

# DECOLONIZING THE ENGLISH LITERARY CURRICULUM

George Floyd's death on May 25, 2020, marked a watershed in reactions to anti-Black racism in the United States and elsewhere. Intense demonstrations around the world followed. Within literary studies, the demonstrations accelerated the scrutiny of the literary curriculum, the need to diversify the curriculum, and the need to incorporate more Black writers. *Decolonizing the English Literary Curriculum* is a major collection that aims to address these issues from a global perspective. An international team of leading scholars illustrates the necessity and advantages of reform from specific decolonial perspectives, with evidence-based arguments from classroom contexts, as well as establishing new critical agendas. The significance of *Decolonizing the English Literary Curriculum* lies in the complete overhaul it proposes for the study of English literature. It reconnects English studies, the humanities, and the modern, international university to issues of racial and social justice. This book is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

ATO QUAYSON is the Jean G. and Morris M. Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies and Chair of the Department of English at Stanford University. His books include the two-volume edited *Cambridge History of Postcolonial Literature, Tragedy and Postcolonial Literature*, which won the Warren-Brooks Prize for Literary Criticism and *Oxford Street, Accra: City Life and the Itineraries of Transnationalism*, which won the Urban History Association Prize. He is Editor of the *Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry* and host of Cambridge Contours: The Cambridge Literary Studies Hour. He has also curated Critic.Reading.Writing, a YouTube channel dedicated to themes in the interdisciplinary literary humanities. He is elected Fellow of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Royal Society of Canada, the British Academy, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

ANKHI MUKHERJEE is Professor of English and World Literatures at the University of Oxford and Fellow of Wadham College. Her books include *Unseen City: The Psychic Lives of the Urban Poor* (2021), which won Columbia University's Robert S. Liebert Award, and *What Is a Classic? Postcolonial Rewriting and Invention of the Canon* (2014), which won the British Academy's Rose Mary Crawshay Prize for English Literature. She has coedited *A Concise Companion to Psychoanalysis, Literature, and Culture* (2014) and edited *After Lacan* (2018). She is currently writing *A Very Short Introduction to Postcolonial Literature* (Oxford University Press, 2024).

# DECOLONIZING THE ENGLISH LITERARY CURRICULUM

EDITED BY

ATO QUAYSON

*Stanford University*

ANKHI MUKHERJEE

*University of Oxford*



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,  
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,  
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of  
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781009299954](http://www.cambridge.org/9781009299954)

DOI: [10.1017/9781009299985](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009299985)

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2024

This work is in copyright. It is subject to statutory exceptions and to the provisions  
of relevant licensing agreements; with the exception of the Creative Commons version the  
link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part of this work may take place  
without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

An online version of this work is published at [doi.org/10.1017/9781009299985](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009299985) under  
a Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC 4.0 which permits re-use, distribution  
and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes providing appropriate credit  
to the original work is given and any changes made are indicated. To view a copy of this license  
visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0>

All versions of this work may contain content reproduced under license from third parties.  
Permission to reproduce this third-party content must be obtained from these third-parties  
directly.

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI [10.1017/9781009299985](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009299985)

First published 2024

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ Books Limited, Padstow Cornwall

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*A Cataloging-in-Publication data record for this book is available from the Library of Congress*

ISBN 978-1-009-29995-4 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-009-29996-1 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence  
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this  
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain,  
accurate or appropriate.