Expressions of Interest sought– Symposium on the Theory and Practice of Poetry

Proposed date – Friday November 8th.

Dear Postgrads and Academics,

I am organising a symposium on the theory and practice of poetry. I think this would be an opportunity to explore in detail the kind of work so many of us are doing on and around poetry. This discussion need not be limited to a discussion of poets and poetry but could include broader concepts of “poetics” in relation to literary theory and linguistics/rhetoric (example, a poetics of the novel, or political poetry).

A starting point for such a discussion could be an examination of the intersection between practice and theory and include some of the following questions:

· Can the practice of poetry ever “prove” the veracity or value of a theory?

· Is theory always catching up?

· Can poetic theory itself be considered a kind of poetic practice?

· Is there a “philosophy of poetry” in the same way there is a “philosophy of language” or a “philosophy of art”? If so what might it look like?

These are just starting points and I would welcome suggestions of other questions and topics. Actually I would welcome suggestions on three matters:

1. Other questions and topics relating to people’s particular interests and fields of expertise.

2. Your thoughts on the mode of delivery of the symposium. The apparent choice would be a one or two day symposium that accommodates a diverse range of material and which provides a balance between practice and theory, postgraduate and academic, but any other thought welcomed.

3. Do you think a blog would be useful where the material of this discussion can be centrally located? If so what blog sites do people already use? I already have a blog platform on WordPress that I can re-purpose. Or are there other suggestions?

Please send suggestions to me G.Smith2@uws.edu.au by 31 January. I will use this information to draw up a proposal. I look forward to receiving your input.

Regards,

Gavin Smith