

## **Editor's Welcome to *PORTAL*, vol. 7, no. 1, 2010.**

'Fields of Remembrance,' is a special issue of *PORTAL Journal of Multidisciplinary International Studies* guest-edited by Matthew Graves (University of Provence) and Elizabeth Rezniewski (University of Sydney). The issue focuses on what the guest editors call the 'world-wide turn to commemoration in recent years,' which is typified by the diverse drives by states, organisations, institutions and interest groups to reclaim spaces for memories and formalise commemorations in ways that appear to place memory at discursive odds with history. Taking a transcultural rather than transnational approach to the memory-history dyad, and attending to the potential abuses of history as pasts are rehistoricised and refashioned in line with contemporary political and cultural paradigms, the special issue makes an important contribution to current memory debates. It is also a timely contribution, given the vituperative qualities of so-called history and culture wars in Australia, the USA, many parts of Europe, and throughout many parts of the decolonised world. The contributions to the special issue were first presented at a workshop entitled 'Histories of Forgetting and Remembering' in October 2008. The workshop was jointly sponsored by the faculty of Arts at the University of Sydney, which hosted the event, and the Transforming Cultures Research Centre at the University of Technology Sydney.

The special issue is dedicated to the memory of François Poirier (1947-2010), Director of the Centre for Intercultural Research in the English- and French-speaking Worlds, at the University of Paris XIII, who showed the way as one of the first scholars in France to work on the transnational dimension of memory studies: 'Whispering lunar incantations / Dissolve the floors of memory' (TS Eliot).

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Alongside the special issue are two general articles whose respective jurisprudence and translation focuses are also pertinent to the 'historical memory' concerns of the special issue. 'Time-capsule: Explorations of Concepts of Time and Law in Colonial New Zealand,' by Jonathan Barrett and Luke Strongman is a particularly fascinating exploration of postcolonial legal culture and discourse in Aotearoa /

New Zealand. The authors posit that the colonising British brought with them Victorian notions of time and land ownership that inevitably discounted *tikanga* Māori (customary rights and duties) from New Zealand law. The authors thus identify a key feature of the paradigm of appropriation in British colonies—the ‘technologies of time’—which separated the appropriators and the dispossessed in terms of spatio-temporal dislocation, and end by proposing a counter history for jurisprudence in Aotearoa.

‘Writing Through: Practising Translation’ is a contribution from Joel Scott, a doctoral candidate at Macquarie University, Sydney. This investigation into translation as the threshold of language encompasses the author’s experimental ‘live’ and ‘series’ translations of poems by the contemporary Spanish poet, Esteban Pujals Gesalí. The result is a critical and creative meditation on the lessons that translation practice might have for writing itself. As Scott notes toward the end of his article: ‘There is a kind of pleat involved in firstly engaging with difference in language through translation, and then folding that back over into my own writing in my proper tongue. It is not enough to create translations that signal the ‘otherness’ of the foreign text. Writing in English involves a tendency toward [a] kind of universalism . . . , and merely signalling otherness in translations threatens to leave the standardised language of literary texts unshaken. The effect that translation has on our relation to our own languages should carry over into other kinds of writing practice.’

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Finally, I am pleased to announce a Call for Papers for an issue dedicated to climate change and the failed Copenhagen Climate Summit of December 2009. The issue is scheduled for late 2011.

### **CFP: Global Climate Change Policy – Post-Copenhagen Discord**

Given the danger represented by climate change, why did the Copenhagen Climate Summit in December 2009 fail to reach a comprehensive global agreement to address the climate change emergency? Is it likely that an effective global response to address climate change will be developed before the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol ends in 2012? This special issue of *Portal* on Global Climate Change Policy seeks multi-disciplinary papers that identify the issues to be overcome in developing effective global climate change governance and propose approaches, policies and measures that might contribute to an effective outcome to address this extremely complex policy problem. Contributors are invited to address the many issues these questions raise including:

- How can we achieve an effective global response to climate change that allows for global emissions to come rapidly under control, even while the developing world vastly scales up energy services in its ongoing fight against endemic poverty and for human development?
- Given that the national commitments to the Copenhagen Accord are likely to result in a 3°C global warming over pre-industrial levels versus its stated aim of remaining below 2°C, how can 190 sovereign states develop and implement responses that will be effective in avoiding dangerous climate change?

- Is a binding global agreement necessary to respond effectively to climate change?
- What other models or frameworks for effective international climate change response exist and what are their current prospects?
- What are the roles of global civil society and the international business community in delivering an effective international response to climate change?

### Guest editor contacts

For further information, please contact the special issue guest editors,

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### Deadline for submissions: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010

*PORTAL Journal of Multidisciplinary International Studies* only accepts submissions of unpublished manuscripts, which are not being considered by other publications. All submissions deemed suitable are subject to a blind peer-review process. Recommended length is a maximum of 8000 words including notes and references. Authors are invited to submit their articles directly to *PORTAL*, via its online submission system. Authors must ensure that their submissions comply with *PORTAL* author guidelines. Articles that do not comply with those guidelines will be returned to authors for resubmission.

For details, see:

<http://epress.lib.uts.edu.au/ojs/index.php/portal/about/submissions#authorGuidelines>

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