

ROMANTIC FUTURES

ERCC GRADUATE AND EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER SYMPOSIUM

TUESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2019

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE



2.00 VENUE OPENS (Coffee and tea available on arrival)

2.10 WELCOME

2.15 SESSION ONE: KEYNOTE

Professor Theresa Kelley (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
'Reading for the Future'

Abstract: For many thinkers, including Romantics themselves, their era was an age of prophecy – of revolution, radical change, new beginnings, perhaps even new worlds. Yet the Romantic writing that we identify as prophecy is strangely unable to predict the new realities and progress that we, like Romantic writers, thought they could deliver. Instead, prophetic writing in a Romantic key is preoccupied with impermanence, ruin, decline, calamity, loss, extinction, evanescence. If these motifs are the darkened mode of Romantic prophecy, how do the Romantics, and how do we, read for the future? I reply to this question by thinking about uncertainty, chance, and contingency, not sure-fire prophecy, as the narrative engines of Romantic futurity. At issue for the Romantic era, as for our own, is not knowing what the future will be (impossible to know in any era), but working out resources to keep at hand for when we or others get there.

(chair: Alexandra Hankinson)

3.15 AFTERNOON TEA

SESSION TWO

- 3.45 Professor Peter Otto (MELB)
‘The pasts and possible futures of “Enlightenment, Romanticism, and Contemporary Culture”’
- 4.00 Dr Claire Knowles (LA TROBE)
‘The Academic Life and Opinions of Claire Knowles, PhD.’
- 4.15 Professor Clara Tuite (MELB)
“Flash” friends & other collaborations’

(chair: Elias Greig)

4.30 SESSION THREE

Dr Sarah Comyn (University College Dublin)
‘Courting the Imagination: Narrative Economics and Literary Value’

Abstract: In recent years economists have turned to literature’s explanatory power in an effort to understand and address economic bubbles and financial crises. Nobel-prize winning economist Robert Shiller has argued for the ‘*art* of narrative economics’ to be incorporated into the ‘*science*’ of economics; while Thomas Piketty and Morton Schapiro have looked to Jane Austen’s novels for illustrations and explanations of economic principles. The economic system has, however, always courted the imagination, and fiction has always been implicit in economic theory. Beginning with the political economists, Adam Smith and David Ricardo, this paper will explore the changing relationship between imaginative literature and political economy, the development of economics as a scientific discipline, and the significant role literature can play in providing not only an *explanatory* but also a *critical* account of the economic system.

(chair: Peter Otto)

5.00 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

(chairs: Alexandra Hankinson and Elias Greig)

6.00 FINISH

{TIAMO RESTAURANT FOR SYMPOSIUM DINNER – 6.30PM}

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

PROFESSOR THERESA KELLEY

Theresa M. Kelley is Marjorie and Lorin Tiefenthaler Professor of English Emerita at University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is the author of *Clandestine Marriage: Botany and Romantic Culture* (Johns Hopkins, 2012), *Reinventing Allegory* (Cambridge, 1997), and *Wordsworth's Revisionary Aesthetics* (Cambridge, 1988). She has published widely on Romantic poetics, aesthetics, visual culture, the matter of archives, and philosophy. She is the recipient of fellowships awarded by the American Council of Learned Societies, Simon D. Guggenheim Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, Henry E. Huntington Library, Yale Center for British Art and UW-Madison Institute for Research in the Humanities. She is currently working on two books: *Reading for the Future* and *Color Trouble*.

PROFESSOR PETER OTTO

Peter Otto is Professor of Literature at the University of Melbourne and Executive Director of the Research Unit in 'Enlightenment, Romanticism, and Contemporary Culture'. His recent publications include *Multiplying Worlds: Romanticism, Modernity, and the Emergence of Virtual Reality* (OUP 2011); *Innovations in Encompassing Large Scenes (Romantic Circles, 2013)*; and *William Blake: 21st-Century Oxford Authors* (OUP 2018). He is currently completing a book on 'William Blake, Secularisation, and the History of Imagination', while also working on a project, funded by the ARC, on 'Architectures of Imagination: Bodies, Buildings, Fictions, and Worlds'.

DR CLAIRE KNOWLES

Claire Knowles is a Senior Lecturer in English Literature at La Trobe University, Melbourne. She has published numerous articles: on eighteenth- and nineteenth-century women writers; on gothic fiction; and on eighteenth-century newspapers. Her book, *Sensibility and Female Poetic Tradition, 1780-1860: The Legacy of Charlotte Smith*, was published by Ashgate in 2009 and she also recently edited, with Ingrid Horrocks, *Charlotte Smith: Major Poetic Works* (Broadview, 2017.) She is currently working on a project on newspaper poetry and popular literary culture titled, "Nonsense and Della Crusca: Reading Poetry in the Fashionable Newspaper, 1787-1800."

PROFESSOR CLARA TUIITE

Clara Tuite is Professor of English at the University of Melbourne, where she is a Co-Director and Lead Researcher with the Research Unit in 'Enlightenment, Romanticism and Contemporary Culture'. Most recently, she is the author of *Lord Byron and Scandalous Celebrity* (CUP, 2015), the editor of *Byron in Context* (CUP, forthcoming 2019) and the co-author with Claudia L. Johnson of *30 Great Myths About Jane Austen* (forthcoming, 2020). Current research includes a collaborative ARC project with Gillian Russell on Regency Romanticism, a study of Anita Brookner's necromantic authoriality, and a monograph on literary Romanticism and the media of romantic love.

DR SARAH COMYN

Sarah Comyn is an Irish Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow based in the UCD School of English, Drama and Film. She has recently published *Political Economy and the Novel: A Literary History of "Homo Economicus"* (Palgrave, 2018), and *Early Public Libraries and Colonial Citizenship in the British Southern Hemisphere* (Palgrave, 2019: with Lara Atkin, Porscha Fermanis and Nathan Garvey). She is currently working on a monograph entitled *A New Reading Public: The Mechanics' Institute on the Victorian Goldfields* and an edited collection, *Wording the South: Nineteenth-Century Literary Culture and the British Southern Colonies* (Manchester, 2020: ed, with Porscha Fermanis).
