

## **About the Authors**

### **Jonathan S. Burgess**

Jonathan S. Burgess has worked on early Greek epic with a special interest in Epic Cycle literary and mythological history. His most recent monograph is an introduction to Homer and Homeric studies, including theory and reception. Other research focuses include the *Odyssey* and travel literature, and he is especially interested in the reception of the *Odyssey*. He oversees a website dedicated to the localization of Odysseus in antiquity and modern travel literature.

### **Gregory Nagy**

Gregory Nagy is the author of *The Best of the Achaeans: Concepts of the Hero in Archaic Greek Poetry*, *Homer the Preclassic*, and *The Ancient Greek Hero in 24 Hours*. With Stephen A. Mitchell, he co-authored a new introduction to and co-edited the second edition of Albert Lord's *The Singer of Tales*. Since 2000 he has been the Director of the Harvard Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, D.C., while continuing to teach at the Harvard campus in Cambridge as the Francis Jones Professor of Classical Greek Literature and Professor of Comparative Literature.

### **Gloria Goodwin Raheja**

Gloria Goodwin Raheja is a Professor of Anthropology at the University of Minnesota. She holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Chicago. She is the author of *The Poison in the Gift: Ritual, Presentation, and the Dominant Caste in a North Indian Village*, co-author of *Listen to the Heron's Words: Reimagining Gender and Kinship in North India* (with Ann Grodzins Gold), and editor of *Songs, Stories, Lives: Gendered Dialogues and Cultural Critique*. She is currently working on two book manuscripts: *Logan County Blues: Frank Hutchison in the Sonic Landscape of the Appalachian Coalfields*, and *Scandalous Traductions: Landscape, History, Memory*.

### **Venla Sykäre**

Venla Sykäre is a researcher affiliated with Folklore Studies at the University of Helsinki where she specializes in studying short, rhymed, and argumentative forms of oral poetry and contemporary traditions. Her Ph.D. dissertation focused on Cretan rhyming couplets, and in a postdoctoral project she continued the study of European oral poetry and meters, particularly the improvised composition of poetry with end rhyme. Her current research interests include the study of improvised rap and the social processes of learning, practicing, and transmitting knowledge and skills in oral composition and performance.

### **Emily West**

Emily West is an Associate Professor of Classics, History, Fine Arts, and Hinduism at St. Catherine University in Minnesota. She has primarily published on Homeric epic, particularly on episodes that parallel the Sanskrit *Mahābhārata*. She is currently working on an analysis of the

evolution of several versions of various Sanskrit narratives and on the development of the St. Catherine University Online Summer Sanskrit course.