

## Australian Eco-poetry in Transnational Perspective

Philipp Reisner

Eco-poetry has been gaining popularity in Australia. Its definition ranges from a vague concern with the question of how nature speaks to human beings, to the idea that there is need for a greater environmental consciousness and a clear agenda for environmental protection. A first assessment of the Australian eco-poetic scene shows how far it has come in creating a unique form of poetic expression. Australian poetry, like many other artistic forms, forcefully raises the question of a transnational movement, especially given the migration history of its representatives.

With the launch of *Plumwood Mountain: an Australian Journal of Eco-poetry and Eco-poetics* in 2014, the Australian eco-poetic scene created its first major digital periodical. Its poetry touches upon a wide range of poetic traditions. If one compares these texts and the editorial outlook of this movement with similar publications throughout the English-speaking world, one sees a clear focus on aspects of nature rather than on political or environmental objectives. The recent Christian imprint on Australian poetry exhibits characteristics of mysticism, which raises questions concerning its relation to specific religious beliefs and groups. This investigation may open up Australian eco-poetry to a fully transnational perspective, not only in a thematic and literary, but also in a theological sense.

### Bio

**Philipp Reisner** teaches at a secondary school in Duisburg and as a visiting lecturer at the American Studies Department of Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf. His approach to research is multidisciplinary. His dissertation on the theological role that the New English theologian Cotton Mather (1663–1728) played in the context of early modern society appeared in 2012. He is currently working on his post-doctoral project, which is a structural study of Genesis motifs in contemporary Anglo-American poetry. He studied at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Robert Schumann School of Music and Media Düsseldorf, and the University of California at Davis.

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