

TEXT

JOURNAL OF WRITING AND WRITING COURSES

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Call for Papers for a Special Issue of *TEXT* <http://www.textjournal.com.au>

Writing and Researching (in) the Regions – A *TEXT* Special Issue

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The Australian Regional University Network (RUN) asserts that their member universities (and, by implication, regional universities more generally), 'play an important and distinctive role in advancing Australia's national prosperity, productivity and identity.' Internationally, Hartley (2014 <http://journals.openedition.org/ejas/10368>) identifies, in a special issue of the *European Journal of American Studies* devoted to regionalism in North America, that '[s]ince the 1990s [there has been] a surge of interest in the local, the regional, the global, and their intersections'.

This special issue of *TEXT* will focus on exploring the ways in which creative-writing teaching, research and practice in regional settings have particular flavours and concerns. The editors strongly urge writers and researchers from the regions to reflect on the particularities of their teaching, research and writing experiences and contexts. As Baker (2016 http://www.meniscus.org.au/Meniscus_4.1.pdf) writes in a recent issue of *Meniscus*:

Frank Davey (1984) once wrote that regionalism was a discourse that represented a general social and/or political strategy for resisting meaning generated by others, particularly meaning about the regions generated by those outside of them, those in the centre, those in power.

Further, Hartley (2014) notes that:

Part of the work in renewing literary regionalism as a useful category has involved examining and rejecting regionalism's pejorative synonyms: parochial, banal, insular, and rural. This dismissive language justifies a status quo that equates the 'center' (of a country, of mainstream beliefs, of established literary modes) with value. Another part of the work involves expanding the defining characteristics of a regional literary work to include the urban and the experimental.

Hartley argues 'for building on regionalism's concern for place, space, and identity, but also for attending to the critiques of regionalisms that label the aesthetic and cultural concerns of these ideologies too narrowly'.

In this issue, we invite those outside the centre, and in particular those writing, teaching and researching in the regions, to speak for and of their own concerns, experiences and anxieties; to explore, as the RUN (2017) asserts, the distinctive role that we play in the national and international imagination as well as exploring the ways that the regions are 'of vital importance to the identity, wealth, sustainability and future prosperity of the nation'.

Submissions may address, but are not limited to, the following questions/themes:

- What narratives, stories, or voices 'naturally' arise in regional research and writing practices? What stories about the regions are acceptable to the largely urban publishing industry?
- How do perceptions of regionality impact on the ways regional writing, teaching and/or research are funded, framed, or received inside and outside the regions?
- What negotiations or relationships exist between regional and non-regional writers and writing researchers?
- Is the global-local nexus naturalised and unproblematic?
- Do those of us who teach in a region, outside of a large city, inevitably do a comparison with our collegial city counterparts? Do students make such a comparison?
- What characterises academic life for both academic and student in a regional university?
- Are there particular challenges or advantages in researching, teaching, supervising and studying in regions? Are there issues that academics must address specifically in undergraduate teaching through a perceived or real lack of access to resources in a regional context?
- Are regional students from a very different profile to their urban counterparts? And if so, what does this mean?
- In what ways do researchers and writers embrace or reject regional identities?

We note that the title for the 2018 Australasian Association of Writing Programs (AAWP) conference is *Peripheral Visions*, with one sub-theme being *Writing from the Regions*. We ask that you consider this specific CFP if you are giving a paper on this sub-theme at the conference (end of November, Perth, Western Australia: <http://www.aawp.org.au/annual-conference/23rd-annual-conference/>).

Scholarly papers should be no more than 6000 words in length. Creative works will usually be up to 3,500 words in length, or as agreed by editors.

Creative work must be accompanied by an ERA research statement that clearly explains the submission's relevance as a research outcome. Peruse any of *TEXT* journal's Creative Writing as Research special issues to familiarise yourself with research statements.

Your submission must include:

- A separate cover letter (email is fine) with your full name, institutional affiliation (if any), title of paper, brief biography (200 words maximum), and preferred email contact.
- Your full submission, including abstract and article or creative work, plus ERA statement if required. The submission should include 3-5 keywords. The submission should be a word document (.doc or .docx), following the *TEXT* referencing style (for more details see: www.textjournal.com.au/speciss/info.htm). **NB:** To avoid delays in the peer reviewing and publishing process, works that do not meet the style requirements for *TEXT* will be returned to the author for correction before the reviewing process is initiated.
- A deletion of all identifying information. So your name is not to appear on the submission. And you need to delete it in File/Check for Issues/Inspect Document/Tick Document Properties and Personal Information.

Please also contact us with ideas for book reviews.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Deadline for initial submission: August 30, 2018

Period of review/refereeing: September-October 2018

Deadline for final revised submission: (Rewrites take place November-December) December 14, 2018

Publication date: April, 2019

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