CONTRIBUTORS

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**Georgi Kapchits** is a graduate of Moscow State University and a serving member of the international editorial board of *Bildhaan*. He is a world-renowned expert on Somali syntax. He has lectured on Somali language and folklore at Moscow Institute of International Relations, Humboldt University, Free University of Berlin, and numerous other institutions. Kapchits’ numerous publications include *Somali Folktales: The Language of African Folklore; War and Peace in Somali Oral Tradition;* and *Four Hyenas.*
**Bashir Sheikh Omer Goth** is an accomplished poet, a writer on political and cultural issues, and an advocate of community development. Among its notable features, his work chastises the dehumanizing social, cultural, political, and economic conditions of Africa in general and Somalia in particular. A promoter of women’s causes and the author of romantic lyrics as well, Goth wrote his first play when he was in the seventh grade. The play was performed at the intermediate and high schools, and the military camp in the town of Sheikh, where he was a boarding school student at the time. His first widely known poem is “Jabhad iyo Dagaalkii,” which he contributed to the Deeleeey chain in 1979. Ten years later, Goth himself started the Xaamiim chain in which many poets participated and which became widely popular in Somalia, Djibouti, and among Somalis in the diaspora. In 1997, Goth wrote “Baabulow libaax,” a dramatic satire about the presidential elections in the then breakaway Somaliland. The lengthy poem is reminiscent of George Orwell’s Animal Farm as the characters take the form of animals that act and talk like the human types they represent. Several of Goth’s English articles have been translated into French, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, and Hebrew.

**Kirstine Strøh Varming** is a PhD fellow at the Department of Social Science and Business at Roskilde University. She is an anthropologist with a broad research interest in Somali East Africa and Somalis abroad. Funded by Danida through the GOVSEA research project, her latest research explores relations between trade, taxation and state-making processes in Puntland and Nairobi.