

## **Undercountry: some early thematics of mining in settler literature**

Philip Mead

This paper rereads the early history of settler literature (Australian and English) in relation to the extractive and social realities of mining. The writing of Charles Reade, Marcus Clarke, Henry Lawson, Edward Dyson, and Randolph Bedford represents encounters with the economic, social and demographic effects of geological mineralization on human lives. The paper is an inquiry into the question of how literary fiction about mineral extraction – the undercountry of landscape – is adapted and appropriated to an acceptable history of national development.

### **Bio**

**Philip Mead** is inaugural Chair of Australian Literature and Director of the Westerly Centre at the University of Western Australia. In 2015-16 he is Gough Whitlam and Malcolm Fraser Visiting Professor of Australian Studies at Harvard University. Philip's publications include *Networked Language: Culture & History in Australian Poetry* (2nd ed. 2010), *Teaching Australian Literature: from classroom conversations to national imaginings* (2011, with Brenton Doecke and Larissa McLean Davies) and "Indigenous literature and the extractive industries." *Australian Literary Studies* 28.4 (November 2013): 31-46.