

Patricia Plummer is Professor of English Literature and Postcolonial Studies at Duisburg-Essen University, Germany. Her publications, research and teaching focus on literature and culture of the long eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, on travel writing, Orientalism and transcultural spirituality, post-colonial and gender studies as well as popular culture. She is the author of a monograph on Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist and of Turning Turk: The Ottoman Empire and the English Imagination, 1700-1799* (forthcoming), critical study on eighteenth-century English representations of the Ottoman Empire. Patricia Plummer is currently editing the proceedings of an interdisciplinary symposium on transcultural Western encounters with Zen-Buddhism (to be published later this year); she is also writing the biography of the forgotten Anglo-Australian painter Louisa Haynes Le Freimann.