



Regions, Humanities, Wellbeing: The Relationship Between Humanities and Communities in the Regions Symposium

Thursday 18 & Friday 19 July, 2024

Cairns Institute, James Cook University

Convened by

Associate Professor Victoria Kuttainen (James Cook University) &
Professor Kylie Message-Jones (Australian National University)

Supported by

The Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI), the ANU Humanities Research Centre, the Roderick Centre for Australian Literature and Creative Writing at JCU, and the Australasian Consortium of Humanities Researchers and Centres (ACHRC)



“Regions, Humanities, Wellbeing: The Relationship Between Humanities and Communities in the Regions” Symposium

The humanities are in a state of transition, and it's more important than ever that humanities scholarship and education demonstrate impact and relevance. Regional universities provide unique opportunities and challenges for connecting with community, generating grassroots solutions, and exploring partnerships and regionally driven approaches and collaborations. In this symposium we gather scholars, educators, writers, and university and community leaders to explore the capacity of regional collaborations in the arts and humanities, and to focus on how regional approaches to scholarship might be distinct. What are the regional humanities, and how can they make themselves newly relevant and responsive to their communities in the 21st century?

Being in held in Cairns, Australia, a week before the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (25-28 July), this symposium brings together literary scholars, creative practitioners, and humanities scholars who will reflect on what is distinctive about humanities in regional Australia, and how humanities can contribute to the wellbeing of the region.

Wednesday 17 July

Throughout Wednesday

Participants arriving in Cairns.

5:30pm

JCU Cairns, City Campus

Pre-Symposium Regional Stakeholders' Meeting

JCU Cairns City Campus (with thanks to chair: Assoc. Prof. Lisa Law)

Day 1: Thursday 18 July

9:00-9:25am

Cairns Institute

Registrations

Registrations at the Cairns Institute, Building D3, JCU Cairns, Smithfield campus

9:30-9:50am

Cairns Institute Boardroom

Session 1

Opening

Assoc. Prof Victoria Kuttainen (JCU) and Prof. Kylie Message-Jones (ANU)

Acknowledgement of Country

Program introduction, rationale and overview

Housekeeping

9:50-10:40am

Cairns Institute Boardroom

Session 2

Keynote

Prof. Javier Duran, Director, Confluencenter for Creative Inquiry, University of Arizona

Chair: Dr Victoria Kuttainen (JCU)

Presented via Zoom.

<https://jcu.zoom.us/j/84707857870?pwd=dr1DfSABmO6bKTVKvLxF8s0gRQUEy8.1>

Password: 497634

Day 1 continued

10:45-11:45am

Cairns Institute Boardroom

Session 3 - Panel

Community Arts – Not a Luxury (especially in the regions)

Chair: Dr Tully Barnett (Flinders)

Dr Holly Arden, Townsville Galleries Director

Dr Tony Castles, Regional Manager, Regional Arts Services Network Cairns

Dr Simon Spain, Chair of Regional Arts Australia

Regional arts practitioners Victoria Ryle,
and JCU Adjunct Assoc. Prof. Robyn Glade Wright

Session presented in person and by Zoom.

<https://jcu.zoom.us/j/83529117065?pwd=nINSv7LrKMSbmZVGjvMwzfs3RkJOil.1>

Password: 563977

11:45am-12:15pm

Lunch Break

12:15-1:40pm

Cairns Institute Boardroom

Session 4

Writing the regions

Chair: Dr Nicole Crowe (JCU)

12:15-12:30 Dr Threasa Meads (Federation)

Fostering Creative Ecologies for Students and Community

12:30-12:45 Dr Elizabeth Smyth (JCU)

JCU connects with Cairns Tropical Writers Festival 2024

12:45-1:00 Dr Adelle Sefton-Rowston (CDU)

Supporting Community Initiatives: Prison Writing

1:00-1:15 Yvette Holt

Supporting Regional First Nations Writers through FNAWN

1:15-1:40 Discussion

This session will be recorded

1:45-2:45pm

Cairns Institute Boardroom

Session 5 - Spotlight Session

Transdisciplinary futures and the place of the regions

Chair: Dr Victoria Kuttainen (JCU)

Prof. Jo Winning (Monash)

Transdisciplinary futures: working creatively in the 21st C university for cross-unit collaborations.

Presentation followed by moderated Q&A and open questions

This session will be recorded

2:45-3:30pm

Cairns Institute Boardroom

Session 6 - Roundtable

Critical regionalism and literary studies

Chair: Assoc. Prof. Roger Osborne (JCU)

Assoc. Prof. Julieanne Lamond (ANU)

Dr Brigid Magner (RMIT) *via Zoom*

Prof. Emily Potter (Deakin) *via Zoom*

Session presented in person and by Zoom.

<https://jcu.zoom.us/j/88994470117?pwd=6nb0WsN09s7YBuRjqqMFV1B9sTuPlr.1>

Password: 619882

4:00 -5:00pm
Cairns Institute Lobby

Roderick Centre Launch Celebration

Welcome to Country - **Aunty Jeanette Singleton**
Welcome from the Director
RCALC Vision - **Dr Victoria Kuttainen** and **Assoc. Prof. Roger Osborne**
Poetry Reading – **Yvette Holt** (Chair of First Nations Australia Writers Network, FNAWN) Reading from new poetry collection *Fitzroy North*
Deadly Poets Project – **Vicki Saunders**, Research fellow, Jawun Research Centre (formerly the Centre for Indigenous Health Equity) CQU
Paul Hardisty Reading/Launch of *In Hot Water: The Battle for the Great Barrier Reef* (Affirm, 2024)

6:30pm
Vivo, Palm Cove

Symposium Dinner - optional

Vivo, Palm Cove – 49 Williams Esplanade
(Pre-booked Outdoor large table, adjacent to hotel Mantra Amphora)
Participants to pay for themselves

Day 2: Friday 19 July

6:30am
Palm Beach

Optional Beachwalk at Palm Beach

Meet in Front of Vivo for prompt 6:30am departure.

9:00 -9:40am
Cairns Institute Boardroom

Session 7 - Spotlight Session

Valuing Cultural Infrastructure and the Regions

Prof. Kylie Message-Jones (ANU)

9:40 -11:05am
Cairns Institute Boardroom

Session 8

Humanities in the Regions Post the Universities Accord: The State of the Sector

Chair: **Assoc. Prof. Roger Osborne** (JCU)

- 9:40 -9:55 **Dr Victoria Kuttainen** (CQU)
 - 9:55 -10:05 **Dr Erika Kerruish** and **Dr Mandy Hughes** (SCU)
 - 10:05 -10:20 **Dr Jessica White** (Uni SA)
 - 10:20 -10:35 **Dr Wayne Bradshaw** and **Jade Croft** (JCU)
 - 10:35 -10:50 **Dr Tully Barnett** and **Prof. Robert Phiddian** (Flinders)
 - 10:50 -11:05 **Dr Adelle Sefton-Rowston** (CDU)
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11:05 -11:15am

Coffee Break, biscuits and fruit

11:15 - 12:00pm
Cairns Institute Boardroom

Session 9 - Keynote
Final reflections and ways forward for creative and critical regionalism

Chair: **Prof. Kylie Message-Jones** (ANU)

Prof. Alistair Noble (UNE)

30min presentation followed by open discussion.

This session will be recorded.

12:00 - 12:30pm
Cairns Institute Boardroom

Session 10
Further Reflections: Next Steps toward Community Impact

Prof. Kylie Message-Jones (ANU) and **Assoc. Prof. Victoria Kuttainen** (JCU)

Working Lunch

12:45 - 2:45pm
Cairns Institute Boardroom

Session 11
Breakout Working Groups

Chairs: **Prof. Kylie Message-Jones** (ANU) and **Assoc. Prof. Victoria Kuttainen** (JCU)

Humanities in the Regions group and **Critical Regionalism** group will hold separate workshops in this final session to reflect within their communities of practice on the previous program and their ongoing work.

3:00pm

Program concludes. All participants depart.



Symposium supported by

Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI)

<https://chcinetwork.org/>

ANU Humanities Research Centre

<https://hrc.cass.anu.edu.au/>

Roderick Centre for Australian Literature and Creative Writing

<https://www.jcu.edu.au/RCALC>

Australasian Consortium of Humanities Researchers and Centres (ACHRC)

<http://www.achrc.net/>



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