

'The Naturalist takes a Hike: Footprints and Trespass in the Australian/German Imaginary'

CA Cranston

Earlier this year, during the Australasian summer, thousands of hectares of World Heritage wilderness were burned; so too, were countless organisms endemic to the island state of Tasmania. Australia, its extremities 'normalised' as part of a volatile narrative – both natural and environmental – emerges as a geographical prototype of climate change. Historically, its professed beauty and terror have been captured in the art of Heysen, the journals of Leichhardt, the nomenclature of Krefft – just a few examples of a 'quiet Germanophonic colonisation' taking place during British Imperialism in Australia. Using literature (oral and written) as social evidence, and as imaginative signal, this paper traces Germanic/Australian intellectual and material 'trespass,' and ecological footprints, in the journey from 'Aboriginality' to the Anthropocene.

Bio

Like many, Dr CA. Cranston (an ecocritic in Australian Literature) experienced renewed energy and purpose with the gradual institutional acceptance of library-bound academics now stretching their legs 'out in the field.' This intersection of phenomenological and theoretical worlds gave rise to *Along these Lines* (2000) a place-based anthology of writings collected by walking, driving, researching – *coming to know* – the island of Tasmania where Cranston worked at the University from 1991-2007 and at which she continues to be an Associate. The ecocritical bidding to 'ramble' resulted in invitations to the Alps-Adriatic University, Klagenfurt, and to the Appalachian State University, North Carolina. An Australia-India Council Fellowship took her to the University of Madras, Tamil Nadu in 2008, and 2009. The following year, she was invited speaker at U. of Hawai'i-Hilo, followed by a semester of temperature change, at the Institute of Island Studies, University of Prince Edward Island, Canada. Cranston was President of ASLEC – ANZ in 2009-2011, and convened their biennial conference 'Sounding the Earth' at the University of Tasmania. She founded *AJE*, the Association's peer-reviewed ejournal, and continues to act as *AJE*'s journal manager. Cranston is interested in theory and praxis, in walking the talk, and in cross-cultural connections brought about by human curiosity in the organic world. She co-edited and contributed to the first collection of Australian ecocritical essays, *The Littoral Zone: Australian Contexts and their Writers* (2007). A chapter on literature and climate change in Australia will be published in *A Cambridge Global History of Literature and the Environment* (CUP) at the end of 2016.