

Responses to Climate Change: A Symposium Lead by Professor Tony Birch

Organised by the Centre for Texts, Cultures and Creative Industries

Friday May 26th, 9am–2:15pm.

Climate change represents a social, economic and practical challenge to humanity, but its effects are also localised and culturally contextual. In Australia, the colonial legacy casts a long shadow on contemporary lived experience. The work of Bruce McGuinness Research Fellow Professor Tony Birch (Victoria University) investigates the relation between Indigenous knowledge and climate change through both critical and creative practice. At the University of Wollongong, Professor Birch will lead a symposium that will include a round table on how researchers concerned with climate change can best decolonise both critical and creative practice.

Proposed Programme

09:00–09:15	Welcome to Country to be given by Jodi Edwards.
09:15–10:00	Keynote Address by Professor Tony Birch (24.101).
10:00–10:30	Coffee (24.101).
10:30–12:00	Session (Speakers: Lucas Ihlein, Jodi Edwards, Michael Griffiths [24.101])
12:00–12:45	Lunch (LHA Research Hub Hub).
12:45–14:15	Roundtable (LHA Research HubHub).

Speakers

Tony Birch

Keynote Address

Tony Birch is the author of the books *Shadowboxing* (2006), *Father's Day* (2009), *Blood* (2011), shortlisted for the Miles Franklin literary award, and *The Promise* (2014). His new novel, *Ghost River*, will be released in October 2015. Both his fiction and nonfiction writing has been published widely in literary magazines and anthologies, both in Australia and internationally. He is currently the inaugural Bruce McGuinness Research Fellow within the Moondani Balluk Centre at Victoria University.

Jodi Edwards

Title TBA

Jodi Edwards is a PhD student in Indigenous Studies at the University of Wollongong. A Dharawal woman, Edwards has undertaken research on the relation between water rights and traditional country in the Illawarra.

Michael R. Griffiths

Dust Storms and Plant People: Notes on Climate Change in Indigenous Speculative Fiction

Michael R. Griffiths is Lecturer in English and Writing at the University of Wollongong. His work has appeared in such venues as *Settler Colonial Studies*, *Discourse*, and *Postcolonial Studies*. Griffiths edited the book *Biopolitics and Memory in Postcolonial Literature and Culture* (Ashgate 2016) and coedited a special issue (with Bruno Cornellier) of *Settler Colonial Studies* titled: "Globalising Unsettlement."

Lucas Ihlein

Sugar vs the Reef? Connections between farming, labour, and environmental management.

Lucas Ihlein is an artist currently working between socially engaged art, agriculture and environmental management with a specific focus on sugar cane farming in Queensland. He is currently an ARC DECRA Research Fellow in Contemporary Arts at University of Wollongong. Lucas is a founding member of Kandos School of Cultural Adaptation (KSCA), which in April 2017 published *Futurelands2*, a newspaper publication drawing together knowledge about regenerative agriculture, Aboriginal land management, geography, economics and art.