

# The Idea of Prose Style: A Symposium

13-15 December 2017

The University of New South Wales  
and The University of Sydney

## Day 1

Wednesday, 13 December

### 2:00 Masterclasses

#### UNSW Masterclass

“Toward a Poetics of Prose”

Garrett Stewart (Iowa)

Robert Webster 139, UNSW

**Registration Required**

#### University of Sydney Masterclass

“On Not Knowing: Reading and Writing Other Languages”

Rebecca Walkowitz (Rutgers)

Rogers Room, Woolley Building, University of Sydney

**Registration Required**

### 5:00 Keynote

“The Paraphonics of Prose”

Garrett Stewart (Iowa)

Chair: Sean Pryor (UNSW)

Robert Webster 327, UNSW

## Day 2

Thursday, 14 December

### 9:20 Welcome

### 9:30 Keynote

“Prose Style and the Idea of Language”

Rebecca Walkowitz (Rutgers)

Chair: Matthew Sussman (Sydney)

New Law School Lecture Theatre 101, University of Sydney

**11:00 Morning Tea**

**11:30 Panel Session 1**

Achieving a Style

Jan-Melissa Schramm (Cambridge), "William Godwin and the Ethics of Style"

Joanne Wilkes (Auckland), "Jane Austen at Work in 'The Watsons': The Implications of Style"

Roslyn Jolly (UNSW), "Henry James's Travel Writing"

Chair: Sean Pryor (UNSW)

New Law School Seminar Room 100, University of Sydney

Stylescapes

Trish May (UNSW), "Poetry, Fiction and the Future: Virginia Woolf as a Theorist of Style"

Mark Byron (Sydney), "Plain Style"

Helen Groth (UNSW), "'Books as listening bodies': Virginia Woolf and the Modern Novel"

Chair: Alys Moody (Macquarie)

New Law School Seminar Room 102, University of Sydney

**1:00 Lunch**

**2:00 Panel Session 2**

Rhythm

Emma Eisenberg (Berkeley), "Mere Repetition: Prosody, Conversation, and Late Victorian Stylistic Criticism"

Jennifer Crone (Sydney), "When Does Prose Become Poetry?"

William Hall (Cambridge), "The Idea of 'Numerous' Prose and the Principle of Avoidance"

Chair: Helen Groth (UNSW)

New Law School Seminar Room 100, University of Sydney

Critical Methods

Elizabeth Pender (Sydney), "Prose Style and the Critic: Djuna Barnes's *Nightwood* and Criticism of Modernist Fiction"

Doug Battersby (York), "The New Critic's Business: Close Reading, Poetry, and Prose"

David Potter (Sydney), "Pekka Tammi - The Forgotten Master of Nabokov's Style"

Chair: Jennifer Gribble (Sydney)

New Law School Seminar Room 102, University of Sydney

**3:30 Afternoon Tea**

**4:00 Panel Session 3**

Australian Women Writers

Melinda Cooper (Sydney), "Melodrama and Modernism: Prose Style in Eleanor Dark's *Prelude to Christopher*"

Meg Brayshaw (Western Sydney), "'Large, rich, confused, intricate': M. Barnard Eldershaw and Questions of Style"

Jasmin Kelaita (UNSW), "Christina Stead's 'Uses of the Many-Charactered Novel' and *The Little Hotel*"

Chair: Guy Davidson (Wollongong)

New Law School Seminar Room 100, University of Sydney

Recent Writing

Ella Collins-White (Sydney), "Mutating Prose: Image and Textual Experimentation in the Novel"

Niklas Fischer (Sydney), "Prose Between/Between Prose"

Garth Travers (Sydney), "Dreaming a Realistic Chronicle: Philip Roth and Late Style"

Chair: Melissa Hardie (Sydney)

New Law School Seminar Room 102, University of Sydney

**6:00 Dinner**

Courtyard Restaurant and Bar, Holme Building, University of Sydney

**Day 3**

**Friday, 15 December**

**9:30 Keynote**

“Sounding Out Style in Victorian Fiction”

Daniel Tyler (Cambridge)

Chair: Matthew Sussman

New Law School Lecture Theatre 101, University of Sydney

**11:00 Morning Tea**

**11:30 Panel Session 4**

Style and Affect

Baylee Brits (UNSW), “Coetzee, Style, and Affect”

Kate Montague (UNSW), “History, Affect, Tragedy: Re-Reading  
Pynchon’s Prose Style”

Chair: Monique Rooney (ANU)

New Law School Seminar Room 100, University of Sydney

Style and Modernity

Tamlyn Avery (UNSW), “A Crude Awakening: Capital & the  
Bildungsromance of Women’s Labour in Theodore Dreiser’s *Sister  
Carrie* (1901)”

Mark Steven (UNSW), “Footdrill Stopped: Modernism, Punctuation,  
Capitalism”

Julian Murphet (UNSW), “‘Oxen of the Sun’ and the Supermarket of  
Styles”

Chair: Mark Byron (Sydney)

New Law School Seminar Room 102, University of Sydney

**1:00 Lunch**

**2:00 Panel Session 5**

Style and Multiplicity

Ali Chetwynd (AUIS), "Prose Opacity, Stylistic Allegory, and Readerly Competence"

Jennifer Gribble (Sydney), "Close Reading in Bakhtin and Dickens: The Ethical Life of Style"

Alex Wong (Cambridge), "Rhetoric and the Anti-Rhetorical in English 'Art Prose' and Aesthetic Criticism of the Long Nineteenth Century"

Chair: Matthew Sussman (Sydney)

New Law School Seminar Room 100, University of Sydney

Style as Thinking

Monique Rooney (ANU), "'I almost dare to affirm': Rousseau's Provisional Style and the Promise of Intermedia"

Oliver Goldstein (Cambridge), "'Be sure to blot it out': Carlyle's Prose Style and 'Characteristics'"

James Jiang (Melbourne), "'The Abasing Mood': William James's Polemical Style"

Chair: Roslyn Jolly (UNSW)

New Law School Seminar Room 102, University of Sydney

**3:30 Afternoon Tea**

**4:00 Panel Session 6**

Gender and Sexuality

Melissa Hardie (Sydney), "Queer Adultery: Djuna Barnes' *Nightwood* and the Problem of Non-Normative Style"

Helen Rydstrand (UNSW), "'As a woman would': Gender in Modernist Prose"

Guy Davidson (Wollongong), "Baldwin's Intractability"

Chair: Lorraine Sim (Western Sydney)

New Law School Seminar Room 100, University of Sydney

Prose, Poetry, Verse

Matthew Sussman (Sydney), "From Verse to Prose: Meredith's Maxims"

Alys Moody (Macquarie), "The Style of Negritude"

Sean Pryor (UNSW), "Which Comes First and Which Comes Second, and  
When and Why: Poetry and Prose"

Chair: James Jiang (Melbourne)

New Law School Seminar Room 102, University of Sydney

**6:00 Drinks**

[Cornerstone Bar](#) at Carriageworks

245 Wilson Street, Eveleigh