

Editorial Note

The 15th volume of *Crossings: A Journal of English Studies* is proud to feature Abdulrazak Gurnah, the 2021 recipient of the Nobel Prize in literature. He enthralled the Dhaka crowd with the talks he gave at the Dhaka Lit Fest and ULAB in 2023. Titled as “Writing and Its Hinterland,” Gurnah’s talk transported the audience to colonial Zanzibar to enlighten us about his writing process situated in the intersections of personal memory and collective history. The occasional piece sets the tone for our journal that aims to converge diverse voices that are not limited to geographical and disciplinary boundaries.

This volume remains committed to producing a world-class international journal that highlights knowledge produced from the Global South. Our recent shift from a print journal to open access journals on the DOAJ platform has ensured greater visibility for our contributors’ work through indexing in various bibliometric databases. By design, we attract diasporic scholars, and their research typifies the growing trend of the Global South’s contribution to the scholarship claimed by the Global North.

The second occasional paper by Obaidul Hamid, an Australian-Bangladeshi linguist, is a case in point. The essay problematizes the hegemonic presence of English as a global lingua franca and its implications for modern languages in English-speaking societies. Meanwhile, Canada-based Bangladeshi linguist Jahurul Islam collaborates with his colleagues to reflect on the phonological challenges faced by Bangla speakers in producing English vowels.

Crossings, as the name implies, would like to go beyond its originary loci to engage with globally meaningful scholarly dialogue. It is bold enough to encourage emerging voices to publish alongside seasoned academics. The volume includes essays that deal with classic texts such as *Frankenstein* from a feminist disability perspective, period studies involving slavery in America, trauma narratives in contemporary Syria as expounded in Mustafa Khalifa’s *The Shell*, the exile saga of a Pakistani girl in the US in Shaila Abdullah’s *Saffron Dreams*, memory in Anglophone Bangladeshi poet Kaiser Haq’s poetry, social protests involving Black Lives Matter in hip-hop songs, democracy in post-9/11 America as found in Mohsin Hamid’s *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, the female body as a contested site in the poetry of Bangladeshi-American poet Tarfia Faizullah, transgression in the Polish Nobel laureate’s murder mystery, *Drive Your Plow over the Bones of the Dead*, and toxic masculinity in the Bollywood satire *Darlings*.

The language section navigates educational issues, such as the ideas behind translanguaging in higher secondary schools, the effects of writing instruction on school tests that are not always thought about, the possibility of blended research

supervision after the technological changes that happened post-pandemic, and a very in-depth look at lax vowels among Bangla speakers.

Two recent books, one on late Wordsworth's poetics and the other on performative feminism, bring the volume to an end.

The production has been a collective effort of our contributors, reviewers, and editorial team. Their dedication has made this journal a dynamic forum for academic exploration. We hope you will read and refer to the discussions within your own intellectual sphere.

On behalf of the Editorial Board,
Shamsad Mortuza, PhD
Chief Editor