



CALL FOR PAPERS

REPUBLICS OF LETTERS: LITERARY COMMUNITIES IN AUSTRALIA

Thursday 13th – Friday 14th January 2011

A symposium hosted by Australian Literature at the University of Sydney

In what ways do writing and reading generate forms of community in Australia? What roles might literature and the literary have in the formation of both publics and counterpublics? This symposium explores a variety of collective relationships among writers, readers and texts, with an emphasis on processes of literary sociability that elide or exceed the “imagined community” of the nation.

Plenary speakers:

- Joan Shelley Rubin, University of Rochester, NY State author of *Songs of Ourselves: The Uses of Poetry in America* (2007), *The Making of Middlebrow Culture* (1992)
- Philip Mead, University of Western Australia author of *Networked Language: Culture and History in Australian Poetry* (2008)

Papers addressing the following topics will be especially welcome:

- reading groups
- literary fandom and fan clubs
- journals as modes of sociality
- Australian literature and the curriculum
- salons, coteries and cliques
- poetry networks and networking
- writers’ festivals
- literature, location and region
- sites of literary sociality: theatres, lyceums, libraries, clubs, universities, schools of arts
- letters and epistolary communities
- bohemias and bohemianism
- the *avant-garde* as community
- Indigenous writing and readerships
- ethnic minority writing and readerships
- working-class writing and readerships
- women’s writing and feminine/feminist socialities
- literature and popular culture
- digital writing communities
- book clubs and the middlebrow
- literature as public culture
- recitation and reading as performance



Abstracts of up to 250 words are due by 1 June 2010

Please send abstracts to the conference administrator:

- Lachlan Brown
lachlan_24601@yahoo.com

Please direct inquiries to the convenors:

- Peter Kirkpatrick
peter.kirkpatrick@sydney.edu.au
- Robert Dixon
robert.dixon@sydney.edu.au

Limited funding for postgraduates may be available to assist postgraduate students with travel on application to the convenors

