LITERARY ENVIRONMENTS
Place, Planet and Translation

The Annual Conference of the Australasian Association for Literature
Griffith University, Gold Coast. 17-19 July 2017
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Literary Environments is concerned with the different environments in which literature can occur, and our methods of translating between them. At this critical juncture in the Anthropocene, planetary responsibility and situated knowledges need to be entwined in propositions for social and environmental justice. Bodies, texts and artworks are converging in old and new forms of politics and earthly accountabilities. The task of translation between these increasingly interconnected modes of existence is a crucial one: life in all of its manifestations – from DNA to forests – has textual qualities. What does it mean to ‘read’ such a staggering variety of data?

Keynote Speakers:

Ursula Heise (UCLA)
Alan Bewell (University of Toronto)
Stephen Muecke (University of Adelaide)
Jerome Rothenberg (UC San Diego)

Conference Organisers:

Stuart Cooke and Peter Denney
Griffith University

Sponsors:

Griffith Centre for Social and Cultural Research
School of Humanities, Languages and Social Science
ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions
Australasian Association for Literature.
PROGRAM
## MONDAY JULY 17

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<tr>
<td>8:30am-9:00am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>9:00am-9:30am</td>
<td>Welcome to Country</td>
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<td>9:30am-11:00am</td>
<td>KEYNOTE: Professor Ursula Heise</td>
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<td>11:00am-11:30am</td>
<td>Morning Tea (G07 Link Building Terrace)</td>
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<td>11:30am-1:00pm</td>
<td>Transcultural Decolonisation (A)</td>
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<td>Translating Cultures (A)</td>
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<td>Plant Poetics (A)</td>
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<td>5:30pm-7:30pm</td>
<td>Drinks &amp; Canapes</td>
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<td>1:00pm-2:00pm</td>
<td>Lunch (Link Bldg Function Centre and Terrace)</td>
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<td>2:00pm-3:30pm</td>
<td>Ecological Law and Justice (B)</td>
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<td>Posthuman Narratives (B)</td>
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<td>Everyday Ecologies (D)</td>
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### TUESDAY JULY 18

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Session Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00am-10:30am</td>
<td>G07 Link Building Function Centre</td>
<td>G34_2.02 (Council)</td>
<td>9:00am-10:30am (A) Fears and Fantasies of Nature</td>
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<td>9:00am-10:30am</td>
<td>G34_1.05/1.06</td>
<td>G11_3.50</td>
<td>9:00am-10:30am (B) Landscape Translations</td>
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<td>9:00am-10:30am</td>
<td>G11_3.50</td>
<td>G27_1.11</td>
<td>9:00am-10:30am (C) Queensland Environments</td>
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<td>9:00am-10:30am</td>
<td>G34_1.05/1.06</td>
<td>G11_3.50</td>
<td>9:00am-10:30am (D) Interspecies Relations</td>
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| 10:30am-11:00am | G07 Link Building Terrace | JOINT KEYNOTE SESSION: Professor Jerome Rothenberg, Professor Stephen Muecke  
                | Morning Tea (G07 Link Building Terrace)          |                                                                           |
| 11:00am-1:00pm  | G07 Link Building Terrace | 1:00pm-2:00pm J.K Session: J.K. Smith            |                                                                           |
| 1:00pm-2:00pm   | G07 Link Building Terrace | 1:00pm-2:00pm AAL Annual General Meeting         |                                                                           |
| 2:00pm-3:30pm   | G07 Link Building Terrace | 2:00pm-3:30pm (A) The United States of Australia |                                                                           |
| 2:00pm-3:30pm   | G07 Link Building Terrace | 2:00pm-3:30pm (B) To Mars and Beyond             |                                                                           |
| 2:00pm-3:30pm   | G07 Link Building Terrace | 2:00pm-3:30pm (C) Ruined Gardens                 |                                                                           |
| 3:30pm-4:00pm   | G07 Link Building Terrace | 4:00pm-5:30pm (A) Sensory Environments: Listening and Eating |                                                                           |
| 3:30pm-4:00pm   | G07 Link Building Terrace | 4:00pm-5:30pm (B) Planetary Hybrids              |                                                                           |
| 3:30pm-4:00pm   | G07 Link Building Terrace | 4:00pm-5:30pm (C) Spaces, Species and Transcorporealities |                                                                 |
| 5:30pm-6:30pm   | G07 Link Building Terrace | Leave for dinner                                  |                                                                           |
| 6:30pm onwards  | G07 Link Building Terrace | Conference Dinner, Hideaway Kitchen and Bar, Broadbeach |                                                                           |

Tues 18th July

**Morning tea:**
- 10:30-11:00 am
- Location: Function Centre Terrace

**Joint Keynote Session:**
- 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Speakers: Professor Jerome Rothenberg, Professor Stephen Muecke

**Lunch:**
- 1:00-2:00 pm
- Location: Function Centre and Terrace

**Afternoon tea:**
- 3:30-4:00 pm
- Location: Function Centre Terrace

**Conference dinner:**
- 6:30 pm onwards
- Location: Hideaway Kitchen and Bar, Broadbeach
## WEDNESDAY JULY 19

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00am-10:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30am-11:00am</td>
<td>G34_2.02 (Council)</td>
<td>Australian Landscape Poetics</td>
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<td>11:00am-12:30pm</td>
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<td>KEYNOTE: Professor Alan Bewell</td>
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<td>12:30pm-2:00pm</td>
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<td>BOOK LAUNCHES: edited collections</td>
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<td>2:00pm-3:30pm</td>
<td>G34_1.05/1.06</td>
<td>Rural Ethnographies</td>
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<td>3:30pm-4:00pm</td>
<td>G27_1.11</td>
<td>(New) Weird Ecologies</td>
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<td>4:00pm-5:30pm</td>
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<td>Closing Discussion (keynote panel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30pm-6:00pm</td>
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<td>Drinks</td>
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### G34_2.02 (Council)
- 18th & 19th Century Ecologies
- Australian Landscape Poetics
- (New) Weird Ecologies

### G34_1.05/1.06
- Rural Ethnographies

### G27_1.11
- Apocalypse

### Notes:
- Morning Tea (G07 Link Building Terrace)
- Lunch
- Afternoon Tea (G07 Link Building Terrace)
- Drinks (G07 Link Building Terrace)
PANELS

MONDAY JULY 17

9:30am – 11:00am // KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
Ursula Heise (UCLA)
‘Planet of Cities: Urban Environments and Narrative Futures’

11:30am – 1:00pm (A) // Transcultural Decolonisation
Chair: Stuart Cooke

Peter Minter (University of Sydney)
‘Decoloniality and Geopoetics in meenamatta lena puellakanny: Meenamatta Water Country Discussion’

Matthew Hall (University of Western Australia)
“no birdsong here”: Maralinga, Nuclear Testing and Radioactive Immortality in Ali Cobby Eckermann’s “Thunder Raining Poison”

Evelyn Araluen Corr (University of Sydney)
‘What Will We Leave Our Daughters: Indigenous Women Writing Climate Change’

11:30am – 1:00pm (B) // New Theorisations
Chair: Daniel Hourigan

Stefanie Fishel (University of Alabama)
‘Othering Ecology: Theorizing Subjectivity in the Anthropocene’

Martin Rice (Griffith University)
‘Who Determines New Words?: The Contemporary Case of the “Anthropocene” Misnomer’

11:30am – 1:00pm (C) // Ethological Technologies
Chair: Chris Danta

Chloe Callistemon (Griffith University)
‘Transmuting Metaphor in Transmedia Bird Poetry’

Cristobal Escobar Duenas (University of Melbourne)
‘Animal Dwellings: The Bodies of Contemporary Theory and SEL’s Documentary Film Sweetgrass’

Chantelle Bayes (Griffith University)
‘Let the Animals Speak: Literary Renegotiations of the Romantic Animal’
PANELS
MONDAY JULY 17

11:30am – 1:00pm (D) // Littoral Environments
Chair: Chris Lee

Meg Samuelson (University of Adelaide)
‘Littoral Literatures and the Anthropocene: Studies of Coastal Settings in Narratives of the African Indian Ocean Shore’

Kelly Palmer (Queensland University of Technology)
‘The Beach as (Hu)man Limit in Gold Coast Narrative Fiction’

Janis Bailey, Di James and the Calanthe Collective
“O back to my red (Tamborine) mountain”: Doing Poetry in Community

2:00pm – 3:30pm (A) // Translating Cultures
Chair: Stephanie Green

Meredith McKinney (Australian National University)
‘Translating Classical Japanese Travel Writing: A Journey’

Nicholas Jose (University of Adelaide)
‘The Story of “Moon-Bone”’

Harry Aveling (Monash University)
‘The Shadow of the Absent Father: Political Dimensions of a Collection of Vietnamese Folk Tales in French and English Translation’

2:00pm – 3:30pm (B) // Ecological Law and Justice
Chair: Stefanie Fishel

Anthony Burke (University of New South Wales)
‘Bluescreen Biosphere: The Absent Presence of the Biosphere in International Law’

Mengtian Sun (University of Melbourne)
‘Global and Local: Globalization and Waste in Chinese Science Fiction’

Kathleen Birrell (University of Melbourne)
‘Juridicial Environmentalities, Literary Ecologies’
PANELS
MONDAY JULY 17

2:00pm – 3:30pm (C) // Transnational Localities
Chair: Warwick Mules

Paul Giles (University of Sydney)
‘Antipodean Anthropocene Ironies: Australian Literature and the Planetary Clock’

Ian Campbell (Macquarie University)
‘Dispersal and Spread of Australia-Derived Species of Trees, including Eucalypt and Acacias, into Uruguay in the 19th-20th Centuries: The Literary Links with the Poetry of Chilean Poet, Pablo Neruda (1904-1973)’

Rod Giblett (Independent Scholar)
‘The Paris of the South’

2:00pm – 3:30pm (D) // Atmospheres: Ecological Transformations in Art and Writing
Chair: Erika Kerruish

Susan Ballard (University of Wollongong)
‘Network and Nature; or, From the Plant to the Planetary’

Joshua Lobb (University of Wollongong)
‘Head in the Clouds’

Louise Boscacci (University of Wollongong)
‘Atmospheric Riffing: Manifesto of a Syndisciplinarian’

4:00pm – 5:30pm (A) // Plant Poetics
Chair: Corey Wakeling

John Ryan (University of New England)

Elliot Patsoura (University of Melbourne)
‘“The Language of Flowers”: Georges Bataille’s Vegetal Vision of Nature’

Alexandra Hankinson (University of Sydney)
‘On the Shapes of Trees: Romantic and Contemporary Readings of Arboreal Form’
PANELS
MONDAY JULY 17

4:00pm – 5:30pm (B) // Posthuman Narratives
Chair: David Ellison

Samantha Lang (University of Technology Sydney)
‘Le Quattro Volte: Environmental Philosophy for the “Anthroposcreen”

Sue Lovell (Griffith University)
‘Critical Posthuman Consciousness as Embodied, Extended Cognition in T. C Boyle’s A Friend of the Earth’

Andrew Lilley (Swinburne University)
‘The Unheimliche Manoeuvre: The Transhumanist Uncanny in DeLillo’s Late Fiction’

4:00pm – 5:30pm (C) // Cultures of Science
Chair: Peter Denney

Eleanor Morecroft (Griffith University)
‘Science, Nature and History: Witchcraft in Nineteenth-Century Periodicals’

Alexandra Gallagher (University of Sydney)
‘Stephen Hales and Samuel Taylor Coleridge – A Miasmatic Connection’

Gabrielle Rowen-Clarke (Griffith University)
‘See the Animals Feed: Joyce’s Dubliners and the Trauma of English Economic and Agricultural Rationalisation’

4:00pm – 5:30pm (D) // Everyday Ecologies
Chair: Michael Farrell

Jennifer Crone (University of Sydney)
‘Translating the Environment in Louise Gluck’s A Village Life’

Caitlin Maling (University of Sydney)
‘A Constant Collage: Rethinking the Poesis of William Stafford’

Jono Lineen (Griffith University)
‘Perfect Motion: Walking, Writing and Creativity’
PANELS
TUESDAY JULY 18

9:00am – 10:30am (A) // Fears and Fantasies of Nature
Chair: Joshua Lobb

Sebnem Kaya (Hacettepe University)
‘Echoes of Beatrix Potter’s Ecophobia’

Shannon Todd (University of Newcastle)
“Once a tree has tasted blood it won’t forget the taste for long”: Nature fights back in Janni Lee Simner’s Bones of Faerie and Holly Black and Ted Naifeh’s The Good Neighbors – Book One: Kin’

Helen Stubbs (Griffith University)
‘Nature, Emotion and the Supernatural’

9:00am – 10:30am (B) // Landscape Translations
Chair: Stephanie Green

Fiona McKeague (Griffith University)
‘Ghosts who Walk: Lessons from the Displaced History of Minimal Impact Bushwalking in Australia’

Laura Kenny (Queensland University of Technology)
‘Reading and Writing Place in Realist Fiction as an Act of Translation’

Michael Meadows (Griffith University)
‘Myths, Memories and Obsessions: Writing about Landscape’

9:00am – 10:30am (C) // Queensland Environments
Chair: Kay Ferres

Chrystopher Spicer (James Cook University)
“Touching the Edges of Cyclones” – Thea Astley and her Apocalyptic Winds of Revelation’

Jane Frank (Griffith University)
‘Ironbark and Stone: Place and Belonging in the Nature Novels of Inga Simpson’

Deirdre Coleman (University of Melbourne)
‘Walter D. Dodd: Natural History Collecting in the “Deep North”’
PANELS  
TUESDAY JULY 18

9:00am – 10:30am (D)  //  Interspecies Relations
Chair: Rod Giblett

Moira Sheppard (Griffith University)
‘The Posthuman-Neo-Rawlsian Literary Animal’

George Damalas (University of New South Wales)
‘The Church Animal in Modern Fiction’

Sam Armatys (Griffith University)
‘The Boundaries of the Dog-Human Relationship in Marie Ndiaye’s Ladivine’

11:00am – 1:00pm  //  JOINT KEYNOTE SESSION
Jerome Rothenberg (UC San Diego)
‘Technicians of the Sacred: Ethnopoetics and the New Indigenous Poetries’

Stephen Muecke (University of Adelaide)
‘Theorising Literary Environments’

2:00pm – 3:30pm (A)  //  The United States of Australia
Chair: Paul Giles

Gavin Smith (Western Sydney University)
‘Land, Labour and Loss: Frost and Lawson on Economic Landscapes in the Shadows of Industrial Transformation’

Nick Keys (Independent Scholar)
‘The Walpiri in David Antin’s Thirsty Camel: The Tanami comes to Southern California’

Ameer Furaih (Griffith University)
‘Cultural and Linguistic Resistance in the Poetry of Kath Walker (Oodgeroo Noonuccal) and LeRoi Jones (Amiri Baraka)’
2:00pm – 3:30pm (B)  // To Mars and Beyond
   Chair: Susan Ballard

   Kaya Barry (Griffith University)
   ‘Interactive Climate Data and Alternative Articulations of Polar Landscapes’

   Erika Kerruish (Southern Cross University)
   ‘Mars Rover’s Translation of the Mars Environment’

   Chris Danta (University of New South Wales)
   ‘The Fable of Extinction: Ted Chiang’s “The Great Silence”’

2:00pm – 3:30pm (C)  // Ruined Gardens
   Chair: John Ryan

   Claire Thomas (University of Melbourne)
   ‘Controlling the “Wilderness”: Literary Intrusions in Wallace Stegner’s Crossing to Safety’

   Corey Wakeling (Kobe College)
   ‘Narcissus and the Politics of the Locus Amoenus’

   Phacharawan Boonpromkul (Thammasat University)
   ‘“Sao Hai” by Daen-arun Saengthong: The Sacralization of Nature and the Dilemma of Preservation by Transformation’

4:00pm – 5:30pm (A)  // Sensory Environments: Listening and Eating
   Chair: Clara Tuite

   Peter Denney (Griffith University)
   ‘The Soundscapes of John Clare and William Cobbett’

   Michael Farrell (University of Melbourne)
   ‘What is Seen and What is Said to be Seen / The Mimesis of Listening’

   Chris Lee (Griffith University)
   ‘“Cooking for One and Another:” Writing as Food Sharing in Roger McDonald’s Shearer’s Motel’
PANELS
TUESDAY JULY 18

4:00pm – 5:30pm (B) // Planetary Hybrids
Chair: James Gourley

Ruby Niemann (University of Adelaide)
“It Means You”: Writing, Identity, and the Destabilised Nature of Humanity in Margaret Atwood’s MaddAddam Trilogy’

Emily Yu Zong (University of Queensland)
‘A Planetary Devolution of Reading Literature’

Jennifer Mackenzie (Independent Scholar)
‘Climate and the Imagination: Amitav Ghosh’s The Great Derangement’

4:00pm – 5:30pm (C) // Spaces, Species and Transcorporealities
Chair: Peter Minter

Alwyn Roux (University of South Africa)
‘A Mesh of Strange Strangers in Juliana Spahr’s Well then there now’

Maia Gunn Watkinson (University of New South Wales)
‘Placing Invisible Women: Environment, Social Space and Power in Two Works by Ana Patricia Martínez Huchim’

Robyn Maree Pickens (University of Otago)
‘Convergence and Everyday Complicity: The Trans-corporeal Eco-poetics of Juliana Spahr’
PANELS
WEDNESDAY JULY 19

9:00am – 10:30am (A) // Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Ecologies
Chair: Deirdre Coleman

Christie Margrave (Cardiff University)
‘Ecofeminism in French Women's Pre-Romantic Fiction’

Clara Tuite (University of Melbourne)
‘Perfect Storm, Blackest Spring: Manfred’s Wrecks’

Jessica White (University of Queensland)
‘Storifying Science: Translating Environment through Ecobiography’

9:00am – 10:30am (B) // Australian Landscape Poetics
Chair: Nicholas Jose

Jonathan Dunk (University of Sydney)
‘Celan and Kinsella: Negative Lyricism and Displacement’

Daniel Hempel (University of New South Wales)
‘Colonial Melancholy in Australia: Subjects, Environments and Peoples’

Rod Grant (University of Sydney)
‘Crow Country: The Australian Landscapes of Kenneth Slessor’

9:00am – 10:30am (C) // Apocalypse
Chair: Meg Samuelson

Carly Osborn (University of Adelaide)
‘The Ecology of Tragedy in Two American Novels’

James Gourley (Western Sydney University)
‘Cli-Fi and Panic: The Island Will Sink and Clade’

11:00 – 12:30pm // Keynote Presentation
Alan Bewell (University of Toronto)
‘Place, Emotion, and the Colonial Translation of Natures’
PANELS
WEDNESDAY JULY 19

2:00pm – 3:30pm (A) // Theoretical Poetics
Chair: Stuart Cooke

Warwick Mules (Southern Cross University)
“‘Say it, no ideas but in things’: Poetics as World-Forming’

Claire Albrecht (University of Newcastle)
‘Solastalgic Poetry: A Study in Loss’

Anne Stuart (Griffith University)
‘Is an Earth Ethics Possible based on a Terraphilia Hypothesis? How Reading a Poem can be Mediated by Philosophy’

2:00pm – 3:30pm (B) // Rural Ethnographies
Chair: Peter Denney

Alana Brekemans (University of Queensland)
‘Translating Transitive Environments – An Ethnographic Study of Settler-Descendent Weather Narratives in North West Queensland’

Barbara Pini (Griffith University)
‘Imagining Rurality: Introducing Chook-Lit’

Naomi Horridge (University of Adelaide)
‘Things that go Thump’

2:00pm – 3:30pm (C) // (New) Weird Ecologies
Chair: Sue Lovell

Daniel Hourigan (University of Southern Queensland)
‘Affect and Environment in the Bas-Lag Novels of China Miéville’

Anne-Maree Wicks (University of Southern Queensland)
‘Notes on New Weird Atmospheres in Bishop and Link’

Nike Sulway (University of Southern Queensland)
‘The Spring Tide has Teeth: Dark Ecology in Karen Russell’s “from Children’s Reminiscences of the Western Migration” and “Haunting Olivia”’

4:00pm – 5:30pm (C) // Closing discussion
Panel discussion featuring
Professors Alan Bewell, Ursula Heise, Stephen Muecke and Jerome Rothenberg
Followed by Q & A.
BOOK LAUNCHES

MONDAY JULY 17, 6PM
Alan Bewell  
*Natures in Translation: Romanticism and Colonial Natural History*  

For many critics, Romanticism is synonymous with nature writing, for representations of the natural world appear during this period with a freshness, concreteness, depth, and intensity that have rarely been equalled. Why did nature matter so much to writers of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries? And how did it play such an important role in their understanding of themselves and the world?

In Natures in Translation, Alan Bewell argues that there is no Nature in the singular, only natures that have undergone transformation through time and across space. He examines how writers—as disparate as Erasmus and Charles Darwin, Joseph Banks, Gilbert White, William Bartram, William Wordsworth, John Clare, and Mary Shelley—understood a world in which natures were traveling and resettling the globe like never before. Bewell presents British natural history as a translational activity aimed at globalizing local natures by making them mobile, exchangeable, comparable, and representable.

Bewell explores how colonial writers, in the period leading up to the formulation of evolutionary theory, responded to a world in which new natures were coming into being while others disappeared. For some of these writers, colonial natural history held the promise of ushering in a “cosmopolitan” nature in which every species, through trade and exchange, might become a true “citizen of the world.” Others struggled with the question of how to live after the natures they depended upon were gone. Ultimately, Natures in Translation demonstrates that—far from being separate from the dominant concerns of British imperial culture—nature was integrally bound up with the business of empire.
Ursula Heise
*Imagining Extinction: the Cultural Meanings of Endangered Species*
University of Chicago Press, 2016

We are currently facing the sixth mass extinction of species in the history of life on Earth, biologists claim—the first one caused by humans. Activists, filmmakers, writers, and artists are seeking to bring the crisis to the public’s attention through stories and images that use the strategies of elegy, tragedy, epic, and even comedy. *Imagining Extinction* is the first book to examine the cultural frameworks shaping these narratives and images.

Ursula K. Heise argues that understanding these stories and symbols is indispensable for any effective advocacy on behalf of endangered species. More than that, she shows how biodiversity conservation, even and especially in its scientific and legal dimensions, is shaped by cultural assumptions about what is valuable in nature and what is not. These assumptions are hardwired into even seemingly neutral tools such as biodiversity databases and laws for the protection of endangered species. Heise shows that the conflicts and convergences of biodiversity conservation with animal welfare advocacy, environmental justice, and discussions about the Anthropocene open up a new vision of multispecies justice. Ultimately, *Imagining Extinction* demonstrates that biodiversity, endangered species, and extinction are not only scientific questions but issues of histories, cultures, and values.
Paddy Roe, (ed.) Stephen Muecke

*Gularabulu: Stories from the West Kimberley*

University of Western Australia Press, 2016

A groundbreaking presentation, in a revised edition, of Indigenous Australian storytelling as it actually sounds, these stories provide a fascinating picture of the life of the people of the west Kimberley after colonisation. Paddy Roe was a legendary figure in the revival and maintenance of law and culture in the Broome area in the mid-twentieth century. In this book he continues and revitalises one of the great literary traditions of Australia.

Gularabulu, ‘the coast where the sun goes down’, stretches from Bidyadanga (La Grange) in the south, through Broome, and north up Dampier peninsula as far as Ardyaloon (One Arm Point). Goolarabooloo encompasses a song-line or dreaming track and includes language and dialect groups such as Karajarri, Yawuru, Jugun, Ngumbal, Jabirr Jabirr, Nyul-nyul and Bardi – dialects that shade into one another, sharing about half their vocabulary from one end of the peninsula to the other.

In the 1970s, storyteller, author and elder Paddy Roe shared his Gularabulu stories with anthropologist Stephen Muecke, who drew on the oral traditions of Homer and an interest in French narrative theory in his work with Kimberley storytellers. Hailed by Bob Hodge as “a new tradition in Australian literature” when it was first published in 1983, Gularabulu is as much about listening as reading:

*Reading is a little more difficult for those who have never sat down with such a storyteller. If you have heard stories like this, reading it from the page will be easier. Otherwise, work on the part of the reader is probably a necessary part of gaining a better understanding of Aboriginal cultures. And in listening you should also try to hear what he is saying: that things have always been the same, but that they are different now; that as long as his people can speak out clearly, their culture will live on.*
Jerome Rothenberg (Ed.)
*Technicians of the Sacred: a Range of Poetries from Africa, America, Asia, Europe, and Oceania (50th Anniversary Edition)*
University of California Press, 2017

The Los Angeles Times Book Review counted *Technicians of the Sacred* among the hundred most recommended books published in late twentieth-century America. Hailed by Robert Creeley as “both a deeply useful book and an unequivocal delight,” this landmark anthology has educated and inspired generations of poets, artists, musicians, and other readers, exposing them to the multiple possibilities of poetry throughout the world.

Juxtaposing “primitive” and archaic works of art from many cultures with each other and with experimental poetry, Jerome Rothenberg contends that literature extends beyond specific temporal and geographic boundaries, and must be understood globally, cutting across space and time.

A half-century since its original publication and more timely than ever, this revised and expanded edition provides readers with a wealth of newly gathered and translated texts from reinvigorated indigenous cultures, bringing the volume to the present and further extending the range and depth of what we recognise and read as poetry.
BOOK LAUNCHES
WEDNESDAY JULY 19, 1PM
Monica Gagliano, John C. Ryan, and Patrícia Vieira (Eds.)
The Language of Plants: Science, Philosophy, Literature
University of Minnesota Press, 2017

The eighteenth-century naturalist Erasmus Darwin (grandfather of Charles) argued that plants are animate, living beings and attributed them sensation, movement, and a certain degree of mental activity, emphasizing the continuity between humankind and plant existence. Two centuries later, the understanding of plants as active and communicative organisms has reemerged in such diverse fields as plant neurobiology, philosophical posthumanism, and ecocriticism. The Language of Plants brings together groundbreaking essays from across the disciplines to foster a dialogue between the biological sciences and the humanities and to reconsider our relation to the vegetal world in new ethical and political terms.

Viewing plants as sophisticated information-processing organisms with complex communication strategies (they can sense and respond to environmental cues and play an active role in their own survival and reproduction through chemical languages) radically transforms our notion of plants as unresponsive beings, ready to be instrumentally appropriated. By providing multifaceted understandings of plants, informed by the latest developments in evolutionary ecology, the philosophy of biology, and ecocritical theory, The Language of Plants promotes the freedom of imagination necessary for a new ecological awareness and more sustainable interactions with diverse life forms.

Contributors: Joni Adamson, Arizona State U; Nancy E. Baker, Sarah Lawrence College; Karen L. F. Houle, U of Guelph; Luce Irigaray, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris; Erin James, U of Idaho; Richard Karban, U of California at Davis; André Kessler, Cornell U; Isabel Kranz, U of Vienna; Michael Marder, U of the Basque Country (UPV-EHU); Timothy Morton, Rice U; Christian Nansen, U of California at Davis; Robert A. Raguso, Cornell U; Catriona Sandilands, York U.
Lisa Samuels & Sawako Nakayasu (Eds.)
*A Transpacific Poetics*
Litmus Press

A Transpacific Poetics is a collection of poetry, essays, and poetics committed to transcultural experimental witness in both hemispheres of the Pacific and Oceania. The works in ATPP re-map identity and locale in their modes of argumentation, resituated genres, and textual innovations.

"A Transpacific Poetics beautifully inscribes what the Barbadian poet Kamau Brathwaite would call 'tidalectics' by following multiple voice waves across the region and by capturing their registers in an astounding range of genres. A collection of poetry and prose that includes entries such as memory cards, lists and palimpsests, counting journals, scripts, the necropastoral, and critical essays, readers will follow the rhythms of translation and the transcultural, where wavescrashwavescrashwavescrash.” —Elizabeth Deloughrey
CONFERENCE DINNER

HIDEAWAY KITCHEN & BAR

2657 Gold Coast Highway, Broadbeach

Tuesday 18 July

6.30pm-9.30pm
It has been an enormous privilege to organise Literary Environments, and to see the exciting research currently being produced in Australia and elsewhere in fields such as ecocriticism, animal studies and environmental humanities. Many thanks to the president of the Australasian Association for Literature Chris Danta for the invitation to host the annual conference at Griffith University, and for much excellent advice and ongoing support. The vice-president of AAL Clara Tuite also provided invaluable assistance and encouragement along the way. In addition, we are very grateful to Susan Danta for designing the conference poster and booklet, to Kim Podger and Sheree Robinson for providing efficient administrative support, to Bevan Bache for overseeing IT, and to Graham Dillon for conducting the Welcome to Country ceremony.

The conference was made possible by the generous financial and in-kind support provided by the Griffith Centre for Social and Cultural Research, the School of Humanities, Languages and Social Science and the Arts, Education and Law Group at Griffith University. For helping us secure this funding, we are indebted to the enlightened and committed leaders of these organisations, especially Susan Forde, Sarah Baker, Jamey Carson and Gerry Docherty. Their generosity and assistance at every turn have been crucial to our capacity to organise this conference. We have also been blown away by the kindness of Grace Moore, who organised for one of our keynote presenters to be funded using the travel allowance attached to her fellowship in the ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions.

Peter Denney and Stuart Cooke,
Griffith University,
Gold Coast