Contributors

Noam Chomsky is Institute Professor Emeritus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and laureate professor at the University of Arizona, and probably the most prominent linguist in history. His ideas have revolutionised the study of language and have had a profound impact on psychology, philosophy and intellectual life more broadly. He is also a longstanding political activist and leading critic of US foreign policy. His political work includes many books, hundreds of articles, and countless speeches, interviews, letters and emails.

Nicholas Allott is senior lecturer in English language at the University of Oslo. Previously he has been research fellow at CSMN, University of Oslo, and a teaching fellow at UCL, where he completed his PhD in linguistics in 2008. His research interests include pragmatics, semantics of natural languages, legal language and interpretation, and philosophy of linguistics. He is co-author of *Chomsky: Ideas and Ideals* (Cambridge University Press, 2016).

Chris Knight is a research fellow at UCL, a longstanding political activist and the author of *Blood Relations: Menstruation and the Origins of Culture* (Yale University Press, 1995) and *Decoding Chomsky: Science and Revolutionary Politics* (Yale University Press, 2016). He is co-founder of EVOLANG, the interdisciplinary conference series on the evolution of language, and has co-edited several books on human cultural origins.

Craig Murray is a writer and activist. He is the author of *Murder in Samarkand* (Mainstream Publishing, 2006) and other non-fiction best-sellers, and was the Rector of Dundee University. He became well known to the public when he resigned as British ambassador to Uzbekistan in protest against British collusion with the Uzbek dictatorship during the ‘war on terror’. For this act of whistleblowing, he received the Sam Adams Award for Integrity in Intelligence in 2006.

Milan Rai is a longstanding anti-war activist and writer. He is the author of several books including *Chomsky’s Politics* (Verso, 1995), the only
monograph on the subject, and *7/7: The London Bombings, Islam and the Iraq War* (Pluto, 2006). He has been co-editor of *Peace News* since 2007.

**Amahl Smith** is a charity finance director. He is a former treasurer of Amnesty International UK and of the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre.

**Neil Smith** is emeritus professor of linguistics at UCL. His first career was as an Africanist and from 1964 to 1972 he was Lecturer in West African languages at London's School of Oriental and African Studies. He was then appointed head of linguistics at UCL, a position he kept until his retirement in 2006. He is best known for his research on first language acquisition, especially the acquisition of phonology; for his investigation over many years into the remarkable abilities of a polyglot savant, Christopher; and for his work on Chomsky. He is co-author of *Chomsky: Ideas and Ideals* (Cambridge University Press, 2016) and has also written a number of books of essays popularising linguistics.

**Jackie Walker** is a black, Jewish activist and author, a founding member of Jewish Voice for Labour, a defender of Palestinian rights, a long-standing campaigner against racism and the former Vice-Chair of Momentum, the left-wing movement in the British Labour Party. Author of the acclaimed family memoir *Pilgrim State* (Sceptre, 2008), she has recently staged a one-woman show, *The Lynching*, designed to combat racism – including antisemitism – in certain sectors of British political life. Like Chomsky, Walker has been criticised for voicing perspectives on Israel and aspects of Jewish history that prominent supporters of Israel have described as controversial or even antisemitic. In 2016, allegations of this kind, which Walker strongly rejects, led to her suspension from the Labour Party. Chomsky is one of a number of Jewish intellectuals to have lent public support to her campaign to be reinstated.