

'Out of Place': Diasporic travel writing and the impossibility of return

Humanities Research Centre Seminar

Tuesday 07 March 2017, 4.30 – 5.30pm

Speaker

Professor Srilata Ravi, University of Alberta, Canada

Seminar Room 2/3, Level 3, Sir Roland Wilson Building, 120 McCoy Cct, ANU

In the last fifty years forced and unforced migrations have resulted in some of the greatest upheavals and displacements seen in history. Refugees, economic migrants, and political exiles have moved away from their geographical places of origin to settle in foreign places, carrying with them (in multiple forms and to different degrees) memories of their past, tensions in the present and aspirations for their future.



While such movements have very often resulted in permanent dislocations, rapid developments in communication technologies and affordable transportation have provided some members of these dispersed communities the opportunity of “looking back” or returning (temporarily, repeatedly or permanently) to their homelands—to places “left behind” in the course of their migration. Through a reading of selected travel texts in the French language, this paper will examine how the affective consequences of such diasporic returns are textualized.

Srilata Ravi is Professor of French and Francophone Literature at the Faculté Saint-Jean of the University of Alberta. Her research interests are in Francophone Postcolonial Studies, Diaspora Studies and Indian Ocean Studies. Her recent publications include *Translating the Postcolonial in Multilingual Contexts* (with Judith Misrahi-Barak, in press); *Sports, modernité et réseaux impériaux : Napoléon Lajoie, Kumar Shri Ranjitsinhji, baseball et cricket au tournant du XXe siècle* (with Claude Couture, 2017); *Rethinking Global Mauritius: Critical Essays on Mauritian Literatures and Cultures* (2013); and *Ecritures mauriciennes au féminin: penser l'altérité* (with Véronique Bragard 2011).

Presented by the

Humanities Research Centre
Research School of
Humanities & the Arts
ANU College of
Arts & Social Sciences

Enquiries

rosemary.shepherd@anu.edu.au

This lecture is free and all are welcome.

Please visit our website for further information:
hrc.anu.edu.au

PUBLIC SEMINAR