



Metamorphoses: Transformations, Transgressions
English, Media & Performing Arts Postgraduate Symposium
University of New South Wales
Friday, 10th September 2010

Call for papers

This conference aims to engage with postgraduates and early career researchers on points of convergence among the humanities and social science disciplines to discuss the concept of 'metamorphosis', its mythic echoes and its contemporary imaginings.

From Ovid to Hans Christian Anderson to Kafka, literal depictions of metamorphoses dominate cultural discourse and permeate our currencies of storytelling. Yet metamorphoses also evoke liminal spaces and becomings, straddling one realm and others simultaneously. Presenters are invited to investigate metamorphic incidents of rupture and explore what possibilities might be found at these intersections of embodiment, spatiality and temporality.

Submissions are anticipated to look at different ways in which bodies interface with transgression and transformation. Particularly how these frictions, desires and intensities are expressed through shifts in our identities, our poetics and our politics. Both theoretical and performance-based explorations will be included in the symposium.

Topics may include (but are not limited to): •constructing masculinities in contemporary Australian media discourse •representing the past: legitimacy, historical narratives, historiographies •feminisms and pornography: transforming representations of sexualities •somatechnics, technologies and body modification practices •staging the classics in contemporary Australian theatre •affect and laughter: refiguring the carnival •apocalyptic futurities: preoccupations in film and literature •trans identities and gender pluralism •economies of difference: post-colonial becomings •stripping the heterosexual matrix: queer reformulations of burlesque •Rudd as 'Howard lite': transformations and constancies in the Australian political landscape •consuming the flesh: changes in the reception of bodies and aesthetics •textual violence: depicting sado-masochism •pathos, catharsis and directions in contemporary theatre •Deleuzian re-imaginings and new critical frameworks •postdramatic performance: memory, trauma and tragedy •technological embodiments and shifts in bodily perception •non-places: morphing spaces and architectural landscapes

Creative practice responses such as performances, poetry and fiction readings, and non-traditional presentations are encouraged. The conference will involve an evening program to include these contributions. Papers and performances will be limited to **20 minutes**. Applications for panels are also welcome. Please send **300 word** abstracts and a short (**100 word** maximum) biography to:

Anna Westbrook
anna.k.westbrook@hotmail.com

Charlotte Farrell
charlottefarrell@gmail.com

Deadline for submissions: **23rd of July 2010**.

Keynote speaker: Dr Daniel Hourigan, Griffith University

In 2009 Daniel Hourigan completed a PhD entitled "The Phantasmatic Subject of Technology: Slavoj Žižek, Techne, and the Abyss". He has published and presented papers on a wide variety of themes and interdisciplinary topics from psychoanalytic philosophy, radical idealist thought and jurisprudence, the philosophy of culture, and biotechnology. He also teaches in a variety of areas for Griffith University including art theory and media studies.