

From the Editors

This issue of *Polish Journal of English Studies* addresses unsettling issues found in selected works of fiction and a period in the history of Britain which is rarely analysed in history coursebooks. Authors of articles are interested in, on the one hand, highlighting the treatment of the rejected and/or silenced in contemporary literature and, on the other, the instability of political formations allegedly impervious to crises. Ema Jelínková's text is a scrutiny of two short stories by the Scottish writer Ali Smith, which characteristically address the recurrent themes of her fiction. Deploying Bakhtinian heteroglossia, Jelínková focuses on how Smith gives voice to the marginalised and how she creates spaces for a dialogue, emphasising what the characters have in common. Ewa Kowal, in turn, looks at Mohsin Hamid's novel *Exit West* from a postcolonial perspective, exploring the thorny issue of migration. She compliments her reading by delving into the question of the formal decision made by the writer to present the story through the lens of magical realism. She finds the form as politically charged as the narrative itself, an argument she presents in a most convincing manner. Tuhin Shuvra Sen's article addresses the revision of mythical and ancient representations of female agency in Pat Barker's variation on *The Iliad*. It emphasises Barker's restoration of a woman's central place in Western culture and letters by providing space for a woman's voice. Finally, György Borus analyses in his essay a most turbulent period in British (political) history (1806–1812), attempting to fathom the reasons for the difficulties and troubles that the Whig government had to face and deal with. He also ponders on the causes of the crises and the inefficacy with which government officials handled them.

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