

# On the Contributors

## John Brockington

JOHN BROCKINGTON is emeritus Professor of Sanskrit at the University of Edinburgh, U.K., a Vice President of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies (having been Secretary General, 2000–2012), and is currently attached to Wolfson College, Oxford. His research focuses mainly on the Sanskrit epics and the history of Hinduism, with a particular emphasis on the *Rāmāyaṇa*, and he is currently working with Mary Brockington on a detailed inventory and analysis of the Rāma tradition. He is the author of several books, including *The Sacred Thread: Hinduism in Its Continuity and Diversity* (1981; 2nd edn 1996), *Righteous Rāma: The Evolution of an Epic* (1985), *Hinduism and Christianity* (1992), *The Sanskrit Epics* (1998), and *Epic Threads: John Brockington on the Sanskrit Epics* (2000); he is the translator with Mary Brockington of *Rāma the Steadfast: An Early Form of the Rāmāyaṇa* (2006) and editor with her of *The Other Rāmāyaṇa Women* (2016).

## Mary Brockington

MARY BROCKINGTON has published many articles, mostly on the Indian epics, and is a Research Fellow of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies and a Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies. She is an independent scholar based at Wolfson College, University of Oxford, working on narrative structures, chiefly in the Sanskrit epics but also more widely, with especial reference to the tension between inherited narratives and renewal of tradition. A particular interest is the interplay between different forms of presentation — oral, written and visual. Her current work, in collaboration with John Brockington, is a detailed inventory and analysis of the narrative elements used by successive tellers of the pre-modern Rāma story in all media, languages, religions and cultures.

## Stefania Cavaliere

STEFANIA CAVALIERE is Lecturer in Hindi Language and Literature at the University of Naples “L’Orientale” (Italy). After her PhD in Indological Studies at the

University of Turin, she got a postdoctoral fellowship at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India in 2010 and a Fulbright fellowship at the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies (MESAAS), Columbia University, New York in 2015. Her main fields of research are classical Hindi literature and Indian aesthetics. Her publications include *Moonlight of the Emperor Jahangir's glory. Critical Edition and English Translation of the Jahāmgīra Jasa Candrikā by Keśavadāsa* (2010) and research papers on multilingual translations and the adaptation of classical models in Early Modern Hindi texts.

### **Alexander Dubyanskiy**

ALEXANDER DUBYANSKIY is Professor of Tamil at the Department of Indian Philology, Institute of Asian and African Studies, Moscow State University (Russian Federation) where he teaches Tamil and lectures on Tamil and Indian literature, religions and culture. His many publications—monographs and articles—in Russian and English, including *Ritual and Mythological Sources of the Early Tamil Poetry* (2000), focus on Tamil literature and culture.

### **Danielle Feller**

DANIELLE FELLER studied Indology at the Universities of Lausanne (Switzerland) and Pune (India). A revised version of her PhD was published as *The Sanskrit Epics' Representation of Vedic Myths* (2004). She presently works at Lausanne University, teaching Sanskrit and Indian religions. Her main areas of research are the Sanskrit epics and Sanskrit *kāvya* literature.

### **Monika Nowakowska**

MONIKA NOWAKOWSKA did her PhD in Sanskrit at the University of Warsaw, Faculty of Oriental Studies, Chair of South Asian Studies (Warsaw, Poland) where now she teaches Sanskrit and Indian philosophy. Her main interests are: classical Sanskrit literature, with particular focus on the texts of normative treatises (*śāstras*) and philosophical schools (*darśanas*); the tradition of ritual exegesis of Mīmāṃsā with its specific philosophical and more general conceptual impacts on the Sanskrit language culture.

### **Sohini Sarah Pillai**

SOHINI PILLAI is a PhD Candidate in the Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. She received a BA in South Asia Studies and Theatre Studies from Wellesley College in 2012 and an MA in Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies from Columbia University in 2015. Her dissertation project explores how regional Vaiṣṇava religious traditions transformed the narrative and transmission of the *Mahābhārata* in premodern South Asia.

**Adrian Plau**

ADRIAN PLAU did his doctoral work on Jain literature in Brajbhāṣā at SOAS, University of London. Starting November 2018, he leads a Wellcome Trust-funded research project on health, medicine and treatment in early modern North India based at the Wellcome Library. He is interested in early modern literatures, religions and socio-cultural history.

**Paula Richman**

PAULA RICHMAN is William H. Danforth Professor of South Asian Religions, Emerita at Oberlin College, USA. In addition to more than 25 scholarly articles, she has published two monographs on Tamil religious literature and three edited volumes on the *Rāmāyaṇa*: *Many Rāmāyaṇas: The Diversity of a Narrative Tradition in South Asia* (1991), *Questioning Ramayanas, a South Asian Tradition* (2001), and *Ramayana Stories in Modern South India. An Anthology* (2008). She has received research fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the American Institute for Indian Studies.

**Bożena Śliwczyńska**

BOŻENA ŚLIWCZYŃSKA is Professor in the Faculty of Oriental Studies at the University of Warsaw. She specializes in classical (Sanskrit) and modern (Bengali) Indian studies. Her field of research concentrates on various traditional and classical theatre forms with the special focus on the temple theatre Kūṭiyāṭṭam (Kerala). The Vedic and post-Vedic ritual, the Bhakti movement (Gauḍiya Vaiṣṇavism) are the subject of her research as well.

**Danuta Stasik**

DANUTA STASIK is Professor and Head of South Asian Studies, Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Warsaw, where she teaches courses on Hindi literature, North Indian culture and society as well as literary theory. Her research focuses mainly on the history of Hindi literature and literary criticism, the *Rāmāyaṇa* tradition in North India, as well as on the Indian diaspora in the West with a particular emphasis on Hindi writing. Her main publications include *Out of India. Image of the West in Hindi Literature* (1994) and *The Infinite Story. The Past and Present of the Rāmāyaṇas in Hindi Literature* (2009).

