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"Sovereignty and the Work of Death": Writing from Zimbabwe

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Australasian Association for Literature Third Annual Conference of the

University of Sydney July 6,7 2009

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Steven Connor (Birkbeck College, University of London)
Gail Jones (University of Western Sydney)
Klarina Kordela (Macalester College) Andrew Milner (Monash University)

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LITERATURE AND POLITICS

THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE AUSTRALASIAN ASSOCATION FOR LITERATURE

University of Sydney, Australia

6-7 July 2009

Abstracts

Dr Brigitta Olubas

University of New South Wales

Writing about the United Nations: Shirley Hazzard's Humanist Politic

or what she calls "public themes". In addition to her four novels and two collections of stories, she has fiction, she has also been, throughout her writing career, a forthright commentator on political affairs, the UN structure from its inception, inhibiting the effective prosecution of its responsibilities, and major claims: firstly that the US government's post-war McCarthyist policies had indelible effects on published two monographs on the United Nations: Defeat of an Ideal in 1973 and Countenance of Although New York-based Australian-born author Shirley Hazzard is best known for her literary particular that the contrary pull of public and poetic responsibility that Hazzard identifies in Milton's examine the convergences between Hazzard's UN writings and her literary fiction. It will argue in internationalist optic and an overt commitment to humanism as cultural imperative. This paper will failures of the United Nations derive from the structural preferment of parochial (national) over cosmopolitan (international) public interest. In this sense, they share with Hazzard's fiction an Waldheim's WWII Austrian Nazi Party affiliation. The argument of both books is thus that the core secondly that the very structure of the UN facilitated the covering up of Secretary-General Kurt Truth in 1990. Informed by insider accounts as well as published records, these works document two of the 'public themes' of political critique and commentary with the work of literature. essays on Church corruption structures a similar sense of the work of the writer herself, an alignment

Carolina Orloff

University of Edinburgh, UK

Julio Cortázar's Forgotten Politics: Anti-Peronism in the Rise of a Writer

event created an unambiguous distinction between the writer's so-called 'apolitical' writings and those It is generally assumed that Julio Cortázar's trip to Cuba in 1963 not only divided his life into a permanent sources of reference, and they can be traced in his fictional writings. This paper will analyse some of Cortázar's early texts, including Divertimento, Los reyes and El examen. Written periods, but rather, that there is an "essential unity", which in itself is charged with a marked political interest. Throughout his life, politics - as well as history - were, for this iconic Argentinian writer, Rayuela (published in English under Hopscotch), were generally considered aesthetically inferior and for the aesthetic quality of Cortázar's fiction, and therefore, the texts that followed the groundbreaking which express a given ideological stand. This, in turn, was understood also as a drastic turning point inexorable before and after, into the bourgeois artist vis-à-vis the committed socialist, but also that this poor given their implicit or explicit political content. I argue that there are not two different Cortázar criticism, showing that even some of the first of Julio Cortazar's incursions into the fictional realm of the 'Boom' of Latin American literature, the study will reappraise and challenge the accepted until Cortazar's demise in 1984. In the year of the 25th anniversary of the death of one of the founders during the rise of Peronism in Argentina in the late 1940s, these texts remained mostly unpublished were, in many respects, highly political

Hoa Pham

University of Western Sydney

From Orlando to Kieu: Writing from the Post-Colonial Feminist Diaspora

literature exploring the restraints of gender and Englishness Currently I am writing a novel "The Lady and about the society around them. Woolf's Orlando is seen as a landmark text for feminist English commentary on women's social position in Vietnam. In this paper I will explore this intertextuality position as a Vietnamese diasporic writer whom is Western educated using "Orlando" as a reference of the Realm" which is a Vietnamese diasporic take on "Orlando". I wish to interrogate my own Post colonial diasporic literature can use the canon to make political statements about women's lives and the commentary possible about gender relations, power, politics and colonialism when using Francophone writers using the "Tale of Kieu" the epic poem of the nineteenth century to make point for my own work. Similar intertextual referencing techniques have been used by Vietnamese canonical texts in this way.

Dr James Phillips

University of New South Wales

tragic conflict because the two are irreconcilable? Was the subsequent War of the Roses proof of their irreconcilability? Richard has often been portrayed as imprudent and poetic (Pater, Yeats), but his objectivity, as in the conflict between interiority and action in Hamlet and the conflict between desire tragedies Hegel discusses, $Richard\ H$ involves a conflict between two objective principles of political Richard II does not conform to Hegel's general picture of Shakespeare as a romantic. Like the Greek The Practicalities of the Absolute: Sovereignty in Shakespeare's ${\it Richard\ II}$ legitimating principle of the body politic (Richard's divine right) and the rights of subjects. Is it a and family authority in Romeo and Juliet). The conflict in $Richard\ H$ is between the absolute as a life (where Hegel detects romanticism in Shakespeare is in the conflicts between subjectivity and to be more "sensible"). Richard's dilemma is that as sovereign he is meant to stand outside the laws, testifying to the absolute and ensuring its place in the foundation of political life (it is not his business imprudence and poetry are no less pragmatic in their way than the hard-headedness of his opponent, contradiction of a contained absolute is a feature of Western sovereignty and a possible reason for the norms and customs while nonetheless being expected to conduct himself with moderation. This Heury IV: this is because the seeming unworldliness of his speech and actions has the political task of various attempts in the modern period at reconfiguring it without an embodying individual

Dr Deborah Pike

University of Notre Dame

Sovereignty and the Work of Death: Writing from Zimbabwe

in which the wounded body can be approached and appraised through the written word economic flux. Following on from this, I make use of Agamben's work on biopolitics, to suggest ways examine how contemporary African subjectivity is formed in conditions of political violence and country. Using the philosophy of sovereignty that has been passed down from Hegel to Bataille, I This paper discusses the Zimbabwe situation through a study of contemporary writing from that

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AUSTRALASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR LITERATURE

The Australasian Association for Literature is a newly founded group whose goals are to promote scholarship in literature, and a deeper understanding of how literature develops its own ways of thinking about the world. We have a particular interest in how literature interacts with other disciplines and intellectual standpoints (such as cincee, philosophy and history) and seek to attract scholars interested in questions which explore what it is that works of literature can do (how they affect us, and why). We understand works of literature to be active things that make us think rather than passive things about which we might reflect, and this understanding informs our belief in the ongoing importance of careful scholarship related to literary works.

At present, the AAL's principal activity is an annual conference. We are always open to proposals for future conferences, and can assist with seed funding. If you are interested in hosting the annual Association conference at your university, or would like more information as to what this entails, please contact us through the Association website: www.aal.asn.au/ The only prescription is that the conference address some aspect of literature, or literature in relation to a broad inclusive theme, such as our three previous conferences have done, i.e., 'Literature and Sensation', 'Literature and History', 'Literature and Politics'.

Anthony Uhlmann

Vice-President Paul Sheehan

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NOTES

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			Steven Connor I iterature. Politics and the Loutistness of Learning	5.30-6.30
Mike Hanne Making War and Peace with Metaphor Gavin Smith The significance of poetry in public debate Daniel Derrin The Mental Image and Logical Persuasion	Ason Ensor 'A Policy of Splendid Isolation': Angus & Robertson, George G Harrap and the politics of co-operation in the Australian book trade during the late 1930s Oliver Haag The Politics of Publishing Indigenous Literatures in Germany: A Comparative Study of Australian and New Zealand Indigenous Literatures in German Translation Deborah Jordan Canon, Gender and the Politics of Literary Production	Constructing Identities 2: Madness and Childhood Gareth Jenkins Resisting Rational Transformation: Mannix Narrating Psychiatry Narrating Mannix Lucy Hopkins The Politics of Childhood in Christos Tsoilkas' The Slap Scarlett Somlo The Madness of Money, Politics and Reality in Vonnegut's God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater	Australian Subjects Lindsay Barrett An Australian Story Drew Cottle Russel Ward and the Making of the Australian Legend	3.30-5.00
The Uses of Poetry & Rhetoric	1497 (First Floor)	2		3.00-3.30
Veronica Brady Walter Benjamin's Dwarf And The Imaginative Construction Of Australia Brigitta Olubas Writing about the United Nations: Shirley Hazzard's Humanist Politic Elizabeth Treep Being at Home in Australia: Utopian Constructions in Eve Langley's Bancroft House	Alice Curry 'And, please, don't tell me I hate foreigners'; Racial Prejudice and Ideological Blind Space in Falling and The Boy in Striped Pyjamas Jasbir Jain The Nation and its Minorities: Refugees and Exiles in the Homeland Stefan Solomon 'Layin' 'mong de t'ings I's allus knowed': Racial Representation and the Residual	on Delillo's Falling tal, volume one: vatives and iterary Form eLillo and terrorism	Jo Coghlan The Syncretic Philosophies of Sukarno: Merdeka and the 'imagined state' in colonial and post-colonial Indonesia Alison Broinowski The hegemonic bargain Mridula Nath Chakraborty In Praise Of Smallness: The Case Of The Provincial, Mufossil Novel	1.30-3.00
Collecting residues	Race and Kacism	Writing Capitalism	Deat Calaniel Discos	1 20 2 00
Constructing Identifies 1:	(First Floor)	Lunch N497		12.30-1.30
Chris Conti Chris Conti The Primacy of the Object Matthew Holt Capitalism as Fiction: The Communist Manifesto	Sarah Attifeld The Politics of Working Class Writing Karen Barker Rouse up your feeling intensely! The double horizon of Jean Devanny's socialist teleology and the élan ouvrier Peter Marks Class and the Threat of Fascism in 1930s Britain	Modernist Ireland Peter Kuch 'We writers are not politicians'—W.B. Yeats: Poetry, Plays, Prose and Politics, and the Politics of Publication Stephen Maclaren Caesar confesses Christ: revisiting Joyce's revolution of the Word Anthony Uhlmann Politics of Relations in Joyce	Place, Earth, Utopia Mathew Abbott The Myth of the Earth: Heidegger, Poetry and Politics Politics Emma Simone Virginia Woolf and the Politics of Place Dimitris Vardoulakis Political Literature in Greece: The case of Aris Alexandrou's The Mission Box	11.00-12.30
Critical Theory	97 (First Floor)	Morning Tea N4	The second secon	10.30-11.00
			Gail Jones Organic Shrapnel: Benjamin, DeLillo, and the Scales of Representation Kiarina Kordela Secular Logics for Grounding Truths and Laws: Amor Fati, Magic, and Prevention	9.30-10.30
	01 (First Floor)	Registration N4		8 30-9 30
Woolley Common Room (First Floor)	N401 (First Floor)	\$325 (Ground Floor)	N395 (Ground Floor)	

5.30-6.30 Andrew Milner The Politics of Dys	3.30-5.00 Contemporary Fictions Kezia Whiting Ethics and Politics: Intrusion Saturday Marise Williams The altermodern political mo Auster's Man in the Dark Paul Sheehan All the Trees in the World: C and the Politics of the Worst	3.00-3.30	Carolina Orloff Julio Cortázar's Forgotten Politics: Anti-Peronism in the Rise of a Writer Peter Whiteford 'Don't mention the War': Editorial Interin John Mulgan's Report on Experience Andrew Yerkes A Biology of Dictatorships: Liberal Real Sinclair Lewis's It Can't Happen Here		and Literary Fractices	From Orlando to Kieu- W colonial feminist diaspora Louise Poland From Mother I'm Rooted Collective History of Fem Tania Sersier Speaking Out, Writing St	11.00-12.30 Feminist Politics	+	Tony Moore Bohemians in the Street: Artists, Politic Cultural Activism Stephen Lawrence Politics and Australian poetry: Public e private poetics: 'Like old lovers, politic arts have shared an extended intimacy'	9.00-10.30 Writing and Publishing as Po Joy Wallace and John O'Carroll The Significance of Writing: From M The Little Company	N395 (Gi
Andrew Milner The Politics of Dystonia: Changing the Climate	Contemporary Fictions Kezia Whiting Ethics and Politics: Intrusion in Ian McEwan's Saturday Marise Williams The altermodern political moment in Paul Auster's Man in the Dark Paul Sheehan All the Trees in the World: Cormac McCarthy and the Politics of the Worst		Writing Among Upneaval Carolina Orloff Julio Cortázar's Forgotten Politics: Anti- Peronism in the Rise of a Writer Peter Whiteford 'Don't mention the War': Editorial Intervention in John Mulgan's Report on Experience Andrew Yerkes A Biology of Dictatorships: Liberal Realism in Sinclair Lewis's It Can't Happen Here		55	riting from the post- to <i>Angels of Power</i> : A timist Anthologies ories: Feminist Politics			ss and vents and ss and the	olitics eanjin to	N395 (Ground Floor)
		Afternoon Tea			Lunch N497	The Practicalities of the Absolute: Sovereignty in Shakespeare's Richard II Will Christie 'Politics and poetry are different things': English Whig Bards and Scottish Whig Reviewers	Shakespeare and Byron James Phillips	Morning Tea N	ontemporary Australian sm: Kate Grenville's <i>The</i> tionalist Historiography	Fiction and History Christina Stachurski Writing Pitcairn Samantha Young	S325 (Ground Floor)
	Nyah Yong Rene Cross-Fertilizing Nature And Culture: Re- Reading Ngugi Wa Thiong'o's The River Retween And Tsitsi Dangarembga's Nervous Conditions Sayi Munjal Telling Stories in a De-storied World – Fictionalizing History in The Kite Runner and A Thousand Splendid Suns	N497 (First Floor)	Lindsay Tuggle 'Blood in the ground': Alice Notley's Ecopoetics of Mourning in Alma, or the Dead Women David Musgrave The Politics of The Anti-Pastoral Jenn Martin 'Now we'll see what I can do with this planet': The Rejection of Frontier Analogies in Kim Stanley Robinson's Mars Trilogy	Ecopoetics	(First Floor)	The Beetle: A Betrayed Khetoric David Williams On the Limits of Irony: Dubravka Ugrešić's Post/Yugoslav Fiction Howard McNaughton Kilroy's Baghdad	Violence and Writing Gustavo Generani	N497 (First Floor)	Mark Steven Secondary Mass Graves: Confronting Genocide through Literature Magdalena Zolkos 'Every man must do his work with love': Provocations of Jonathan Littell's novel The Kindly Ones	Genocide Erin Mercer Saul Bellow's difficulties with Holocaust representation in <i>The Victim</i>	N401 (First Floor)
10000	Roie Thomas The Khoi-San People Of The Kalahari: Their Struggle In The Work Of Laurens Van Der Post Honni van Rijswijk Literary and Legal Judgment in Carpentaria and Mabo Michael Austin The Unknown Conservative: Commitment and the Rule of Law in Recent Australian Fiction	Representing Peoples	Angela Dunstan 'An interesting failure': Vernon Lee's Miss Brown and the Sexual Politics of Pre-Raphaelite Aestheticism Lyndall Clipstone 'I'm having an old friend for dinner': Identity and Gournet Cannibalism in The Silence of the Lambs Deborah Pike Sovereignty and the Work of Death: Writing from Zimbabwe	Aestheticism and Individuality		debate in Australia in 2004 Jessica Sands Inequality as Contributing Factors in Edgar Allen Poe Award-Winners (2000-2008) Lynda Ng Who Narrates the Nation? Prizes, Politics and (Trans-)National Identity	The Political Use of Books Jan Zwar Cultural value and the role of books in public		A Familiar Road: The Eastern European Immigrant and British Literature Angela Kölling The very meat of politics in Joschka Fischer's Mein langer Lauf zu mir selbst	Tom Lee From Place to Place: Travel and Illness in W. G. Sebald's Vertigo Thomas Mclean	(First Floor)