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Editorial

Vale Patrick West

We were saddened to learn of the sudden passing of our colleague Patrick West in September this year. Patrick was Associate Professor in creative writing at Deakin University, and a regular contributor and one time reviews editor at TEXT. His scholarly contributions to the journal include thinking on innovative new models for the creative writing doctorate ([Vol 24, Issue 1, 2020](#)) and the idea of intuition ([co-authored with Oscar Davis for Vol 26, 2022](#)). A highly-regarded short story writer, Patrick's doctorate from University of Melbourne was on the feminist psychoanalysis of Julia Kristeva; he was also an avid (re)reader and fan of the work of Janet Frame. One of Patrick's most recent creative contributions to TEXT was his poem on sandcastles, "Sandcastles are immaculate childhood; or form ever follows function," for the special edition he co-edited with Eleni Bastéa on writing and architecture ([Special Issue 23, 2019](#)).

We know that Patrick will be missed among friends and colleagues in the AAWP community.

Engagement with TEXT

During the twelve months to 30 October 2025, TEXT received 26.0K unique visitors (~18% increase), generating 40.9K total article pageviews (~14% increase) and 5.2K article downloads (~11% increase). These figures illustrate TEXT's steady growth as the journal maintains its [Scimago](#) rating of Q1 in the 'Literature and Literary Theory' field for the third consecutive year.

Since October 2024, our pages were mainly viewed by readers from Australia (44.3K pageviews), the United States (10.4K pageviews), Great Britain (4.5K pageviews), New Zealand (1.6K pageviews), India (1.5K pageviews), China (1.2K pageviews), Germany (1.1K pageviews), Canada (1.1K pageviews), the Philippines (0.8K pageviews) and Hong Kong (0.7K pageviews). Readers from Indonesia, Norway, Singapore, Russia, Austria, Ireland, Italy, France and Poland were also regular visitors.

Over the past twelve months “TEXT Prose and Poetry April 2025” gained the most pageviews (760 pageviews from 622 unique visitors). Over the same period the scholarly article with the largest number of unique visitors and downloads was an older article that continues to find relevance, “Terra (in)cognita: Mapping Academic Writing” by Sean Sturm (University of Auckland), published October 2012 (692 pageviews from 678 unique visitors, with 112 downloads). Reuben Mackey’s “Inside the house of fiction: The creative-critical possibility of Gerald Murnan’s *A Million Windows*” is the top article visited via X (formerly Twitter). Other authors featuring significant views this past year include: Quinn Eades and Francesca Rendle-Short; Christina North, Kate Cantrell and Camilla Cripps; Ross Gibson; and Megan Le Masurier.

Our open-access journal flourishes thanks to the efforts of many – our dedicated editorial team and board, generous peer reviewers, and all our contributing authors. We also extend appreciation to the AAWP National Executive Committee and AAWP members, whose annual subscriptions provide essential financial support. As always, we invite readers and contributors to share DOI links and cite the journal’s valuable scholarly work produced over the past thirty years to continue this great work.

Our list of peer reviewers continues to grow at TEXT. Our scholarly reviewers and article contributors regularly comment on the high quality of the advice provided on draft manuscripts: thank you if you are one of our valued reviewers. Our scholarly article acceptance rate for the five years to 31 October 2025 remains at 55%, with an average decision period of 115 days. If you’d like to join our scholarly reviewer community, please contact us directly at textgeneraleditors@aawp.org.au and include a copy of your CV as well as a sense of your research interests and expertise.

In this issue

Scholarly contributors to Volume 29, Issue 2 (October 2025) of TEXT include both new and returning authors. We welcome Gabriel Oh (LASALLE College of the Arts) to TEXT, who examines how the Japanese four-act structure *kishōtenketsu*, exemplified in novels by Eto Mori and Emi Yagi, offers non-conflict-driven alternatives to Western narrative models. Briohny Doyle, Ronnie Scott, Andrew Pippas and Sreedhevi Iyer examine time in Australian novel production, identifying shared durational patterns across their practices. Lilian Roberts returns to TEXT, this time employing poetic inquiry and feminist phenomenology to reframe pregnancy as an embodied experience and advocating for pregnant people’s agency in their physical and emotional destinies. Paul Williams examines how undergraduate students have drawn on concepts of disruption, epiphany and paradigm shift to produce publishable short stories, offering pedagogical strategies for teaching short fiction writing. Emily Morrison and Kate Cantrell examine weird fiction’s enduring relationship with the short story, arguing it is the genre’s most natural form and highlighting critical gaps in current weird scholarship. Also new TEXT authors, Hossein Asgari and Elise Westin challenge binary readings of Forugh Farrokhzad’s poetry to show the enduring tension between self-doubt and confidence across her oeuvre, revealing her continual negotiation of vulnerability, desire and resistance. Natalie

Kon-yu and Emily Booth's latest research reveals industry pressures linking ethnicity to creative expectations, showing diversity activism's costs and urging broader representation to reduce such burdens for culturally diverse Australian authors. While Julia Prendergast, Benjamin Slade and Paris Lyons offer research that provides new insights into the neural foundations of creativity, with a study that uses MEG neuroimaging to map brain activity during creative writing, linking memory, imagination, and cognition.

This issue also features the creative works of 26 authors, with prose, poetry and experimental works that explore writing through writing. And under the guidance of Aidan Coleman and Verity Oswin, our Reviews section continues to grow, this edition featuring 18 reviews of titles published by regular TEXT contributors and readers, and further afield.

Acknowledgements

We would like to welcome Belinda Castles as Special Issue Editor. Belinda will work alongside Ella Jeffrey to deliver two Special Issues annually. We hope Belinda finds her contribution to TEXT a meaningful and rewarding one.

Thanks are also extended to our copyediting interns for this edition: Annabel Holt, Erin Byers, Molly Davidson and Victoria Zhang. Our interns are appointed and mentored by Tracy O'Shaughnessy and Eugenie Baulch, both of the Masters of Writing & Publishing program at RMIT University and we are ever grateful for their valuable contributions.