

About the Contributors

Tim H. Blessing is a professor of history and political science at Alvernia University. Co-author (with Robert K. Murray) of *Greatness in the White House* (Pennsylvania State University Press, 1988, 1994), he is a frequent presenter on leadership in the United States, Europe and Latin America. His research interests also include the American presidency, political history and the early American republic.

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Katherine Brown Downey is the president of the American Academy of Religion — Southwest Region and teaches at The Hockaday School. A cultural historian and axiologist, she considers literary texts as artifacts that reveal the values of the culture that produced them. She is the author of *Perverse Midrash: Oscar Wilde, Andre Gide, and Censorship of Biblical Drama* (Continuum, 2004).

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Marc Lucht is a visiting assistant professor of philosophy and education coordinator for the Center for Peace Studies and Violence Prevention at Virginia Tech. A specialist in 19th and 20th century Continental philosophy, he co-edited (with Donna Yarri) *Kafka's Creatures: Animals, Hybrids, and Other Fantastic Beings* (2010, Lexington).

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Ruth Vanita is a professor in the Liberal Studies program at the University of Montana. A translator, poet, and Shakespearean scholar, she is the founding co-editor (with Mudhu Kishwar) of *Manushi*, India's first nationwide feminist magazine. Her many books include *Same-Sex Love in India: Readings from Literature and History* (with Saleem Kidwai, St. Martin's, 2000) and *Gender, Sex and the City: Urdu Rekhti Poetry in India, 1780–1870* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012).

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