

## THE CONTRIBUTORS

### **Laura Castor**

Associate Professor Laura Castor (University of Tromsø, Faculty of Humanities, Institute for Culture and Literature, born 1957 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA) has a doctorate in American studies from the University of Minnesota (1994), where she wrote her dissertation on autobiographical writing as a tool for interpreting gender, American history, and the politics of art (especially dance and theater) in twentieth century American culture. Her current research interests include autobiographical writing (especially as boundary between history and fiction), Native American literature, and gender and ethnicity in literature of the English-speaking world.

### **Kathleen Osgood Dana**

Professor of Northern Studies, Center for Northern Studies at Sterling College, 2003 – present; Fellow, Center for Northern Studies (Wolcott, Vermont) 2001-3. Humanities Faculty, Norwich University, 1987 – present. Director, Russian School of Norwich University (Northfield, Vermont), September 1998 – May 2001. Ph D in Literature University of Oulu, Finland, 2003. Dissertation: *Áillohaš the Shaman-Poet and his Gouadas-Image Drum: A Literary Ecology of Nils-Aslak Valkeapää's Beaivi, Áhčažan (The Sun, My Father)*.

### **Lill Tove Fredriksen**

Lill Tove Fredriksen comes from Porsanger in Finnmark County, Norway. She has a post-graduate degree in Sámi literature from the University of Tromsø, and now works as a consultant and interpreter at the University Hospital of Northern Norway. Her post-graduate thesis "Porsánġgu lávlagat. Mearrasámi lávlunárbevierru ja olmmošlaš reaškinkultuvra (Songs from Porsanger. Sea Sámi song tradition and popular laughter culture) was published in 2001.

### **Harald Gaski**

(b.1955) is Associate Professor in Sami literature at the University of Tromsø, Norway. He is the author and editor of several books and articles on Sami literature and culture. Gaski has been visiting scholar at several universities in the US, Australia, and in Greenland. Gaski's

research topics include indigenous peoples' literatures with a specific emphasis on Sami literature. He has also specialized on oral tradition – especially the transition of the traditional Sami singing, the *yoik* poetry, into contemporary lyrics. Gaski has participated in translating Sami prose and poetry into English. Latest book including English is the tri-lingual publication about the myth that Sami are the children of the Sun, *Biejjién baernie – Sámi Son of the Sun*, 2003. Forthcoming is a collection of Sami proverbs translated into English, *Time is a Ship That Never Casts Anchor*. Gaski has also edited the anthology *In the Shadow of the Midnight Sun. Contemporary Sami Prose and Poetry*, 1997, and a collection of essays on current Sami issues, *Sami Culture in a New Era. The Norwegian Sami Experience*, 1997.

### **Rune Halvorsen**

Dr. Polit., born 1968, is currently a Post-Doc Scholar in the Department of Sociology and Political Science at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, Norway (runeh@svt.ntnu.no). Social marginality has been a main topic in his publications. This has covered questions related to ethnicity, disability, sexuality and welfare dependency. Recently he has contributed to the development of improved subject or agency perspectives in welfare-policy research, especially in his dissertation from 2002.

### **Bo Hazell**

has devoted twelve years of his life to studying the Travellers' way of living, their culture and language, and the progress of their integration into society in Norway, Sweden, France, Holland, England and Ireland. In 1997 he produced a large number of radio programmes about the Traveller people, and in 1998 he created a documentary film for Sveriges Television (Swedish Television, SVT), in collaboration with TV producer and film-maker Lars-Göran Pettersson, and a documentary TV series for UR. In 2002, Bo Hazell's book, "Resandefolket – från tattare till traveller" (The Traveller people – from tinkers to Travellers) was published by Ordfront Förlag. He has given over 80 lectures and other public performances concerning his book to teachers and students in universities, pupils in High Schools, national and local politicians and civil servants, and other groups of people. He was declared Educator of the Year in 2002.

### **Kikki Jernsletten**

Kikki Jernsletten is a Ph.D. student in the Sámi Department at the University of Tromsø. She is a Tromsø Sámi with a theoretical background within Comparative Literature and the fields of feminism, deconstructivism and post-colonialism. In her work she focuses on oral literature and science, challenging the universalism of the latter with the myths and world-views of the former (mostly Sámi).

### **Tatjana Kudrjavnseva**

was born in Eastern Siberia in 1973 and was brought up in Tallinn, Estonia. Her current PhD thesis at the Department of Literature and Culture at University of Tromsø is a comparison of several prose writers from the North. She is interested in the questions of identity in literature from the Soviet period, and her works include "Representing Nation through Nature: *The Snail on the Slope* by Arkady and Boris Strugatsky" (Master's dissertation) and "Fazil' Iskander and Cultural Bilingualism" (Slavica Lundensia 2004).

### **Rauna Kuokkanen**

Rauna Kuokkanen Ph.D. comes from the Finnish side of the Deatnu Valley, Sámiland. Her field of research includes comparative indigenous studies, education theory, and post-colonial and post-structural theory. She has edited an anthology of contemporary Sámi literature, *Juoga mii geasuha* (2001). She has long been involved in the public life of Sámi society. She was the founding chair of the Sámi Youth Organization in Finland, established in 1991, and for two years served as Vice-President of the Sámi Council.

### **Jelena Porsanger**

Born and grew up on the Russian side of Samiland, the descendant of the *Osipov*-family from the *Njuõ'ttjäu'rr* (Russ. *Notozero*). Graduated as the Licentiate in Philosophy from the University of Helsinki, Department of Comparative Religion, in 1998. Worked as an Associate Professor in Sami culture at the Department of Sami (University of Tromsø) from 1998 to 2000. Currently writing a doctoral thesis entitled "Sources for the study of the Eastern Saami Indigenous Religion

during the period from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century: application of indigenous methodology to source criticism”.

### **Nils-Aslak Valkeapää**

Nils-Aslak Valkeapää (1943-2001) made his debut as an author in 1971 with a book of essays in Finnish, which was translated into English thirteen years later, *Greetings from Lappland*, 1984. Valkeapää is so far the only Sami who has been awarded the Nordic countries literature prize for his book of poetry and old photographs, *Beaivi, áhcázan*, 1991, *The Sun, My Father*, 1997. The book alludes to the myth about the Sami as the children of the Sun. Another book in English by the same author is *Trekways of the Wind*, 1994 (Sami original *Ruoktu váimmus*, 1985). Valkeapää was also an acknowledged musician, composer, painter, sculpturer, and actor. In 1993 he was awarded the Prix Italia Prize for the composition *Bird symphonie*, which only consists of natural sounds from the environment in which the artist himself grew up, later published on CD with the title *Goase dusse*, 1994. His latest book appeared in 2001, *Eanni, Eannazan* (forthcoming in English *The Earth, Our Mother*).