

SEMINAR SERIES 2022

Allegory: A Structure that Supports Two Worlds

PRESENTER Professor Brenda Machosky, Professor of English and Humanities, University of Hawai'i West O'ahu

DATE & TIME Wednesday 19 October 2022, 11am - 12 noon ACST

LOCATION Lunch Room, Purple 10, Batchelor Campus,

WHO All staff, students and members of the general public are invited. Please share this invitation among your networks.

ABOUT BRENDA MACHOSKY Brenda Machosky is Professor of English and Humanities at the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu, a regional university with a majority of Native Hawaiian, Samoan and Pacific Islander students and a diverse range of ethnicities from the Pacific region and the continental United States.

Professor Machosky teaches courses in world literature, postcolonial literatures and theory, English literature, and literary theory. Recently she is focused on literature by (Australian) Aboriginal and Māori writers. Brenda is editor of *Antipodes: A Global Journal of Australia/New Zealand Studies*, an American-based journal that publishes scholarly work about literature, media and culture of the Antipodes and also creative work by in-country and non-resident writers. The journal has a goal to include more writing about and by Indigenous people of these regions. Brenda also serves as president of the American Association for Australasian Literary Studies.

Her current research focuses on Indigenous literatures of Australia and Aotearoa as well as her lifelong study of allegory, and she is developing a book that brings these two interests together. Her published books

ABOUT THE SEMINAR Allegory is a well-established western genre that is traditionally understood as having a double or multiple meaning: "saying one thing and meaning another." In Brenda's first book, she revised this definition to: "saying what cannot be said in any other way." This led her to argue that allegory is not about a hierarchy of meanings but rather it is a structure that supports the appearance of things that cannot appear in any other way, like God or a hidden world (as in Dante's *Divine Comedy*).

Brenda's work on allegory led to the argument that allegory creates a space in which two different



include *Structures of Appearing: Allegory and the Work of Literature* (Fordham 2013) and the edited volume, *Thinking Allegory Otherwise* (Stanford 2010). Recent essays include "Allegory and the work of Aboriginal Dreaming/Law/Lore" in the Routledge book, *Allegory Studies: Contemporary Perspectives*; and "Alexis Wright's Storytelling Novel and its 'particular kind of knowledge'," in *Ellipsis: Alexis Wright*.

Brenda is keen to learn more about two ways knowing and welcomes this opportunity to share ideas at Batchelor Institute. This work is exploratory, and she welcomes a vigorous discussion.

(non-coincident) things can appear in the same space at the same time (a logical contradiction in western thought). Her current research explores whether allegory may be a structure that helps non-Indigenous people to understand the co-existence of worlds, as in the Dreaming/Law/Lore of Aboriginal peoples.

This presentation will lay out the methods and preliminary analysis for this argument in the hopes that participants can critique and suggest ideas for further consideration.