



International Association for Literary Journalism Studies

IALJS-18 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

“Literary Journalism and *the wond’rous glory of the everlasting stars*”
The Eighteenth International Conference for Literary Journalism Studies (IALJS-18)

Macquarie University, Sydney
Deakin University, Melbourne
University of South Australia, Adelaide

Convened at Macquarie University City Campus, Sydney, 27-30 May 2024



Please Note:

Work-in-Progress Presentations are 10-12 minutes each

Research Paper Presentations are 15-20 minutes each

Panel Presentations are 10-12 minutes each

All sessions are followed by Q&A

All sessions will take place at Macquarie University City Campus, Level 24, Angel Place, 123 Pitt Street, Sydney (Martin Place, nearest train station). All times are indicated in the local time zone (AEST). Online presenters are indicated by an asterisk (*).

Zoom details for online participation at the conference appear at the end of this program.

Monday, 27th May 2024

Session 1 17.30 – 19.00 Conference Reception and International Book Launch

(Room 2414/5)

Sponsored by the University of South Australia

Tuesday, 28th May 2024

8.00 – 9.00 Check-in and Registration

(Lobby)



Session 2 **9.00 – 9.15 Introduction and Welcome** *(Room 2414/5)*
Acknowledgement of Country
IALJS President Tobias Eberwein (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria)
Welcome by Professor John Potts, Director of Macquarie University’s Centre
for Media History, on behalf of the three host institutions: University of South
Australia, Deakin University and Macquarie University

Session 3 **9.15 – 10.45 Work-in-Progress Session I** *(Room 2414/5)*

**Session Title: “Different Continents, Different Literary Journalism – Or
Maybe Not”**

Moderator: Bill Reynolds (Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada)

1. Nicole Zhao (University of New South Wales, Australia), “The Lost
‘Village’: The Homecoming Literary Nonfiction China in One Village by
Hong Liang”
2. Hanaya Oya (University of North Dakota, USA), “Taidan-bon: Japan’s
Literary Journalism Tradition on Contemporary Discourse”
3. Lesley Cowling (University of Witwatersrand, South Africa), “A History of
Literary Journalism in Southern Africa: Discerning the Shape of a Field”
4. Mónica Martinez (University of Sorocaba, Brazil), “Brazilian Literary
Journalism: From 19th Century to Contemporary Authors”

Q&A – 20 minutes

Session 4 **11.00 – 12.00 Keynote Speech I** *(Room 2414/5)*

Introduction: Sue Joseph (University of South Australia, Australia)

Keynote Speaker: Debra Dank (University of South Australia, Australia)
Under the scrutiny of the emu

LUNCH **12.00 – 13.15** (on your own)

Session 5a **13.15 – 14.45 Work-in-Progress Session II** *(Room 2414/5)*

**Session Title: “What Can the Beauty of Literary Journalism Do Against
the Ugliness of the World”**

Moderator: Jeff Neely (University of Tampa, USA)



1. Manuel Coutinho (Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Portugal), “Testimony, Survival and Resistance: A Literary Journalist’s Diary in the Ukraine War”
2. György Túry (Budapest Metropolitan University, Hungary), “Literary Journalism as Counter Narrative – Travel, Transit, Transnational: East-Central Europe and the Refugee Crisis of 2015 Narrativized”
3. Rita Amorim (Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal), “Telling Stories From the Inside-Prison Life in Portugal”
4. Lea Graham (Marist College, New York, USA), “Writing It Cold: Investigative Journalism and Political Poetry”

Q&A – 20 minutes

Session 5b 13.15 – 14.45 Panel I – Deakin University Panel (Room 2408)

Session Title: “History, Eyewitnesses and Genre Shape-Shifting in Literary Journalism”

Moderator: Matthew Ricketson (Deakin University, Australia)

1. Matthew Ricketson (Deakin University, Australia), “The Hiroshima Prism: Seeing, and Not Seeing, The Impact of the Atomic Bomb”
2. Cassandra Atherton (Deakin University, Australia), “‘I have to see / what those who could not bear to live / could not bear to see’: Hibakusha Docupoetry and Fallacy”
3. Willa McDonald (Macquarie University, Australia), “Reclaiming the Unheard Voices: Letters and Journals as Literary Journalism in Colonial Australia”
4. Jennifer Martin (Deakin University, Australia), “Getting the Facts Right and the Story Wrong: An Analysis of *The National Times* 1976 Coverage of the Ingham ‘Rape-Trains’ Story”

Q&A – 20 minutes

Session 6a 15.00 – 16.30 Research Paper Session I (Room 2414/5)

Session Title: “Narrative and Doubt – Let Literary Journalism Deal With It”

Moderator: Mónica Martinez (University of Sorocaba, Brazil)



1. Manuel Coutinho (Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Portugal), “Empathy and Consequences in Literary Journalism: Reporter’s Experiences and Uncertainties”
2. Zofia Przybysz (Uniwersytet Gdański, Poland), “Atheist Spirituality in the Collection of Reportages “Nie ma” (“There is no”) by Mariusz Szczygieł” *
3. Ziyi Yu (Communication University of China, China), “Creating Narrative Space: The Feminist Narratology of Chinese Female Literary Journalists” *

Q&A – 30 minutes

Session 6b **15.00 – 16.30 Work-in-Progress Session III** *(Room 2408)*

Session Title: “From Crime to Catastrophes, by the Intermediation of Words”

Moderator: Roberta Maguire (University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, USA)

1. Bill Reynolds (Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada), “The Passage of Crime: The Evolution of Narrative Reportage on Killing”
2. Jeff Neely (University of Tampa, USA), “Death and Aging in Literary Journalism: Narratives of Loss and Losing”
3. Mileta Roe (Bard College at Simon’s Rock, USA), “The Afterlives of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*”
4. Pascal Gin (Carleton University, Canada), “Translating Catastrophe: The Translingual Fukushimas of Reportage Literature”

Q&A – 20 minutes

Session 7 **16.45 – 18.15 Panel II – University of South Australia Panel** *(Room 2414/5)*

Session Title: “Pushing at the Peripheries: Practice, Perspective, and Portrayal”

Moderator: Sue Joseph (University of South Australia, Australia)

1. Debra Dank (University of South Australia, Australia), “Boundaries in Tongues”
2. Chrisanthi Giotis (University of South Australia, Australia), “On Carrying a Bucket of Water”



3. Bonita Mason (University of South Australia, Australia), “Seeking Justice, Reciprocal Journalist and the True-Crime Genre”
4. Sue Joseph (University of South Australia, Australia), “Orwell: The Intentional Memoirist”

Q&A – 20 minutes

Session 8 **18.30 – 20.00 Conference Reception & In Conversation** (Room 2414/5)
Sponsored by Deakin University

Wednesday, 29th May 2024

Session 9a **9.00 – 10.30 Work-in-Progress Session IV** (Room 2414/5)

Session Title: “Poetry, Journalism and Reportage: Where is the Truth?”

Moderator: Lesley Cowling (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa)

1. Brett Popplewell (Carleton University, Canada), “When Truth and Fact Clash in Literary Journalism: How Longform Journalists are Counterbalancing the Unreliable Narrator by Inserting Themselves in Their Stories”
2. Aleksandra Wiktorowska (Independent Scholar, Poland), “Ryszard Kapuściński, *Whosoever creates his own world will live on...*” *
3. Jan Miklas-Frankowski (University of Gdansk, Poland), “Gonzo Poetics in the Early Works of Ryszard Kapuściński”
4. Joanna Jeziorska-Haładaj (University of Warsaw, Poland), “Literary Journalism as a Mosaic: Melchior Wańkowicz’s Concept of Essential Truth and its Impact on the Polish Reportage” *

Q&A – 20 minutes

Session 9b **9.00 – 10.30 Panel III** (Room 2408)

Session Title: “Reading and Writing Programs for Incarcerated Population in the USA and Portugal: A Comparative Analysis”

Moderator: Alice Trindade (Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal)

1. Alice Trindade (Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal), “Characterization of American and Portuguese Prison Systems”
2. Kate McQueen (University of California Santa Cruz, USA), “The Writings of the PJP Inside”



3. Raquel Baltazar (Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal), “The Portuguese Texts”
4. Rita Amorim (Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal), “Outcomes from Officials’ Interviews”
5. Isabel Soares (Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal), “Relevance of Study for Literary Journalism Scholarship”

Q&A – 20 minutes

Session 10 10.45 – 12.15 Panel IV – President’s Panel *(Room 2414/5)*

Session Title: “A Tribute to Norman Sims’s Legacy and Scholarship (1948–2022)”

Moderators: Sue Joseph (University of South Australia, Australia) & Isabelle Meuret (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium)

1. Isabel Soares (Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal), “Norm Sims: The Last Interview”
2. Bill Reynolds (Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada), “What’s in an Intro? Quite a Lot, Actually! How the Introductions to Norman Sims’s Anthologies Created a Template for the Field of Literary Journalism Studies”
3. Alice Trindade (Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal), “Metrics or Heritage, Quantity and Repercussion: The Scholarly Legacy of Norman Sims”
4. Roberta Maguire (University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, USA), “Norman Sims’s Influence: A Small Case Study”
5. Tobias Eberwein (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria), “More True Stories: Literary Journalism in Europe – Towards a Transnational History”

Q&A – 20 minutes

LUNCH 12.15 – 13.30 (on your own)

Session 11 12.15 – 13.30 Working Lunch: *Literary Journalism Studies* Staff Meeting
(Room 2408)

Session 12 13.30 – 14.30 Keynote Speech II *(Room 2414/5)*

Introduction: Matthew Ricketson (Deakin University, Australia)

Keynote Speaker: Anthea Garman (Rhodes University, South Africa)
A Love Song to and from the South



Session 13 **14.45 – 15.45 President’s Address and Annual Business Meeting**
(Room 2414/5)
President Tobias Eberwein (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria)

Session 14 **17.00 – Conference Banquet** (per reservation)
Captain Cook Cruises – King Street Wharf, King St Wharf 1, Sydney
NSW 2000 (11-minute walk, 850m from venue; see final page of program)
Boarding from 16.30 – 16.45

Thursday, 30th May 2024

Session 15a **9.00 – 10.30 Work-in-Progress Session V** (Room 2414/5)

Session Title: “Literary Journalism Between History and the Media Industry”

Moderator: Manuel Coutinho (Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Portugal)

1. David Greenberg (Rutgers University, USA), “The Journalists Who Made John Lewis”
2. Kevin Lerner (Marist College, New York, USA), “The Kingdom and the Powers that Be: How Gay Talese and David Halberstam Created the Media Industry Tell-All in the 1970s”
3. Roberta Maguire (University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, USA) “What Counts as Literary Journalism? A Case Study of *The Wire*”

Q&A – 20 minutes

Session 15b **9.00 – 10.30 Panel V** (Room 2408)

Session Title: “Writing from the Ashes: Literary Journalism as a Catalyst for Risk”

Moderator: Kerrie Davies (University of New South Wales, Australia)

1. Kerrie Davies (University of New South Wales, Australia), “Writing from the Ashes: Literary Journalism as a Catalyst for Risk”
2. Isabel Nery (Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal), “Literary Journalism on the Edge of Life: Can Reportage Translate Pain and Humanize Healthcare?”
3. David Swick (University of King’s College, Canada), “Literary Journalism Explores Death”



Q&A – 20 minutes

Session 16a 10.45 – 12.15 Work-in-Progress Session VI

(Room 2414/5)

Session Title: “Narrating the I by Narrating the Us – This is We”

Moderator: Ben Stubbs (University of South Australia, Australia)

1. Anthea Garman (Rhodes University, South Africa), “Heroes and Fathers, and Infinite Games: Darrel Bristow-Bovey’s Exploration of the Stories (and Theories) We Live By”
2. Steffen Moestrup (University of Copenhagen, Denmark), “The Journalist as a Performing Persona: Categorizing and Conceptualizing the Journalistic ‘I’” *
3. Robert Alexander (Brock University, Canada), “‘Back Home I was Legendary’: Igor Kenk and the Comics Challenge to Journalistic Recentism”
4. Marta Soares (Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal), “Constellations of Women Literary Journalists in *Lenços Pretos, Chapéus de Palha e Brincos de Ouro* (2023), by Susana Moreira Marques” *

Q&A – 20 minutes

Session 16b 10.45 – 12.15 Panel VI

(Room 2408)

Session Title: “New Avenues of the Latin American ‘Crónica’ and a Fresh Look at the Old ‘Cronistas’”

Moderator: Pablo Calvi (Stony Brook University, USA)

1. Liliana Chávez (Saint Andrews University, Scotland), “Life Rewritings in Cristina Rivera Garza’s *Liliana’s Invincible Summer*”
2. Ignacio Corona (The Ohio State University, USA), “Gender Imposture in Amado Nervo’s and Nelson Rodrigues’ Literary Journalism” *
3. Pablo Calvi (Stony Brook University, USA), “The Sentimental Education of Pedro Lemebel: LGBT Crónicas under the Pinochet Years in Chile”
4. Roberto Herrscher (Universidad Alberto Hurtado, Chile), “Rodrigo Fluxá: The Innovative Road of a Chilean Narrative Journalist from Crime and (In)Justice to Joy and Glitter” *
5. Dolors Palau Sampio (Universitat de València, Spain), “Discovering Narrative Journalism in Latin America: Experiences of Spanish Narrative Journalists” *

Q&A – 20 minutes



LUNCH 12.15 – 13.30 (on your own)

Session 17a 13.30 – 15.00 **Work-in-Progress Session VII** (Room 2414/5)

Session Title: “From Geographical Boundaries to Linguistic Boundaries – Or No Boundaries at All”

Moderator: Rita Amorim (Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal)

1. Isabelle Meuret (Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium), “The Indiscipline of Literary Journalism”
2. Maria Lassila-Merisalo (Häme University of Applied Sciences, Finland), “Responsible Choices, Reliable Stories”
3. Ben Stubbs (University of South Australia, Australia), “Stories from Within: Expanding the Boundaries of Immersion Journalism”
4. John Coward (University of Tulsa, USA), “The Wisdom of the Wilderness: Collin Fletcher’s Search for Meaning on the Trail”

Q&A – 20 minutes

Session 17b 13.30 – 15.00 **Panel VII** (Room 2048)

Session Title: “Bringing *The Art of Fact* into the Digital Age: How to Teach the Throughlines of Literary Journalism’s Last 300 Years”

Moderator: Kevin Lerner (Marist College, New York, USA)

1. Jacqueline Marino (Kent State University, USA), “Introducing *The Art of Fact in the Digital Age: An Anthology of New Literary Journalism*”
2. Lisa Phillips (SUNY New Paltz, USA), “Old and New: Planning a Literary Journalism Course with *The Art of Fact in the Digital Age*” *
3. Siobhán McHugh (Macquarie University / University of Wollongong, Australia), “Exploring Narrative Podcasts as Digital Literary Journalism”

Q&A – 20 minutes

Session 18a 15.15 – 16.45 **Work-in-Progress Session VIII** (Room 2414/5)

Session Title: “From Cleaning to Sports and Travel – Literary Journalism and the Infinity of the Humane “

Moderator: Kate McQueen (University of California Santa Cruz, USA)



1. Raquel Baltazar (Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal), “Invisible Work: The Undervalued Labour of the Cleaning Sector”
2. John F. Brick (Marquette University, USA), “A Realization Of Visions That Had Floated Down the Centuries: The Literary Sports Journalism of Patrick J. Devlin”
3. Gillian Rennie (Rhodes University, South Africa), “Two Rivers Diverged... or Did They?”
4. Sac-Nicté Guevara Calderón (Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico), “Alfonsina Storni as Tao Lao: irony as subversion in pioneer chronicles of the early 20th century” *

Q&A – 20 minutes

Session 18b 15.15 – 16.45 Panel VIII

(Room 2408)

Session Title: “Writing, and Teaching, the (Nonfictional) Apocalypse: Climate Breakdown, Literary Journalism, Pedagogical Interventions”

Moderator: Tom Doig (University of Queensland, Australia)

1. Jo Chandler (University of Melbourne, Australia), “Reflections on Reporting, Writing and Reaching the Climate Cataclysm”
2. Tom Doig (University of Queensland, Australia), “We Are All Preppers Now: Survivalism, Climate Dread and Literary Journalism about Subcultures of Imminent Collapse”
3. Ashley Hay (Griffith University, Australia), “Keep an Eye Out for the Edges: From the Magic of Fact in Fiction to the Importance of Fiction in Fact”
4. Sean Holman (University of Victoria, Canada), “The Climate Disaster Project – an International Teaching Newsroom” *
5. Jeff Sparrow (University of Melbourne, Australia), “‘To Them a Common’: Enclosure, Climate and Terra Nullius”

Q&A – 20 minutes

Session 19a 17.00 – 18.30 Panel IX

(Room 2408)

Session Title: “Memory of the Second World War in Polish Reportage: Trauma and Affective Mode of Remembrance”

Moderator: Jan Miklas-Frankowski (University of Gdańsk, Poland)

1. Jan Miklas-Frankowski (University of Gdańsk, Poland), “The Holocaust in Polish Reportage”



2. Justyna Tabaszewska (Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland), “Blurred Memories, Blurred Genres: Collective Memory of the Second World War *vis-à-vis* the Proliferation of Non-Fiction Genres” *
3. Zofia Przybysz (Uniwersytet Gdański, Poland), “Unlocking Memories: Personal Belongings of Concentration Camp Prisoners in Karolina Sulej’s Reportage *Rzeczy osobiste*” *
4. Aleksandra Wiktorowska (Independent Scholar, Poland), “Ryszard Kapuściński's *Exercises From Memory*” *
5. Edyta Żyrek-Horodyska (Jagiellonian University, Poland), “A Child’s Perspective of War in Literary Reportages by Anna Bikont” *

Q&A – 20 minutes

Session 19b **17.00 – 18.30 Macquarie University Masterclass** *(Room 2414/5)*

Session Title: Macquarie University Masterclass

Siobhán McHugh (Macquarie University, Australia), “Narrative Non-Fiction Podcasts: A New Literary Journalism form? The Making of *The Greatest Menace*”

Narrative nonfiction podcasts can sound effortless, but solid investigative journalism underpins the best of the form: tenacious research, in-depth interviews, strong writing and distillation of data into artful narrative. So how do you transform such voluminous material into a compelling, episodic podcast that sounds intimate and authentic, while delivering a hard-edged expose?

The Greatest Menace is an eight-part podcast, winner of sixteen major awards, including gold at New York Festivals and a Walkley, Australian equivalent of a US Peabody. Dubbed ‘Australia’s S-Town’. It carefully excavates a dark history full of painful truths about systemic homophobia and the legacy it leaves behind..

In this masterclass, using actual script drafts and illustrative audio clips, Siobhán will reveal the production process, deconstructing how the team refined the show to its published form and provide a template for the production and/or critique of the narrative nonfiction podcast form.

(Listen to the series free on [Audible](#))

Session 20 **18.45 – 19.00 Closing Convocation** *(Room 2414/5)*

IALJS First Vice President Willa McDonald (Macquarie University, Australia)
IALJS-19 Conference Host Kevin Lerner (Marist College, New York, USA)



Monday, 27th May 2024, 17.30 – 19.00 Conference Reception and Book Launch

On the eve of this year's Sydney IALJS conference, we are holding an 'international' book launch reception, with drinks and snacks, to welcome all our intrepid travellers from afar.

Sponsored by the University of South Australia, four UniSA academics will read from their recently published texts – to their newly arrived 'international' audience. Dean of Research UniSA Creative, Associate Professor Elizabeth Ellison, will welcome us and introduce her academics. They are:

Dr Bonita Mason, Program Director: Journalism UniSA Creative, reading from *Journalism Practice and Critical Reflexivity*, published by Routledge in 2023. This text is a theoretical- and practice-based response to the crisis of mission and credibility in journalism studies that is heightened by online and social media. It describes, analyses and offers new approaches and models for critically reflexive journalism research, practice and education. With specific theoretical and conceptual approaches employed, such as Pierre Bourdieu's reflexive sociology along with the analytical, practice-based, reflective and narrative techniques of Donald Schön and autoethnography, this book provides possible responses to these crises of purpose and legitimacy, and to transformation, in Western corporate journalism. Through case studies, it provides an analysis of the relationship between First Nations and settler Australia, and the role and place of journalism in that relationship. It advocates reciprocal journalism as a way of securing improved justice for Aboriginal people.

Dr Ben Stubbs, a Senior Lecturer at UniSA Creative, reading from *Re-thinking Travel Writing: the journey of a genre*, published by Palgrave Macmillan this year. This text stems from the question that he, with his co-author Lee Mylne, grappled with for the past 3-plus years while in their own periods of stasis during the pandemic: What place does the travel writing genre hold in a post-COVID world? With the massive interruptions to travel and travel writing across 2020-2023 as the pandemic forced us indoors and into isolation, it also raised many other pertinent questions about the practice of and future of travel writing. Part of the prompt for this book comes from the post-pandemic assumption that in an ecologically fraught, less mobile, and more uncertain world, there may not be a place for travel writing as we know it to exist in any meaningful way. We examine the problems and solutions apparent for travel writing as it engages with a period of re-thinking, prompted by the pandemic, though necessary for a plethora of other reasons as well.

Dr Debra Dank is a Gudanji/Wakaja woman, and UniSA Creative Enterprise Fellow and author of the multi-award-winning text *We come with this place*, published by Echo in 2022. She will read from this text. Her book explores the themes of family, Country, love, pain, grief, laughter, story, ancestors, and language. She highlights how the English language, which was imposed on this continent, fails to fully capture the essence of the more than 250 First Nation languages (including 800 dialects) that exist here. The book emphasises that these stories have begun 'long before paper and words learned to yarn together'.

Dr Chrisanthi Giotis is a lecturer in Journalism at UniSA. Her text *Borderland: Decolonizing the words of war* was published by Oxford University Press in 2022. Her text is



an interdisciplinary study including novel arguments about the politics of foreign correspondents reporting in postcolonial contexts. It introduces new tools to help foreign correspondents decolonise their reporting and provides a unique combination of practice-led research with theoretical analysis and an auto-ethnographic travel essay including “behind the scenes” analysis and descriptions. Giotis argues that in the West, we have entered a political era where our border policies are underpinned by unending wars and that new global narratives need to be crafted that meaningfully include the voices, and knowledge, of those with the least power who are caught in resource-fuelled wars.

Reading extract synopses and bios

Dr Bonita Mason: This reading, taken from the book’s Epilogue, describes features and consequences of the First Nations-settler relationship, and how little has changed in the structure of that relationship. It takes the construction of First Nations crime and incarceration as its example, as it identifies the role of journalism in an apparently intractable lack of effective and beneficial governmental action to devise and enact policies and programs that actually solve problems. It recognises that the status quo will not work, that imagination, action and stories – and therefore journalism – are connected, and advocates a less polarised, mutual and reciprocal journalism.

Dr Bonita Mason is a white, immigrant Australian. She is a senior lecturer and head of journalism in UniSA Creative, at the University of South Australia. She is an award-winning journalist who has also worked for governments, as a policy developer and analyst, and with national and regional Aboriginal land rights and other organisations in Australia. Her award-winning PHD and much of her subsequent research has focused on the media coverage of First Nations deaths in custody, and on journalism education for competent Indigenous affairs journalists. She advocates critically reflexive journalism research and practice.

Dr Ben Stubbs: This reading is from chapter 2 of the book ‘a complicated relationship’ where I employ a hybrid approach to explore my own development as a travel writer alongside the realisation that COVID-19 may have precipitated the ‘death’ of the genre as it grapples with a less mobile, more environmentally aware and ethically conscious world.

Dr Ben Stubbs is a senior lecturer in journalism and creative writing at the University of South Australia. Prior to academia Ben was a regular writer for the *Sydney Morning Herald*. He has written features and literary journalism for the *New York Times*, *The Guardian*, the *Toronto Star*, *Australian Geographic* and *International Traveller* magazine among others. Ben’s longform non-fiction is published in *Meanjin*, *Griffith Review*, *Southerly* and *Inside Story*. He has written three creative non-fiction books: *Ticket to Paradise* (2012), *After Dark* (2016) and *The Crow Eaters* (2019). Ben’s research monograph *Creative and Non-fiction Writing During Isolation and Confinement* was published by Routledge in 2022. His new book *Re-thinking Travel Writing: the journey of a genre* will be published by Palgrave in



2024. He is part of the executive committee of the Australasian Association of Writing Programs (AAWP) and is the special issues editor of *TEXT* journal.

Dr Debra Dank: Disrupting Western epistemic ecologies and centring Gudanji worldviews, this reading, taken from the episode Mankujba, introduces an alternative mode of thinking about and seeing the Australian landscape and its occupants. These worldviews have grown, evolved and endured in this place for thousands of years. The juxtaposing of Gudanji relationalities through our own linguistic codes with a vocabulary grown to articulate foreign perspectives in binaric form, offers encounters between the views that persist in the First peoples and the ongoing but subtle perpetuation of the notion of terra nullius and its incumbent falsehoods.

Dr Debra Dank is a Gudanji/Wakaja woman, from the Barkly Tablelands in the Northern Territory. With almost four decades of experience in education, holding various roles across primary, secondary, and tertiary levels as a class teacher, special education teacher, senior teacher, regional consultant, regional manager, lecturer, senior lecturer, and Head of School. Dank has worked in both urban and remote areas of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and the Northern Territory and was instrumental in setting up the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. Dank's professional interests centre around the practice of narrative in Aboriginal communities, particularly the significance of semiotics in comprehending the range of communicative mechanisms and functions utilized in this practice and how the use of English vocabulary is impacting own language use. Her book, *We Come with This Place* (Echo 2022), has garnered widespread acclaim and recognition, with its inclusion on the shortlist for the prestigious Stella Prize and was awarded the NSW 2023 Premier's Literary Award across four categories: the Douglas Stewart Prize for Non-Fiction, the UTS Glenda Adams Award for New Writing, the Indigenous Writers' Prize, and Book of the Year. Her book also won Non-Fiction book in the Queensland Literary Awards, was shortlisted in the Prime Ministers Literary Awards, and received the Australian Literature Society 2023 (ALS) Gold Medal.

Dr Chrisanthi Giotis: The reading is the opening of part 2 of the book titled: Worlds. Through juxtaposition it presents different versions of the same city: Goma, in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and different versions of the same hotel: Hotel Versailles – where Giotis is the only white foreigner. As the different layers of description fall over the same space the reading links the representations we choose to present of postcolonial spaces to the often-limiting structures of traditional journalism and our pre-conceived stereotypes, grounded in narrative tropes cynically and consciously created during the colonial period. This extract starts the argument, made in the second half of the book, that journalists should reflexively consider the spaces they occupy, the hotels, cars, restaurants, as structures which impact the narratives they create.

Dr Chrisanthi Giotis is a journalism academic passionate about practice-led research. Her interdisciplinary approach seeks to understand what makes great journalism that will help



communities, and thus democracies, thrive. Using postcolonial and decolonial approaches she developed new reporting methods connecting marginalised communities with working journalists, so as to build trust and diversity of perspectives on both sides. She also uses social geography to consider how journalists can better report complex, ongoing conflicts.



Tuesday, 28th May 2024, 18.30 – 20.00 Conference Reception

In conversation with Bronwyn Adcock

An event sponsored by Deakin University for the International Association of Literary Journalism Association's annual conference, Sydney, Australia

Bronwyn Adcock is an award-winning Australian journalist and author, perhaps best known for her extraordinary account of the 2019-2020 bushfires in *Currowan*. The bushfire season of 2019-2020 affected large parts of Australia and probably cost the country more financially than any other in the nation's history. Mercifully, the death toll in 2019-2020 was far less than in the Black Saturday bushfires of 2009 that primarily afflicted one state – Victoria. Bronwyn Adcock focussed on one part of the 2019-2020 bushfire – the Currowan fire that was ignited by a lightning strike in a remote forest and spread to threaten the south coast area in New South Wales. *Currowan* recounts in vivid detail how she fled the fire with her children and how her husband, fighting the fire at the front, rang asking for her before his phone went dead. In *Currowan* the fire is portrayed almost as a character in itself as Bronwyn Adcock narrates what exactly happened and why. Urgent questions are asked about the lack of resources to fight the fires, about why back-burning was underway on a day of extreme fire danger and why wasn't the nation better prepared. Underlying all these questions was the looming threat of the impact of climate change. *Currowan* is an important book, narrated with urgency, passion and literary skill. As Adrian Hyland, himself the author of an excellent book about the Black Saturday bushfires, says: “*Currowan* is a brilliant piece of reportage from the inside of the Black Summer maelstrom – and a frightening glimpse of the future that awaits us all as we ignore the causes of climate change.”

Bronwyn began her career in journalism with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) in 1996. As it happened the national broadcaster experimented that year by offering one of its coveted traineeships for a role in current affairs rather than news. Bronwyn happily acknowledges this suited her as she has always been more interested in telling stories than in news reporting. That said, she has a nose for news as well as an eye for the telling detail. She has won numerous awards for her journalism, most of them for long form work across radio, television and print. Just two years into her career, she was a finalist in the Walkley awards – the Australian equivalent of the Pulitzer prize – for stories broadcast on Background Briefing, the 45 minute investigative program on ABC Radio National.

She left the ABC in 2000, joining the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS), Australia's second public broadcaster, where over the next eight years she worked for the Dateline current affairs program, reporting from Iran, Iraq, Egypt, Eastern Europe, the United States and Africa, among other countries. She exposed human rights abuses and government secrecy while also focussing on giving voice to the experiences of ordinary people's lives. In 2003 she was the first journalist to gain access to the inside of a refugee detention centre on the remote island of Nauru. The secrecy surrounding Australia's offshore detention regime has become internationally notorious but remains largely in place more than two decades later. For this



work she was awarded a United Nations Association of Australia Media Peace award. Bronwyn left SBS and worked as a freelance journalist since then. She reported extensively on “extraordinary rendition”, the cruel, secretive American counter-terrorism strategy implemented after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. She won a national freelance journalism award for that, the George Munster prize. She has also written long form articles for *The Monthly* and *Griffith Review*.

Bronwyn Adcock will discuss her work in conversation with Matthew Ricketson, professor of Communication at Deakin University.

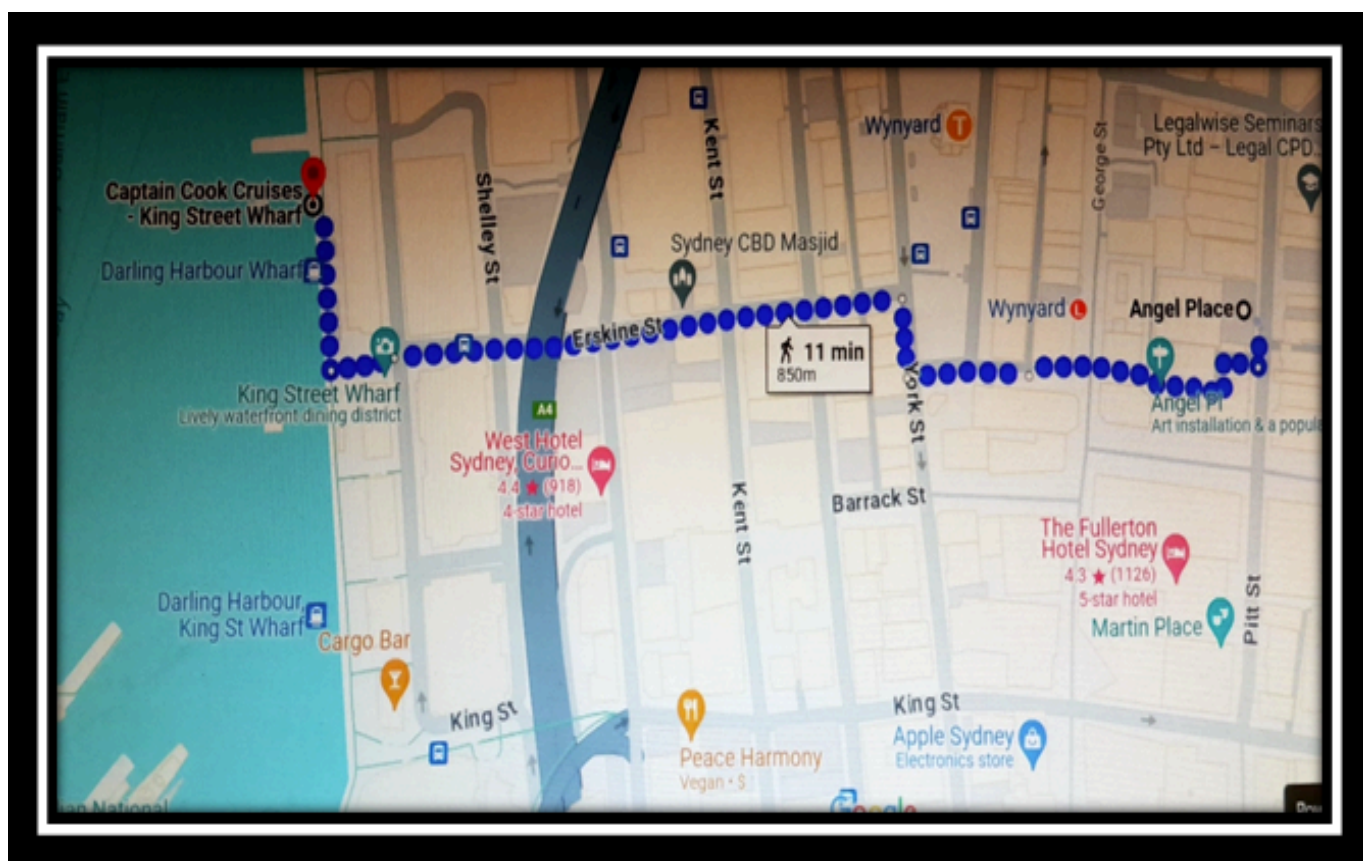


Wednesday 29th May, 4.30-7pm (leaving wharf at 5pm)

Annual Conference Banquet

Captain Cook Cruises – King Street Wharf, King St Wharf 1, Sydney NSW 2000 (an easy 11-minute walk, 850m from venue).

Boarding from 4.45pm.





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