



# Around the World Backwards and Forwards

*Caroline Reitz*

**Abstract.** Caroline Reitz, the executive editor of *Clues*, provides an overview of the issue, including articles on Agatha Christie, Raymond Chandler, Columbo, Colin Dexter, contemporary European crime narratives, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, forensic psychiatrists in crime fiction, Deon Meyer, *Ms. Fisher's Modern Murder Mysteries*, and a forum on teaching crime fiction after Black Lives Matter.

As readers, writers and scholars of detective fiction, we are familiar with the genre's escapist reputation. Although we would be forgiven for wanting to escape the world as it exists in 2022, this issue shows that crime fiction won't help. Issue 40.2 features scholars from around the world (Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, France, India, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States), taking us deep into literary texts as well as into their classrooms. This issue contains scholarship on novels translated from several languages other than English, an American television show reimagining characters from a nineteenth-century Russian novel, and essays that wonder about the "real-life" effects (on forensic psychiatry or for the study of Classics) of reading crime fiction. Although this could be a dizzying whirlwind, this volume is grounded in a common conversation about what crime fiction means in and to the world.

The issue begins with one of two new features for the journal. Stewart King's "Rethinking Raymond Chandler's 'The Simple Art of Murder' (1944/1946)" introduces what I hope will be a recurring feature of the journal, a "revisiting" of a familiar scholarly essay—those critical pieces that feel both essential and outdated. King acknowledges the problems of Chandler's famous essay while showing its continued life in questions around masculinity and femininity, in the classroom, and in world literature. On that final point, King writes:

*Caroline Reitz is associate professor in the Department of English at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY and the CUNY Graduate Center. Her areas of interest include Victorian studies, theory of the novel, nationalism, feminist theory, crime, and empire.*