger, and confusion about broader social values and situations.

Deepsha Rath (1982–2015) held a BTech degree and wrote in both Odia and English. Her writings have been published in leading newspapers such as the *Indian Express* and *The Hindu*. Rath’s gift lay in capturing the fleeting moments of joy and happiness in an apathetic world.

Susmita Rath (b. 1952) is a homemaker living in Cuttack. She has to her credit a collection of short stories, *Hajila jahnara chhai*. Her writings are realistic representations of the lives of middle-class women in Odisha caught up in life’s daily struggles.

Pratibha Ray (b. 1944) holds a master’s degree in education and a PhD in educational psychology. Her widely acclaimed books include *Yajnaseni*, *Magna mati*, *Adi bhumi*, *Moksha*, and *Shilapadma*. She received the Odisha Sahitya Akademi Award in 1985, the Sarala Award in 1990, and the Moorti Devi Award in 1991. In 2007, the Government of India conferred the prestigious national Padmashree Award on Ray for her contribution to literature. Ray’s writings display an awareness of Indian culture and mythology and focus on the poor, the downtrodden, and those living on the edge.

Reba Ray (1875–1957) was an educator, writer, and editor, as well as the founder of *Asha*, the first women’s magazine in Odisha. Her story “*Sanyasi*” (“The Mendicant”), which was published in volume three of *Utkal Sahitya* in 1899, was the first Odia short story written by a woman to appear in print. Her work firmly expresses her social commitment and often contains a strong philosophical element.

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Sanjukta Rout (b. 1950) is a teacher of English and lives in Kendrapada. She is author of *Mukta bihanga, Jeunthi arambha seithi sesha*, and *Nibuja ghara*, among other publications. The awards she has received include the Ajikali Galpa Samman, the Birupa Sahitya Sanskruti Anusthan, and the Rashtraduta Galpa Samman. Her plots and characters are drawn from her immediate surroundings, detailing the experiences of deprivation, violence, and rejection, as well as the struggle to survive financially and emotionally.

Sarojini Sahoo (b. 1956) teaches at a college in Belpahar, Jharsuguda. Her publications include *Sukhara muhanmuhi, Dukha apramita, Upasibesh*, and *Gambhiri ghara*, and both the Jhankar Award (1992) and the Odisha Sahitya Akademi Award (1993) have been conferred upon her. A formidable writer, Sahoo deftly portrays the intimate psychological worlds of women, gender identity, and the female experience of sexual and physical subordination.

Paramita Satpathy (b. 1965) received her master’s in economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi and is currently additional commissioner of income tax with the Indian Revenue Service. Her publications include *Birala rupaka, Vividha aswepna*, and *Bhasakhara*. She received the Bhubaneswar Book Fair Award in 2001, the Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad Yuva Puraskar Award in 2003, and the Odisha Sahitya Akademi Award in 2006. A chronicler of the rising expectations of the twenty-first-century woman, Satpathy persistently experiments with techniques of allusion, symbolism, and the contradiction of realistic expectations.

Gayatri Sharaf (b. 1952) is a teacher who lives in Bolangir. She writes poetry and fiction. Her publications include *Alokita andhakar, Aaainara janha*, and *Nijaswa basanta*, and she has been awarded the Bisuba Puraskar. Sharaf is a prolific writer whose work, ranging over many genres, is noted for its emotional intensity, satiric wit, and understated irony.
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Translators

Madhumita Chanda, PhD, teaches in the Department of English at Maulana Azad College and in the Department of Comparative Language and Literature at Calcutta University. She has published a book on translation theory and practice, along with numerous research papers, in various journals, on comparative literature and contemporary translation theories. Chanda translated Jayanta Mahapatra’s autobiography, Bhoro motiro kanophoolo, into Bengali. Her areas of specialization are translation studies and comparative literature.

Bikram K. Das is a linguist, translator, and lexicographer from Bhubaneswar, Odisha. He was a professor at CIEFL, Hyderabad, and the National Institute of English in Singapore. He won the Central Sahitya Akademi Award for English translation for Gopinath Mohanty’s Paraja in 1989. His translations include Gopinath Mohanty’s The Survivor (Macmillan, 1995) and Pratibha Ray’s The Primal Land (Orient Longman, 2001). He was a member of the editorial board of WordMaster: Learner’s Dictionary of Modern English (Orient BlackSwan, 2009).

Snehaprava Das has retired from the Odisha Education Service. She co-translated Padmamali (Grassroots, 2005), the first novel written in Odia, into English. Her other translations include Baishnab Charan Das’s The World Within (Rupantar, 2007), Ramsankar Ray’s Bibasini: A Historical Romance (Rupantar, 2010), and Manoj Kumar Panda’s One Hundred Days in the Refrigerator (Speaking Tiger, 2016).

Mona Lisa Jena. Her biography can be found in the “Authors” section.

Ashok K. Mohanty was a professor in the Department of Business Administration at Berhampur University. His translations include Dash Benhur’s Alms and Other Stories (Rupantar, 2007) and Susmita Rath’s Colours of Memory (Rupantar, 2010). He has also translated Binapani Mohanty’s Pata dei (Sahitya Akademi, 2005) into English.
Sachidananda Mohanty is vice chancellor of the Central University of Koraput, in Odisha. He is the editor of Early Women’s Writings in Orissa, 1898–1950: A Lost Tradition (Sage, 2005) and the author of Gender and Cultural Identity in Colonial Orissa (Orient Longman, 2008). He won the Katha Translation Award in 1992.

K. K. Mohapatra, writer and translator, has published a novel, two collections of short stories, and a book of essays in Odia. He has translated selected works by Isaac Bashevis Singer, Jean-Paul Sartre, and Gabriel García Márquez into Odia. He has also collaborated with Leelawati Mohapatra and Paul St. Pierre on a number of translations into English, notably Ants, Ghosts, and Whispering Trees: An Anthology of Oriya Short Stories (2003) and Gopinath Mohanty: Dark Loneliness (2014).

Ajit K. Mukherjee retired from the Odisha Education Service after teaching English in a number of colleges in Odisha. His scholarly articles and translations have been published in many respected journals.

Chandramoni Narayanaswamy has retired as chairperson of the Odisha Administrative Tribunal. Her publications include Better Late Than Never, Adventures of FUN, and Post Office. She has translated short stories by women writers such as Nandini Satpathy, Archana Nayak, and Binapani Mohanty. In 1999, the Millennium 2000 Medal of Honour was conferred on her by the American Biographical Institute.

Gopa Nayak earned her master’s degree in applied linguistics and a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Oxford. Her writings and translations have appeared in journals such as Muse India, Cafe Dissensus, and Northeast Review. At present, she teaches English at O. P. Jindal Global University, in Haryana, India.

Jatindra K. Nayak is professor of English at Utkal University, Odisha. His translations include Fakir Mohan Senapati’s Story of My Life (Sateertha, 1997), Chandrasekhar Rath’s Astride the Wheel (Oxford University Press, 2003), and Jagannath Prasad Das’s A Time Elsewhere (Penguin India, 2010). He won the Katha Translation Award in 1997 and the Hutch Crossword
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Indian Fiction Translation Award in 2004. He is the founder and chairperson of the Rupantar Centre for Translation in Bhubaneswar.

Arundhati Patnaik is a translator and painter. She is currently a researcher with the SANDHI project, sponsored by India’s Ministry of Human Resources Development, at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, which focuses on creative economies and tourism. Her other interests include photo documentation and photography. She lives in Kharagpur, West Bengal.

Priyadarshi Patnaik, a professor of English at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, West Bengal, is a poet, painter, and photographer. He has published two volumes of poems, and his translations include Bidyut Prabha Devi’s Poems for Children (Rupantar, 2010).

Khushi Pattanayak, PhD, teaches English at KIIT University, in Bhubaneswar. Her writings and translations have been published in numerous journals, including India Opines and Indian Literature.

Sumanyu Satpathy is a professor of English at the University of Delhi. He is one of the editors of The Tenth Rasa: An Anthology of Indian Nonsense (Penguin India, 2007) and of Signifying the Self: Women and Literature (Macmillan India, 2004), and his translations include The Voyage Out: Contemporary Oriya Short Stories by Women (Rupantar, 2007).