



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
*Achieving International Excellence*



## 4th Annual *Limina* Conference

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2009

Friday, 5th June 2009  
The University of Western Australia

*Institute of Advanced Studies*

<http://www.limina.arts.uwa.edu.au>

8:30	<b>Registration</b>								
9:00 - 10:30 Session 1	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>New Ways of Thinking</i> Chair: Kate Watson (Cardiff) Old Senate Room – IAS</p> <p><b>Rachel Hains-Wesson (UWA)</b> <i>What is Children's Theatre? Problems in Defining a Historical Lineage</i></p> <p><b>Alice Pullin (UWA)</b> <i>A New New Wave?: New Weird, Contemporary Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, and the Complexities of Genre</i></p> <p><b>Marco Ceccarelli (UWA)</b> <i>Dostoyevsky's Demons: Individual Radicalisation and Terrorism in the Works of Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoyevsky</i></p>								
10:30 - 11:00	<b>Morning Tea</b> (IAS Verandah)								
11:00 - 12:30	<b>Parallel Sessions 2 &amp; 3</b>								
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Ways of Seeing Others</i> Chair: Alice Pullin (UWA) Old Senate Room – IAS</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Negotiating Geographies</i> Chair: Ruth Morgan (UWA) Maths Lecture Room 1</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Sally Carlton (UWA)</b> <i>Appropriating a (sub)liminal Group: The Role of the Dead in Commemoration of War</i></p> </td> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Kate Watson (Cardiff)</b> <i>'The History of the Murder': Challenging Representations of Genre and Gender in Ellen Davitt's Force and Fraud</i></p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Brooke Dunnell (UWA)</b> <i>The Other Side of the Story: Focalisation, Family and Reality in Jonathan Franzen's The Corrections (2001)</i></p> </td> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Jennifer Armstrong (UWA)</b> <i>The Black Artist Turns the Tables Morally: Pre-Oedipal Psychology in a Work of Dambudzo Marechera</i></p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Joanna Fedson (UWA)</b> <i>The Dark Side of Evangelical Culture: Evangelicalism and Race Issues in Black Christian Fiction</i></p> </td> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Danica Van De Velde (UWA)</b> <i>The Exile of Desire: Cartographies of Love in Wong Kar-Wai's Happy Together</i></p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Ways of Seeing Others</i> Chair: Alice Pullin (UWA) Old Senate Room – IAS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Negotiating Geographies</i> Chair: Ruth Morgan (UWA) Maths Lecture Room 1</p>	<p><b>Sally Carlton (UWA)</b> <i>Appropriating a (sub)liminal Group: The Role of the Dead in Commemoration of War</i></p>	<p><b>Kate Watson (Cardiff)</b> <i>'The History of the Murder': Challenging Representations of Genre and Gender in Ellen Davitt's Force and Fraud</i></p>	<p><b>Brooke Dunnell (UWA)</b> <i>The Other Side of the Story: Focalisation, Family and Reality in Jonathan Franzen's The Corrections (2001)</i></p>	<p><b>Jennifer Armstrong (UWA)</b> <i>The Black Artist Turns the Tables Morally: Pre-Oedipal Psychology in a Work of Dambudzo Marechera</i></p>	<p><b>Joanna Fedson (UWA)</b> <i>The Dark Side of Evangelical Culture: Evangelicalism and Race Issues in Black Christian Fiction</i></p>	<p><b>Danica Van De Velde (UWA)</b> <i>The Exile of Desire: Cartographies of Love in Wong Kar-Wai's Happy Together</i></p>
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12:30 – 1:30	<b>LUNCH</b> (IAS Verandah)
1:30 – 2:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Keynote Address:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dr Michael Ondaatje</b> <b>University of Newcastle</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>A Long Time Coming: The Obama Phenomenon in American History and Politics</i></p>
2:30 - 3:00	<b>Afternoon Tea</b> (IAS Verandah)
3:00 - 4:30 Session 4	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>New Histories</i> Chair: Odhran O'Brien (Notre Dame, UWA) Old Senate Room – IAS</p> <p><b>Ruth Morgan (UWA)</b> <i>Regional Flows: A Snapshot of the Networks of Environmental Management in the South-West, 1945-1972</i></p> <p><b>Wahyu Wicaksana (UWA)</b> <i>Islam and Diplomacy: Pakistan's Role In Indonesian Revolution and Beyond</i></p> <p><b>Helena Dawes (UWA)</b> <i>The Catholic Church and the Woman Question: The Evolution and Suppression of femminismo cristiano 1900-1908</i></p>
6:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LIMINA Volume 15</b> <b>Journal Launch</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>IAS Verandah</b></p>



## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**DR MICHAEL ONDAATJE**  
(University of Newcastle)

### *A Long Time Coming: The Obama Phenomenon in American History and Politics*

**Abstract:** If a 'turning point' is a period or moment in history when significant change takes place, then the election of Barack Obama as the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States in November 2008 must surely rank among the most extraordinary turning points in American history. One hundred and forty six years after Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation ending slavery, and forty-six years after Martin Luther King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech summoning the nation to the struggle for racial equality, America finally has its first black president.

That a nation which enslaved blacks for centuries and, thereafter, subjected them to 100 years of second-class citizenship, has now chosen an African American to be the most powerful human being on earth is a great democratic achievement that no-one could seriously have predicted 40 years ago when Martin Luther King was tragically gunned down. Perhaps it is a sign that in 2008/09 America's democratic principles have at last moved beyond the tribalism of race?

My paper will focus on this question, situating Obama within America's racial history and exploring the social and political significance of his success in the context of contemporary race relations.

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*Michael Ondaatje was born in Perth, Western Australia and was awarded his PhD (with Distinction) from the University of Western Australia (UWA). His thesis on the black conservative phenomenon in modern America was recognised at UWA with the Robert Street Prize for the best PhD across all disciplines in 2007. Also the winner of that university's Excellence in Teaching Award (Early Career) in 2006, Michael has published work in the field of African American history and is currently writing a book about Barack Obama for UWA Press. His forthcoming book Black Conservative Intellectuals in Modern America will be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press (Penn Press) in late 2009. Michael is also a regular commentator on American history and politics for ABC radio (having given more than 25 media interviews during the past year).*



## NEW WAYS OF THINKING

**RACHAEL HAINS-WESSON (UWA)**

### *What is Children's Theatre? Problems in Defining a Historical Lineage*

**Abstract:** This paper will provide information about the history of children's theatre in Australia and, highlight some useful methodological points about the difficulties of defining this area and why this is so. Trying to find a comprehensive definition that illustrates what children's theatre is and is not is a complicated matter. Firstly, children's theatre throughout history has had to constantly adapt to survive to maintain a singular identity. For example, children's theatre has implemented educational and community issue-based outcomes to acquire new audiences, such as drama-in-education, theatre-in-education and youth theatre. In addition, children's theatre is consistently being compared to adult theatre, theatre-in-education and drama-in-education and this type of process creates ambiguity in producing a definition. If children's theatre does not acquire a voice and therefore a separate historical identity, children's theatre as an important discourse will remain silent and inconclusive. The proposed presentation will be based on solid research and independent thinking.

**ALICE PULLIN (UWA)**

### *A New New Wave?: New Weird, Contemporary Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, and the Complexities of Genre*

**Abstract:** This paper will discuss an increasingly important domain of fantasy fiction, one which incorporates works from the contemporary fantasy, urban fantasy and New Weird 'sub-genres'. Authors such as leading lights Neil Gaiman and China Mieville, as well as ground-breaking masters Charles De Lint and Angela Carter, and those who occupy the borders between fantasy and the gothic and horror genres, such as Clive Barker and H. P. Lovecraft, have all written works which could arguably fall into one or all of those categories. These categories are not ubiquitous, but they do share boundaries, and indeed overlap to a significant extent. This resulting domain is becoming more and more important as scholars move beyond the 'safe' arena of the literary fantastic and Tolkien's high fantasy, and start engaging with the 'lower' domain of genre fantasy.

This paper seeks to situate this domain within the broader fantasy genre thematically, culturally and historiographically, and raise possible issues to be considered by those seeking to study these texts, including whether the current methodology of genre fantasy scholarship is appropriate for the study of these 'sub-genres'.

MARCO CECCARELLI (UWA)

*Dostoyevsky's Demons: The Representation of Russian Radical Intelligentsia and Revolutionary Terrorism in the Works of Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoyevsky*

**Abstract:** Throughout the second half of the nineteenth century, Russia saw the rapid growth of a revolutionary movement staffed, supported and trained by the radicalised Russian intelligentsia. This was a time of revolutionary upheaval, political agitation, conspiracy, protest and revolt which saw many young men and women absorb radical ideals imported from the West by the intelligentsia into revolutionary theories and dogmas. The appearance of a revolutionary student sub-culture, secret societies and terrorist organisations sparked a period of terror and counter terror which culminated in the assassination of Tsar Alexander II by the terrorist group *Narodnaya Volya* (People's Will) in 1881. The growing popularity of radical concepts such as rational egoism, utilitarianism and nihilism throughout these decades inspired the novelist Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoyevsky to create novels such as *Notes from the Underground* (1864), *Crime and Punishment* (1865-66) and *The Devils* (1871). These fictional works strongly criticised radical ideology and its damaging effects on the human psyche. What message was Dostoyevsky attempting to convey regarding this small yet aggressive minority of revolutionaries? How did this author view the spread of political violence throughout his nation? My discussion will seek to answer these questions as well as create a sketch of the unstable Russian socio-political period during which Dostoyevsky was writing.



WAYS OF SEEING OTHERS

SALLY CARLTON (UWA)

*Appropriating a (sub)Liminal Group: The Role of the Dead in Commemoration of War*

**Abstract:** Remembering the war dead became paramount in France as a means to overcome personal and societal grief after the horrific losses of World War One. Following the war, local services of mourning were eventually amalgamated into the nation-wide ceremony of Armistice Day. Thus while the dead soldiers had disappeared from the physical world, commemoration ensured their survival in the spiritual realm, with speeches and ceremonial activities designed specifically to incorporate the dead into the service.

Of the various commemorative actors present in Armistice Day ceremonies, the veterans in particular capitalise on the idea of the war dead. Focusing on this group encourages reflection on the notion of ultimate sacrifice and the price France paid for victory. Through lauding the dead, the veterans hope to encourage the French population to aspire to similar sentiments of fraternity and civic-mindedness. On occasion, the theme is

taken even further to promote the veterans' point of view regarding contemporary political, social and economic situations in France. This paper will outline the symbolic practices through which the war dead are remembered in French Armistice Day commemorations, as well as the role ascribed to them by veterans.

BROOKE DUNNELL (UWA)

*The Other Side of the Story: Focalisation, Family and Reality in Jonathan Franzen's The Corrections (2001)*

**Abstract:** The concept of 'family' is one with which arguably everyone is familiar, and yet one that every person will experience differently. The novel genre is a highly suitable site through which to explore individuals' different experiences of family due to the form's ability to present 'reality' through the consciousnesses of different characters. It is my contention that this capacity for variable focalisation (in the narratologist Gérard Genette's terms) can add to and strengthen any sense of realism in the novel by showing family life through multiple subjective points of view. This is evident in Jonathan Franzen's 2001 bestseller *The Corrections*, which conforms to theorist Kerstin Dell's definition of a 'family novel' in that it tells the collective story of the two-generation Lambert family from the perspective of each of its five members. In showing readers what the five protagonists see, think and feel not only about the events of the narrative but about one another, the novel allows readers to come to their own conclusions about the story without being instructed by an omniscient, 'objective' narrator. *The Corrections* and other family novels can thus be said to be realistic in that they are 'like life' – subjective, personal, and experienced through one set of eyes at a time.

JOANNA FEDSON (UWA)

*The Dark Side of Evangelical Culture: Evangelicalism and Race Issues in Black Christian Fiction*

**Abstract:** In 2001, Sharon Ewell Foster's *Passing by Samaria* won the evangelical Christian Fiction industry's Christy Award for best debut Christian novel. Set in Chicago and the Jim Crow South, *Passing by Samaria* is significant in that Foster is the only African American to ever receive a Christy Award.

Christian Fiction written by white evangelicals as a distinct popular fiction genre can be traced back to the 1970s, while Black Christian Fiction—a subgenre written by and for African American Christians—has only emerged in the last 10 years. In addition, the establishment of Christian publishing imprints that focus solely on black fiction has cemented the presence of Black Christian Fiction in evangelical subculture. The inclusion of Black Christian Fiction indicates an awareness of race within American evangelicalism that has rarely, if ever, been seen before. By contextualising the emergence of Black

Christian Fiction with (white) evangelicalism's approach to race and racism, this paper explores the ways in which black authors navigate Christian fiction narratives as a way in which to challenge not only the meta-narrative of a white America but also one that privileges a white evangelical Christianity.



## NEGOTIATING GEOGRAPHIES

KATE WATSON (CARDIFF)

*'The History of the Murder': Challenging Representations of Genre and Gender in Ellen Davitt's Force and Fraud.*

**Abstract:** This paper will examine the ways in which the nineteenth-century Australian woman writer, Ellen Davitt, significantly both contributed to and challenged the mystery and the masculine dominated developing crime genre with her pioneering work, *Force and Fraud: A Tale of the Bush* (1865). The lead serial of Melbourne's *The Australian Journal* (September 2, 1865), it has been acclaimed by Lucy Sussex as 'Australia's first murder mystery novel'. Sussex goes on to align Davitt's work with that of Australia's other crime and mystery writer in the same period, Mary Fortune, and suggests that both authors made major contributions to the development of the crime fiction genre in Australia and influenced crime writing in other nations.

Like Australia itself in the period, Davitt's text is located as marginal, or 'other'; the narrative is set outside the city in the bush and is published well beyond the established 'centre' of publishing in Britain. Davitt, however, in some respects paved the way before her more reputable British contemporaries using the mystery form. For example, *Force and Fraud* precedes Wilkie Collins 1868 novel *The Moonstone* by three years. The Australian woman writer, then, challenges an established genre from the doubly marginal position of woman and colonial subject. This aspect of Davitt's writing has, until recently, been relatively unnoticed; Davitt has not been included in the criminographic canon, a position rectified by Stephen Knight and Lucy Sussex.

Davitt's life and writing, I suggest, serve to promote the connections between gender and genre, margin and centre, and, in her crime fiction, '[h]istory (and herstory)'.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Lucy Sussex, 'Introduction', in Ellen Davitt, *Force and Fraud: A Tale of the Bush* (Mulini Press: Canberra, 1993), pp. i-ix (iv).

JENNIFER ARMSTRONG (UWA)

*The Black Artist Turns the Tables Morally: Pre-Oedipal Psychology in a Work of Dam-budzo Marechera*

**Abstract:** This paper will look at the choreodrama of the late Zimbabwean writer, Dam-budzo Marechera, called *Portrait of a Black Artist in London*. It was written in London in 1980, during the time of the author's eight year exile from his Zimbabwean homeland. An analysis of segments of this choreodrama reveals the author's shamanistic approach to knowing which creates the structure of the choreodrama, whereby the writer morally turns the tables on 'Westminster'. He chastises the British political authorities for their racist political agenda, and for being complicit in causing his own death. The mode of shamanistic insight that also forms the basis for the writer's critique of his host society is viewed in terms of pre-oedipal psychology. The author invokes the idea that the natural relationship between parent (host nation) and child (himself and other homeless illegal immigrants of colour) has been poisoned by the profound inner corruption and immoral nature of the host nation. This paper will explore: an alternative way of knowledge, the experience of minorities and how they are seen differently on the basis of ethnicity, a cross-cultural interpretation of the meaning of discrimination, and the alternative methodology of referring to pre-oedipal psychology in order to get a handle on the author's aesthetic constructions and the nature of his political critiques.

DANICA VAN DE VELDE (UWA)

*The Exile of Desire: Cartographies of Love in Wong Kar-Wai's Happy Together*

**Abstract:** In the oeuvre of Hong Kong filmmaker Wong Kar-Wai, *Happy Together* (1997) marks a significant geographical transition from the frenetic urban streetscapes of Hong Kong to the port city of Buenos Aires, Argentina. As the film follows the Argentinean travels of a homosexual couple from Hong Kong their spatial displacement runs in parallel with the symbolic exile of their affections for one another.

This paper will seek to address the manner in which, through the shift in film setting, Wong conflates geographical placement with ideas of desire. The search for love and fulfilment in the film is represented through the movements of the characters in their pursuit of their own unique place in the world. The film narrative suggests that to be 'happy together' one must locate a space which allows love to thrive; however, the constant migration of desire, encapsulated in the inability of the characters to find a mutual place to settle together, seeks to question and undermine the possibility of locating such a space. This paper will analyse the slippages created in the film between the abstract and intangible domain of desire with a cartography of place that relies on rational mapping to delineate boundaries and space, and ultimately questions whether love can be interpreted through the concepts of mapping.

**RUTH MORGAN (UWA)**

*Regional flows: A Snapshot of the Networks of Environmental Management in the South-West, 1945-1972*

**Abstract:** At the Sydney Futures Forum in May 2004, Tim Flannery argued that 'Perth might be the first metropolitan ghost town...of the 21st century' as '[i]t is the most isolated city on the planet and is exquisitely vulnerable to the sorts of changes that global warming is amplifying every decade'. Indeed, scientists have identified a decline in winter rainfall in the south-west region of Australia that is thought to have commenced in the early 1970s. Anthropogenic forces are considered to be the most significant cause of this regional climatic change.

If humans have played a central role in this issue, an historical examination of the environmental management of the south-west region prior to and including the 1970s can help us to understand how and why the region has changed since this time. I will outline the prevailing land, water, biodiversity and forest management policy discourses of the relevant stakeholders. I will also examine the nature of the state and national meteorological services and their understanding of the regional climate patterns at the time. By examining these networks of environmental management, I seek to establish the material conditions, knowledges and attitudes that shaped the understandings of the south-west region prior to the 1970s.

**WAHYU WICAKSANA (UWA)**

*Islam and Diplomacy: Pakistan's Role in Indonesian Revolution and Beyond*

**Abstract:** Ties that bind two states - Indonesia and Pakistan - have developed since their inception in the 1940s. The Islamic factor - in terms of Muslim solidarity - had contributed to construct a cordial relationship between the two newly independent countries. This paper aims to describe the role Islam played in the early years of the establishment of Indonesia-Pakistan relations, particularly during the Indonesian struggle to defend independence, since 1945. Despite the fact that Indonesia and Pakistan are the largest and second largest Muslim countries in the world, relations between the two are relatively ignored by academics studying facts and factors of Indonesian foreign relations. Therefore, it is the author's intent to shed light on this particular part of the history of Indonesia's international relations.

This paper explores the role Pakistan played in support of Indonesian physical revolution and international diplomacy to obtain recognition for her existence. Indonesian and Paki-

stani relations are placed within bilateral and multilateral contexts. Within the latter context, Indonesia's ties with Pakistan grew amidst the rivalry between Islamabad's and New Delhi's foreign policy, stemming in large from their ideological difference. Pakistan attempted to pull Indonesia into a Muslim front against the Indian campaign for leadership of Asian nations.

**HELENA DAWES (UWA)**

*The Catholic Church and the Woman Question: The Evolution and Suppression of femminismo cristiano 1900-1908s*

**Abstract:** In the early 1900s Catholic women's associations in Italy were promoted by the Church in an attempt to reassert Christianity in a society which after unification was becoming increasingly secularized. Women's associations evolved from the early Christian democratic movement which grew in response to Leo XIII's encyclical *Rerum novarum* (1891) and its call on Catholics to address the serious economic and social problems accompanying industrialization, urbanization and migration. One of the defining characteristics of the lay Catholic movement, and of Christian democracy, was intransigence - defiant opposition to the Italian State and its institutions. This sentiment was also reflected in the Catholic women's movement, setting it apart from secular feminism. While women in general were subject to discriminatory laws and practices, Catholic feminists, even though they were recognized as men's equals in their apostolate, had additionally to reckon with antifeminist doctrinal and political constraints imposed on them by the Catholic Church. Focusing on two Catholic women's periodicals, *L'azione muliebre* and *Pensiero e azione*, this paper studies the emergence, the nature and the suppression of *femminismo cristiano* in the first decade of the twentieth century.



**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

*NOTES*

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