

# *Introduction:*

## Norwegian literary reportage . . .

In exploring Norwegian literary reportage we are exploring an evolution and a cultural perspective. Jo Bech-Karlsen examines the modern Norwegian origins of the genre to be found in the journalistic works of A.O. Vinje, Christian Krohg, and Knut Hamsun. The examination is followed by excerpts from *In Wonderland*, Hamsun's 1904 account of an earlier journey he took in Southern Russia, including the Caucasus. Bech-Karlsen then explores a rough Norwegian equivalent to *In Cold Blood*, one that appeared more than three decades before the latter. Steen Steensen examines the controversy surrounding *The Bookseller of Kabul* and its influence on contemporary Norwegian literary reportage. Finally, Kristiane Larssen and Harald Hornmoen probe the ethical dilemmas contemporary Norwegian practitioners confront.

What readers will find is that our scholars are often working journalists, as well. Larssen and Hornmoen, for example, interview Steensen who is the author of *Beboerne (The Residents)*. And Larssen is herself a full-time practicing journalist. It reminds us that critical scholarship can inform practice, and practice can inform critical scholarship. Indeed the relationship is reciprocal. And without that reciprocity, each would be the poorer.

On the next page, we provide our contributors' biographies.

*The Editors*