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Editorial

Julienne van Loon, with gratitude and warmth

Julienne van Loon joined the TEXT editorial team more than ten years ago and her influence on the journal has been profound. Instrumental in conceiving and implementing the TEXT Renewal Project, she helped guide the journal through a significant period of change as it shifted from its original HTML-based website to the Scholastica platform, a move that established the infrastructure required to pursue journal ranking status with Scimago. At the time, Julienne co-managed TEXT with journal co-founder, Nigel Krauth, before assuming the principal Managing Editor role and inviting me to join her as Co-Managing Editor. With the publication of this edition, Julienne will step down from her Managing Editor role, though her characteristic generosity will continue as she supports the journal in its transition.

Throughout her time with TEXT Julienne has championed the journal's place within our scholarly community and the work of the people we publish, notably inaugurating the Nigel Krauth Prize as a means of recognising outstanding scholarship in our field. Alongside this, Julienne has also undertaken the less visible but vital work of strengthening the journal's policies and procedures, clarifying editorial roles and streamlining its processes. But sustaining a journal involves more than its systems and processes – it requires a clear sense of purpose, a belief in the value of the work being published, and support for the people doing that work. As editorial leader, Julienne's approach has been typified by a quiet confidence that has shaped the way our editors work together, offering empathic and unfailingly sensible guidance.

I know Julienne's dedication to TEXT will be recognised and appreciated by friends and colleagues across our field. Her standing as a scholar is well established, but her contribution to TEXT deserves recognition in its own right. The journal as it stands today owes much to her judgement, commitment and vision. Personally speaking, it has been nothing but an honour to work alongside Julienne, and I will always be grateful for her sagacious guidance. I offer her my warmest thanks for all she has given to TEXT, to our community, and to me.

—Ross Watkins

Welcoming in a new Managing Editor partnership

Shady Cosgrove will join Ross Watkins as Co-Managing Editor at TEXT commencing with our next volume, Volume 31. A warm welcome to the new role, Shady! Shady has been a valuable member of the TEXT general editors' team for many years and her knowledge, skills and experience, as well at her deep familiarity with our scholarly community, will contribute strongly to the stewardship of the journal. I wish Shady and Ross the very best with the new Managing Editor partnership: the future of TEXT is in excellent hands.

—Julienne van Loon

TEXT analytics – and the humans behind the numbers

Each October we post editorial analytics regarding our reading community's engagement with our content. We are pleased to report that over the past twelve months TEXT Special Issue 76, "Life Writing Beyond the Human" was our most viewed edition, with 879 pageviews from 797 unique visitors. Well done to guest editors Briohny Doyle and David McCooey, as well as all your wonderful authors!

The scholarly article with the largest number of unique visitors and downloads was "Kishōtenketsu and its potential applications to prose writing" by Gabriel Oh (LASALLE College of the Arts), with 851 pageviews from 738 unique visitors and 75 downloads. Other authors' works featuring significant views this past year include Deborah Brid Rose (highest number of downloads for the year), Toni Risson, Andrew McNamara, Kim Wilkins, Oscar Davis, Charlotte Guest, Alayna Cole, Margaret Kiley, and Ross Gibson. Delia Falconer's "Creative writing mentorship in Australia: Its history and changing practices" is the top article visited via Facebook link, while our Creative Works and Reviews sections also continue to be frequently visited, with an average of ~700 readers per edition. As always, please share DOI links widely and cite the journal's works to strengthen our community's creative and critical research.

We emphasise these successes to celebrate the impactful work our authors invest in the field, and the high level of continuous engagement that such quality scholarship attracts. But meaningful work is not achieved without the emotional and intellectual labour of others involved in the process of producing such scholarship – the accomplishment of TEXT authors relies on many people contributing care, time and expertise. Here, we doff to the support networks (supervisors, mentors, peers and loved ones) who scholars regularly turn to for intangibles such as confidence to pursue their idea, as well as more easily evidenced influence that we see in the development of drafts across the process.

Lifting the TEXT curtain, we also regularly witness the immense efforts of reviewers who offer authors guidance on how their work could be improved – a generosity that sometimes goes under-appreciated but is essential in the facilitatation of excellent articles, reviews, prose and poetry, all of which contribute to our publication maintaining its Q1 status. In a sector increasingly overwhelmed and under-resourced, we point out that securing peer reviewers is

becoming more and more difficult, creating longer decision times and placing stress on those peers who are always willing to accept our invitation to review. Of course, a lengthening peer-review period also impacts our authors in multifaceted ways. (Currently, our scholarly article acceptance rate for the past calendar year sits at 38%, with an average decision period of 102 days.) If you believe you have some expertise to offer our authors and would like to contribute to TEXT as a peer reviewer, please send us (textgeneraleditors@aawp.org.au) a copy of your CV, as well as a sense of your research interests and expertise. We would love to continue to grow our reviewer database.

Lastly (but not leastly), we also take this moment to thank our fabulous editorial team and Advisory Board, as well acknowledging the AAWP Executive Committee's financial support. Your belief in our journal is critical to its continuation.

In this issue

Paul Gardner's (Curtin University) "Death of the library: A speculative poetic response to the loss of books" opens our October edition using satirical speculative poetry to examine the future of libraries, books and knowledge amid technological and commercial domination. Gardner proposes speculative fiction and speculative research as complementary frameworks for exploring poetic truth and the relationship between present realities and imagined futures. He performs this via an original poem called "The Library".

In "Resisting monoculturalism: Expatriate memoirs as sites of cultural dialogue in Japan", authors Colin Mills and Rohan Wilson (Queensland University of Technology) analyse two contemporary memoirs set in Japan to demonstrate how narrative voice, tone and structure shape and enact intercultural experience. Their article repositions expatriate memoir as a literary form in which belonging and intercultural negotiation are actively performed.

Drawing on action research across three London institutions, Ray Grewal's (University of the Arts, London) "Becoming creative cyborgs: What role(s) for GenAI in the Creative Writing classroom?" evaluates six applications of generative AI in creative writing education. Using a critical realist framework, Grewal distinguishes useful applications in research, translation and idea generation, from its creative and editorial limitations. Grewal argues that critically examining AI's weaknesses can become a valuable pedagogical strategy.

With another offering from Curtin University, Jen Bowden's "Writing dialect fiction" establishes three categories for constructing written dialect: phonetic, syntactic and lexical. Through literary analysis and reflections on her own manuscripts, Bowden develops a practical framework for understanding how dialect functions as a creative technique, applicable across regional and linguistic contexts.

From University of the Sunshine Coast, Jane Frank addresses a gap in scholarship on Nathan Shepherdson, in "Palaces of chance and bloodlines of influence: Existential currents and recurring motifs in the poetry of Nathan Shepherdson". Frank examines the influences and

motifs shaping Shepherdson's poetry, including Surrealism, Dadaism, chance, corporeality and visual art. The article explores how artistic collaboration and familial relationships contribute to his distinctive poetic practice.

Oscar Davis's (University of Melbourne) "Non-material beings and the excesses of collaborative writing" draws on feminist and posthumanist theories of authorship, challenges human-centred definitions of creative collaboration. Davis exposes 'the *metaphysics of substance* that determines who and what is seen as collaborator' in order to complicate conventional understandings of authorship, positioning collaboration as an intrinsic ethical dimension of creative practice requiring continuous unearthing and expansion.

From Griffith University, Indyana Horobin's research introduces *Un-Aulasy*, a term for combining second-person narration, vivid imagery and historical context in creative nonfiction. Using literary examples, "'Un-Aulasy': Familial memory enacted through second-person language" explores how brief shifts into second person can intensify reader engagement with memory, particularly in family narratives. Rather than proposing a new technique, it reframes second-person narration as a means of 'placing readers more accurately in memory'.

In "Paratexts, protection, and personal truths: The limits of authorial redaction", Author Redacted examines how distancing oneself from autobiographical material can protect writers while also obscuring personal experience. Reflecting on a novel addressing child sexual abuse, the author explores the complex relationship between trauma, authorial identity and disclosure, highlighting the psychosocial implications of self-redaction.

Pablo Muslera and Corinna Di Niro (SAE University College) offer "'The rest is silence' – Reframing stasis as integral to creative practice". Using duoethnography, this study challenges productivity-driven understandings of creativity by examining the generative potential of creative blockages and inactivity. It argues that recognising creative stasis as an integral part of artistic development can support sustainable practice and better prepare students for professional creative careers.

And finally in our October edition, Kári Gíslasson's (Queensland University of Technology) article, "Attending to change: Dynamic drafting as creative practice research in contemporary retellings of medieval Icelandic literature", uses a creative project inspired by an Icelandic saga and field work experiences to demonstrate how substantial revisions can generate critical insights within practice-led research. Gíslasson offers reflective questions and practical methods for analysing drafting decisions as part of creative writing research methodology.

This issue also features the creative works of 28 authors, with prose, poetry and experimental works that explore writing through writing. And our Reviews section continues to produce exemplary book critiques, with this edition featuring 13 reviews of titles published by regular TEXT contributors and readers, and further afield.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Verity Oswin as our tireless but sadly outgoing Reviews Editor. Verity has worked alongside Aidan Coleman to produce so many outstanding book reviews, facilitating reviewers through the process and providing top-notch copyediting. We wish Verity all the best moving forward with her career.

We also extend warm thanks to our copyediting interns for this edition: Emma Bocevksi, Gideon Daley, MJ Douven, Daniel Godman, Helen Mateer and Max O'Shea.. 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.