

## For *Literary Journalism Studies* on Its Tenth Anniversary

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A big thank you goes to *LJS* and the IALJS for giving literary journalism its own status. It is to the great credit of both journal and organization that they have been instrumental in conceptualizing literary journalism as a distinct discipline. They brought together scholars from a diversity of areas—be they journalism, magazine journalism, literary nonfiction, creative nonfiction or literature—to fuse the whole into one field of study. The early difficulty in defining the field is well documented in the provenance of the distinguished scholars who backed and continue to back their efforts. To have the focal points the journal and association provide has turned out to be of great importance. The journal is the most important tool in demonstrating the discipline's research possibilities and capabilities. The journal supports and is supported by the annual conferences, which are a vital forum for presenting new inquiries, criticism, and reflection.

*LJS*, just like the IALJS, is also to be highly commended for staying so staunchly international. Given the paradigmatic power the United States possesses in this area, it would have been easy to subsume all other scholarship into its vortex. But the IALJS and *LJS* have resisted this pull. The journal has championed comparative studies and introduced readers to literary journalism in the many parts of the world, be they the Lusophone, English-speaking, or Slavic-speaking countries. Most importantly, *LJS* has consistently strengthened literary journalism's theoretical foundation.

From an Australian point of view, its scholars, who in the past have somewhat suffered from a “tyranny of distance,”<sup>1</sup> are appreciative of seeing the standards of literary journalism scholarship set by *LJS*, and of the connections provided by an international association such as the IALJS.

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### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Originally the title of Australian historian Geoffrey Blainey's 1966 book, the apt, “tyranny of distance” expression is commonly and frequently used in Australia.