

## Life/Writing: Narratives of Ageing, Illness and Renewal

### Conference presenters:

Doris Brett is a Melbourne based Clinical Psychologist and writer. She has published seven books ranging from poetry to novels to therapeutic storytelling for children. Her memoir, *Eating the Underworld: a memoir in three voices* (Random House, 2001) recounts Brett's battle with cancer (she has also worked as a counselor with cancer patients), and explores the complexities of family narrative, especially in families affected by the Holocaust. Her first volume of poetry, *The Truth About Unicorns*, won both the Fellowship of Australian Writers Anne Elder Award and the A.S.A.L. Mary Gilmore Award. She has written a novel, *Looking for Unicorns* (New Endeavor Press, 1993), and two books on therapeutic storytelling, *Annie Stories: a special kind of storytelling* (Hale & Iremonger, 1997) and *More Annie Stories: therapeutic storytelling techniques* (Magination Press (New York, 1992). Doris's latest book of poetry, *In the Constellation of the Crab* (Hale & Iremonger in 1996), includes award winning poems about women's cancer.

Susan Bradley-Smith is a Lecturer the La Trobe University School of English She is a cultural historian and writer with particular interests in life writing (memoir/biography/oral history/ethics), contemporary Australian writers, poetry, and writing and innovative health care initiatives. She has published a book of poems, *Marmalade Exile* (Southern Cross University Press, 2006), and a collection of plays, *Griefbox*, (Salt, 2001). Her forthcoming memoir *Friday Forever: A Memoir of Mad Times* (Radcliffe, 2009), includes reflections on the Medical Humanities.

Alfred Chan is Chair Professor of Social Gerontology and Director of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Ageing Studies at Lingnan University. His principal areas of research interest are social gerontology, health and social care, welfare policy, and programme evaluation. He has published widely in this and related areas, including the following monographs: *Ageing and Long-term Care: National Politics in the Asia-Pacific*, (edited with D.R. Phillips: Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies and Ottawa: International Development Research Centre (IDRC), 2002); *Access to Social Services by the Poor and Disadvantaged in Asia and the Pacific: Major trends and issues* (edited with D.R. Phillips: Social Policy Paper No. 11, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), (2003); and *Validation of Service Performance Outcome Instruments for Home Support Services for the Elderly Recipients in Hong Kong* (edited with M.S.F Fong, H.Y.E., Wong and S.Y. Wong: Asia-Pacific Institute of Ageing Studies, Lingnan University & Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Social Service Centre 2004). Alfred is also a leader in the field of Service Learning, a form of pedagogy whereby students contribute to health care in the wider community and write reflective narratives about their experiences of care.

Colleen Doyle is a Senior Research Fellow in the University of Melbourne Centre for Health Policy, Programs and Economics. She has research interests in aged care and Psychogeriatrics. She has directed the national evaluation of the Australian Government's

Dementia Initiative and is also working on mental health in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. She has extensive experience in aged care health program evaluation and has taught health program evaluation and dementia care evaluation. She has published over 60 peer reviewed and technical reports.

Richard Freadman is Chair Professor of English and Director of the Life Writing Research Program at Lingnan University, Hong Kong, and Professor of English and Director of the Unit for Studies in Biography and Autobiography at La Trobe University. He has published the following books, *Eliot, James and the Fictional Self: A Study in Character and Narration*, Macmillan, 1986); *On Literary Theory and Philosophy: A Cross-Disciplinary Encounter* (ed. with Lloyd Reinhardt: Macmillan, 1991) *Re-thinking Theory: A Critique of Contemporary Literary Theory and an Alternative Account*, (with Seumas Miller: Cambridge University Press, 1992); *Renegotiating Ethics in Literature, Theory, Philosophy* (ed. with Jane Adamson and David Parker: Cambridge University Press, 1998); *Threads of Life: Autobiography and the Will*, (Chicago University of Chicago Press, 2001); *Shadow of Doubt: My Father and Myself* ( Bystander Press, 2003) and *This Crazy Thing a Life: Australian Jewish Autobiography* (University of Western Australia Press, 2007). His current research interests include the uses of life writing narrative in health care contexts.

Fiona Gardner is Head of Campus and Senior Lecturer Social Policy and Social Work at the Bendigo campus of La Trobe University. S has had over twenty years experience as a social worker primarily in rural areas in a variety of Government and non-government settings. She has worked in several areas of rural Victoria in the management and delivery of services, research and policy development. For the last seven years Fiona Gardner has coordinated the Department of Social Work at La Trobe University Bendigo, implementing Bachelor of Social Work Courses and Master of Social Work at the Bendigo campus of La Trobe University. As well as a significant number of project reports, she has published over ten articles and book chapters. Fiona has a long term commitment to the provision of education and training, both formal social work training and short courses for health and welfare practitioners. As part of current role, she continues to work with agencies to provide training in such areas as supervision, communication, management and evaluation, and to carry out research and evaluation projects. In addition to articles, she has published the following books: *Practising Critical Reflection: A Handbook* (with J Fook: Open University Press (2007); *Working with Human Service Organisations: Creating Connections for Practice* (Oxford, 2006)

John Gatt-Rutter, now retired, was Vaccari Chair in Italian Studies at La Trobe University. His research interests include Italian writers, especially 1580-1600 and 1800 to the present, Italian-Australian autobiography, biography, Italian responses to Islamic fundamentalism, and illness life writing, . In addition to many articles he has published the following books: *Italo Svevo: A Double Life* (Oxford, 1988); Oriana Fallaci: *The Rhetoric of Freedom* (Berg, 1996); and an edited collection, *Novel Turns Towards 2000: critical perspectives on contemporary narrative writing from Western Europe* (Voz Hispanica, 2000).

Carol Hart is Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of English at Lingnan University, Hong Kong, and a PhD graduate and former staff member in the La Trobe University English Program. She is currently researching survivor testimonies from Hiroshima and Nagasaki. She is also writing a book on Cold War atomic culture.

Sophia Law is Assistant Professor in the Department of Visual Studies at Lingnan University. She has published widely on Asian (particularly Chinese) art, art pedagogy and cross-cultural studies in art. Her research interests include the therapeutic nature of art (the topic of a current research project), modernity in Chinese painting, visual cultures of early Twentieth Century China, Hong Kong art and local visual cultures, the aesthetics of Chinese painting and Chinese calligraphy, and the history of Twentieth Century Chinese painting.

Tony Moore's distinguished medical career included a period as Medical Director at the Hampton Rehabilitation Hospital and service as Head of the Department within the Victorian Health Department which was responsible for provision of services to the elderly and the disabled. He is now retired in Red Hill, Victoria. At the age of 44 Moore, a rehabilitation specialist, sustained severe injuries when his car was hit by a semitrailer. He chronicled his experience as a doctor-turned-patient in an acclaimed memoir, *Cry of the Damaged Man: a personal journey of recovery* (Pan Macmillan, 1991), and continued to mediate on fundamental life and death issues in *Echoes of the early tides : a healing journey* (HarperCollins, 1994). Prior to his accident he had published a path-finding medical text book entitled *The Missing Medical Text: humane patient care* (Melbourne University Press, 1978). Tony Moore has written and lectured widely in various medical and health and wellbeing-related topics.

Rhonda Nay is Professor of Interdisciplinary Aged Care and Director of the Institute for Social Participation at La Trobe University. She is also Director of the Australian Centre for Evidence Based Aged Care; the Australian Institute for Primary Care and the Victoria and Tasmania Dementia Studies Centre. She has give over 100 major conference papers; and published extensively on care of older people. She served as President of the Australian Association of Gerontology Victoria; and on the Australian National Advisory Committee on Ageing. She co edited *Nursing Care of Older People* (2004) which was awarded the *Australasian Journal of Ageing* best publication in the field of ageing. In 2009 a new and interdisciplinary edition *Care of Older People* was published.

Bruce Rumbold holds postgraduate qualifications in physics, pastoral care and health social science, and has published in all three fields. His longstanding interest in palliative care began with doctoral work in England in the mid-seventies, and has continued throughout palliative care's period of development in Australia. The health promoting model employed by the La Trobe University Palliative Care Unit, with its emphasis on social and spiritual care, is particularly congenial to his interests in pastoral care and spirituality. Before taking up his present fulltime position at La Trobe University, Bruce was from 1986-2002 the foundation Professor of Pastoral Studies at Whitley College Theological School, developing and teaching ministry and pastoral care programs accredited by the Melbourne College of Divinity. He is currently Secretary of the

International Council for Pastoral Care and Counseling, a body that connects nearly fifty national pastoral care associations worldwide. He was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for services to pastoral and palliative care, particularly as an educator, on Australia Day 2005. In addition to articles in various of his academic fields, Bruce is the author of Rumbold, B. (ed) *Spirituality and Palliative Care*. Melbourne: Oxford (2002).

Annette Street is Professor of Cancer and Palliative Care Studies at La Trobe University. A sociologist who specializes in health care and nursing research. Annette has conducted research consultancies throughout Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, Canada, Thailand, the UK and in the USA. Professor Street's research interests are primarily focused in supportive care exploring the effects on health care consumers, specifically around end of life care, psycho-oncology and symptom distress in cancer care. She provides leadership to a number of multi-disciplinary, multi-method research teams. Her research books *Inside Nursing: a critical ethnography of clinical nursing practice* (State University of New York Press, 1992), and *Nursing Replay: Researching nursing culture together* / Churchill Livingstone, 1995).

David Tacey is Associate Professor of English in the La Trobe University English Program. His research interests include analytical psychology, literary and cultural studies, continental philosophy, sociology of religion, theology and religious studies. He has a general interest in the recovery of meaning in a postmodern context and in the exploring the emergence of spiritual themes and meaning-making in philosophy, literature, youth experience, educational theory, and the experience of nature and environment. He is researching the experience and conceptualisation of the sacred in analytical or Jungian psychology. In addition to many articles, David has published eight books: *Patrick White: Fiction and the Unconscious* (Oxford University Press, 1988); *Edge of the Sacred: Transformation in Australia* (Collins Dove, 1995); *Remaking Men: Jung, Spirituality and Social Change* (Routledge, 1997); *ReEnchantment: The New Australian Spirituality* (HarperCollins, 2000); *Jung and the New Age* (Routledge, 2001); *The Spirituality Revolution: The Emergence of Contemporary Spirituality* (HarperCollins, 2003); *The Idea of the Numinous: Contemporary Jungian and Psychoanalytic Perspectives* (edited with Ann Casement: Routledge, 2006); *How to Read Jung*, (Granta Books, 2006).

Jeni Warburton is a Senior Research Fellow in the ACA and a Senior Lecturer in the School of Social Work and Applied Human Sciences. She is a social scientist with more than fifteen years experience of policy-based research. Her main research interests focus on volunteering and community, particularly relating to older people and their contribution to society; as well as social policy issues relating to an ageing society. Her PhD, completed in 1998, examined the motivation of older people to volunteer. She has produced a number of articles in national and international journals relating to older people as volunteers, corporate social responsibility, and Australian social policy and governance. Jeni has also edited three books, including *Volunteers and Volunteering*, (Federation Press in 2000).

Julie White is a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Education at La Trobe University, where she supervises the doctoral program and lectures in Research Methods, Gender in Education and Intercultural Communication. Her research interests include narrative, identity, creativity and pedagogy and she is a chief investigator on two large Australian Research Council funded projects exploring the social and educational connection of young people with chronic illness, and the pedagogy and subjectivities of teachers in relation to young people at the edges of schooling. She is co-editor of *Creative Approaches to Research* and a member of the editorial boards of the *Journal of Qualitative Research* and *Transnational Curriculum Inquiry*. Dr White is also a senior research fellow at The University of Melbourne, where she continues to supervise several PhD students.

Emma Zhang is an MPhil student in the English Department at Lingnan University. An outstanding undergraduate student at Lingnan, she is writing a thesis on contemporary Chinese American fiction and is also a highly talented creative and autobiographical writer.