

WRITING PROJECTS

Project Title: Creative writing and publishing: play, experiments and new directions

- Supervisor: [Michelle Aung-Thin](#), [David Carlin](#), [Bonny Cassidy](#), [Julienne van Loon](#), [Brigid Magner](#), [Rose Michael](#), [Peta Murray](#), [Francesca Rendle-Short](#), [Stayci Taylor](#), [Ronnie Scott](#), [Jessica Wilkinson](#), [Ben Byrne](#)

Outline: What can creative writing and publishing do today? How can creative writing methods, and their tools including play, narrative, metaphor, performance, observation, listening and speculation, contribute to understandings of contemporary realities, from the personal to the political? How does formal experimentation, including the digital, intersect with contestation of normative assumptions? Can writing and publishing still change the world and what do we even mean by writing? By using playful engagements with poetry, fiction, nonfiction and performance writing to investigate pressing material, social, ecological and cultural issues, this project offers new insight into innovative methods and applications of creative writing, and how creative writing and publishing help shape contemporary realities. This project is aligned with the following Design and Creative Practice Enabling Capability Platform's Research and Innovation Priorities: 'playful and material encounters' which investigates how play and the notion of 'the playful' can be used as a mechanism for generating creative and inventive solutions to real-world problems, and 'the social and sustainable' where researchers envisage a world that has equality, biodiversity and sustainability at its core.

FoR Codes: 1904 Performing Arts and Creative Writing

ECP alignment: Design and Creative Practice

Project Title: Author contracts in Australia: Reflecting the changing face of publishing

- Supervisors: [Julienne van Loon](#), [Rose Michael](#), [Brigid Magner](#)

Outline: This Design and Creative Practice industry-focused project analyses author/publisher contracts in the Australian book industry over a fifty-year period

(1970s to now), providing invaluable trend information on the degree to which terms and conditions have changed over that period, testing the validity of popular assumptions about author/publisher relations and industry change, and opening up the opportunity for a more productive discussion over the future of publishing models and fair contracts. This project aligns with the Design and Creative Practice Enabling Capability Platform, and specifically to research and innovation priority of design and creative practice industries by looking at the relationships between Australian writers and their industry, and at related question of value in the context of cultural and economic sustainability.

FoR codes: 190402 Creative Writing including playwriting; Literary Studies 200502 Australian literature.

ECP alignment: Design and Creative Practice

Project Title: Creative practice as/through queer thinking

- Supervisors: Francesca Rendle-Short, David Carlin, Jessica Wilkinson, Peta Murray, Stayci Taylor, Ronnie Scott, Rebecca Hill

Outline: This project explores the possibility and range of queer thinking as it applies to creative practice. It seeks to unpack/reconfigure the relationship or dynamic between non/ fiction and a queer aesthetic. It is attentive to form and process; it might be difficult to classify. It elevates all that is tangential, oblique, unspoken, transitory, unsettled, strange. What might this imaginary look like, feel like? It goes beyond (bends) genre to explore transgressive and performative contours and cartographies. It nudges, queries, challenges, dances, essays. It pays attention to both the what and how things are being said, aligning with the Design and Creative Practice ECP priority area of the notion of the playful-as-probe, lens and practice. The project invites and implicates diverse modes of creative practice, including the essayistic, poetic, performative and fictional.

FoR Codes: 190402 Performing Arts and Creative Writing

ECP alignment: Design and Creative Practice

Project Title: Feminism: philosophy: creative writing

- Supervisors: Julienne van Loon, Jessica Wilkinson, Rebecca Hill, Bonny Cassidy, Gretchen Coombs, Rose Michael, Linda Daley

Outline: This project inhabits the nexus between feminist theory, philosophy, and creative writing and aims, through creative practice, to extend the possibilities of all three. Its focus is on creative writing as a method for complicating and re-imagining the sorts of questions normally addressed in discursive philosophy, with a particular focus on feminist theory. It asks how creative writing might invigorate feminist philosophy in a manner that is genuinely novel. The thesis will be presented as two components: a creative work and a dissertation. The creative work will be a substantial and significant work that embodies a sustained answer to the research question. The dissertation will define the purpose and theoretical basis for the creative practice, drawing on examples from the relevant literature. This project aligns with the Design and Creative Practice Enabling Capability Platform, and specifically to the research and innovation priority of the social and the sustainable by using creative practice methodology to look at the relation between feminist philosophy and lived experience in the context of the heightened misogyny of the Trump era.

FoR Codes: 190402 Creative Writing including playwriting.

ECP alignment: Design and Creative Practice

Project Title: Imagining Australia in Asia

- Supervisors: Ronnie Scott, Michelle Aung-Thin, Rose Michael, Haiqing Yu

Outline: This project investigates long-form writing responses to recent transformations in mobility and migration. It is five years since the Labour government nominated this as 'the Asian century' yet Australia still feels culturally distant from Asia. How might Australia be re-imagined in the new economic and cultural order? Will Australia become 'hybridised'? The thesis will be presented as two components: a creative work and a dissertation. The creative work will be a substantial and significant work that embodies a sustained answer to the research question. The dissertation will define the purpose and theoretical basis for the creative practice, drawing on examples from the relevant literature. This project is aligned with the Design and Creative Practice Enabling Capability Platform's Research and Innovation Priority, 'playful and material encounters' in which

researchers investigate how play and the notion of ‘the playful’ can be used to transform how geographic places are experienced and defined.

FoR Codes: 190402 Creative Writing including playwriting.

ECP alignment: Social Change

Project Title: Literary Geographies

- Supervisors: Brigid Magner, Linda Daley

Outline: How can creative writing be used explore the complex relationships between place and literature? How can literature transform how geographic places are experienced and defined? How does location shape literary production? How do place-stories contribute to a shared sense of identity? This project might include a consideration of regions and how they produce and in turn are produced by narrative. It may use practice-based creative research, textual analysis and applied techniques such as in-depth interviews and book group methodology to elicit understandings of the ways in which people understand and interpret places.

FoR Codes: 1904 Performing Arts and Creative Writing; 2005 Literary Studies

ECP alignment: Design and Creative Practice

Project Title: Narrative poetry as nonfiction medium

- Supervisors: Jessica Wilkinson, Bonny Cassidy, Francesca Rendle-Short, Marsha Berry

Outline: What can the poetic line do that the prose sentence can't? How can we merge the 'language of information' (i.e. facts) with the 'language of art' in new ways? How can poetic forms and devices be employed to write of historical subjects and events so that how we write of the past reinvigorates that past as lived literary experience? In alignment with the Design and Creative Practice ECP's priority area 'playful and material encounters', this project will explore, interrogate and generate creative and inventive solutions to the task of writing (about) real world subjects, using the poetic medium as a valuable means through which to access new dimensions of thought and representation.

FoR Codes: 190402 Creative Writing including playwriting

ECP alignment: Design and Creative Practice

Project Title: The novel now: problems with notions of the fictional

- Supervisors: Julienne van Loon, Michelle Aung-Thin, Rose Michael, Brigid Magner, Ronnie Scott

Outline: This project responds to recent trends in the book industry, specifically in contemporary literary fiction, that self-consciously question or re-invigorate the form of the novel through complicating the line between fiction and non-fiction. Is there a problem with artifice in contemporary literary fiction? If so, why now? The thesis will be presented as two components: a creative work and a dissertation. The creative work will be a substantial and significant work that embodies a sustained answer to the research question. The dissertation will define the purpose and theoretical basis for the creative practice, drawing on examples from the relevant literature. This project aligns with the Design and Creative Practice Enabling Capability Platform, and specifically to the research and innovation priority of playful and material encounters by using creative practice methodology to look at the 'expanded field' of the fictional in a so-called 'post truth' era.

FoR Code: 190402 Creative Writing including playwriting

ECP alignment: Design and Creative Practice

Project title: Poetic sovereignties

- Supervisors: Bonny Cassidy, Linda Daley, Cathy Greenfield, Olivia Guntarik, Rebecca Hill

Outline: This project investigates modes of sovereignty expressed in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authored works. Its main focus is on print literature (nonfiction, poetry, memoir, fiction), but does not exclude writing for screen and stage. The project aims to explore the political and poetic possibilities of story and language, including Indigenous language revival and maintenance, through the printed page and/or its public performance. This project is premised on two propositions. First,

that sovereignty does not have an exclusive relation to the nation-state. This restricted view of sovereignty masks other forms of authority in relation to law and lore such as the sovereignty never ceded by Indigenous communities. Second, that literary/creative works authored by Indigenous writers articulates and performs sovereignty by means of which publics are formed that are key to the task of recalibrating settler-Indigenous relations. This project contributes to RMIT's Enabling Capability Platforms of Social Change, and Design & Creative Practice, by developing research into new experiences of place, and into creative forms of response to resilience, social connection, equality and geography.

FoR Codes: 200501 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Literature; 200201 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Studies; 200211 Postcolonial Studies

ECP alignment: Social Change; Design and Creative Practice

Project Title: The role of play in leading Australian research practice

- Supervisors: Julienne van Loon, Anne Harris (Education), Peta Murray

Outline: The premise of this project is that play is a crucial aspect of discovery, and its influence on research practice is significant and poorly understood. Informed by creative-writing methodology and creative practice approaches to research this project links research practice in a higher education context with scholarship on the philosophy of play and applies this interdisciplinary critical framework to qualitative data on how leading Australian researchers approach key research problems. What is the role of play in the creation of new knowledge? The project will seek to inform research policy frameworks that actively foster contingency, possibility and the unforeseen. This project aligns with the Design and Creative Practice Enabling Capability Platform, and responds to the research and innovation priority of playful and material encounters by investigating how play and the notion of 'the playful' can be used as a mechanism for generating creative and inventive solutions to real-world problems.

FoR Codes: 190402 Creative Writing including playwriting (80%); 130103 Higher Education (20%).

ECP alignment: Design and Creative Practice

Project Title: Un-real writing

- Supervisors: Ronnie Scott, Rose Michael, Bonny Cassidy, David Carlin, Gretchen Coombs, Brigid Magner, Francesca Rendle-Short

Outline: This project investigates how long-form writing can respond to reality in non-traditional ways. Through experimentation and play, artists contribute to ongoing cultural conversations, exploring and extending existing forms and nascent practices – such as spec-fic, slipstream, and Weird Fiction. How does a literature of the Anthropocene conceive present, past and future? The thesis will be presented as two components: a creative work and dissertation. The creative work will embody a substantial and significant contribution to this research area. The dissertation will define the purpose and theoretical basis for the creative practice, drawing on examples from the relevant literature.

FoR Codes: 190402 Creative Writing including playwriting

ECP alignment: Design and Creative Practice

Project Title: Australian Stage and Screen Stories

- Supervisors: Stephen Gaunson, Brigid Magner, Rose Michael, Peta Murray, Ronnie Scott, Stayci Taylor

Outline: This project responds to the current, ongoing and ‘real world’ issues in the Australian stage and screen industries. Crusades such as the Make it Australian campaign – and the more specifically targeted Gender Matters initiative – suggest significant challenges to creating Australian stories intended for theatrical or screen production. The project investigates the notion of ‘Australian story’ with a particular interest in marginalised voices. Drawing on RMIT’s international reputation in script writing practice research, the project takes a creative practice approach, with the development of a uniquely Australian play or screenplay informed by, and responding to, the evolving concerns of the industries in which it is theoretically situated. This project addresses the research priorities of the Design and Creative Practice ECP by generating creative and inventive solutions to real-world problems,

especially as they pertain to emerging trends and challenges in the Australian screen and theatre industries.

FoR Codes: 190204 Film, Television and Digital Media; 190402 Creative Writing including playwriting

ECP alignment: Design and Creative Practice