

Monash University Centre for Postcolonial Writing,
School of English, Communications and Performance Studies

presents

WRITERS AND THEIR WORLD SEMINAR SERIES

2010, Semester 2

All Seminars will be held on Mondays in the ECPS library W707, Building 11,
Clayton Campus, from 2.00 – 3.00 pm, followed by a light afternoon tea.

August 9

From Constant Change to Change as a 'Constant': Metamorphosis and Alterity in Australian Writing

By Adam Shoemaker

Professor Adam Shoemaker's sustained research interest is in Indigenous Australian history, literature, culture and politics, and he has been published extensively in these areas. His publications include *Black words, White Page: Aboriginal Literature 1929-1988* (1992) and *Aboriginal Australians: First Nations of an Ancient Continent* (2004) and *A Sea Change: Australian Writing and Photography* (1998).

Professor Shoemaker is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) at Monash University.

August 23

A reading from his poetry

By Robert Gray

Robert Gray is a poet, critic and freelance writer. His highly imagistic poetry is notable for its evocations of nature, the rural and urban working classes and intimate family relationships. He has published 12 volumes of poetry, including *Creekwater Journal* (1973), *Lineations* (1996) and *Afterimages* (2002).

Robert Gray has won the Adelaide Arts Festival Award, the New South Wales and Victorian Premiers' Awards and the Age Book of the Year for his poetry. The last recipient of the Patrick White Award before the author's death in 1990, Gray has since released a memoir, *The Land I Came Through Last* (2008), which contains an account of their friendship.

August 30

The Creator and the Artisan: Crafting the PhD thesis in Creative Writing

By Adib Khan

Dr. Adib Khan is the award-winning author of five novels. Born in Dhaka, Bangladesh, he moved to Australia in 1973 to complete a Masters in English at Monash University. In 2010, he completed his PhD in Creative Writing at the Centre for Postcolonial Writing.

His first novel, *Seasonal Adjustments*, won the Christina Stead Prize for Fiction, the Book of the Year award in the 1994 NSW Premier's Literary Awards, and the 1995 Commonwealth Writer's prize for Best Book. It was also shortlisted for the 1994 Age Book of the Year award. *Solitude of Illusions*, his second novel, was shortlisted for the Christina Stead Prize for Fiction and the Ethnic Affairs Commission Award in the 1997 NSW Premier's Literary Awards, and won the 1997 Tilly Aston Braille Book of the Year Award. He has since published three more novels, *The Storyteller* (2000), *Homecoming* (2003) and *Spiral Road* (2007).

September 6

Motorcycles, Snails: Worlding and the Life of Words

By Stephen Muecke

Stephen Muecke is Professor of Writing at The University of New South Wales. He is one of the leading proponents of ficto-critical writing in teaching and through his own work. A Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, Professor Muecke has previously held positions at the Free University of Berlin and the University of Technology in Sydney, where he was Professor of Cultural Studies.

Two of his fictocritical books are the travelogue *No Road (Bitumen All The Way)* (1997), and the collection of essays *Joe in the Andamans* (2008). He has won a WA Premier's non-fiction prize, been shortlisted twice in the NSW Premier's Literary Awards and was highly commended in the Fellowship of Australian Writers' National Literature Awards.

October 11

Learning from Each Other: Language, Authority and Authenticity in Kate Grenville's *The Lieutenant*

By Lynette Russell

Professor Lynette Russell is the Director of the Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies and the Chair of Aboriginal Programs at Monash University. She has publications across the fields of Archaeology, Aboriginal History, critical race studies, and postcolonial studies. A much sought after researcher, Russell has served as a visiting fellow at the University of British Columbia, Cambridge University, the British Museum, the Smithsonian Institution, Klagenfurt University in Austria, and at Trent University.

Her monograph, *Savage Imaginings* (2001) explores the historical and contemporary constructions of Australian Indigenous identities from a broad perspective, while *A Little Bird Told Me* (2002) delivers a personal account of the ways one Wotjabaluk woman's identity was affected by her incarceration in mental institutions in the early 1900s.

Other books by Russell include *Colonial Frontiers: Cross-Cultural Interactions in Settler Colonies* (2001) and the forthcoming *Roving Mariners: An Exploration of Indigenous Agency, Autonomy and Subjectivity in the Whaling and Sealing Industries*.

October 18

J. M. Coetzee's *Disgrace*

By Sue Kossew

Sue Kossew is Professor of English, Communications and Performance Studies at Monash University. She has lived in Zambia, South Africa, the UK and Australia and has degrees from the Universities of Cape Town, East Anglia and New South Wales. Her PhD (UNSW) was a postcolonial reading of the works of J.M. Coetzee and André Brink. She is on the editorial boards of *Journal of Commonwealth Literature* and *New Literatures Review* and has published numerous journal articles on postcolonial and South African literature.

Her publications include: *Writing Woman, Writing Place: Contemporary Australian and South African Fiction* (2004); *Pen and Power: A Post-colonial Reading of J. M. Coetzee and André Brink* (1996); *Critical Essays on J.M. Coetzee* (1998); and *Re-Imagining Africa: New Critical Perspectives* (2001). She is currently editing a collection of essays on Kate Grenville for publication in 2010.