

## **Call for submissions to Special Issue of TEXT:**

### **Poetry and Extremity**

Poetry is often associated with a sense of unease or anxiety, linked to its subversive potential and its powers of persuasion, as well as its ability to capture the ineffable or the unimaginable and make it real. It is part of the reason why Plato banished poets from the ideal society, and why poetry continues to be associated with formal and informal censorship and lists of banned texts. Certainly, poetry seems to thrive in the most difficult spaces of human experience: love, loss, despair, trauma, and tragedy, as it seeks to find recognisable shapes for the unspeakable. Poetry is also a radically galvanising force, as evidenced in its use, for example, by terrorist organisations.

What is it that makes poetry such an apt vehicle to express extremity? How does its particular uses of language create the space to articulate events which seem beyond words? How do poets innovate new poetic forms to examine what is often regarded as taboo or to enact a form of resistance? How does poetry help to break the silence? What is it about poetry, and the role of the poet, that is so often linked to a transgression of boundaries?

This special issue of TEXT seeks to publish scholarly papers and poetry that investigates the relationship between poetry and extremity. Papers are encouraged to explore, but are not limited, to the following:

- Poetry and activism
- Poetry and aesthetics
- Poetry and ageing
- Poetry and the body
- Poetry and boundary-crossing
- Poetry and censorship
- Poetry as confession
- Poetry and disaster
- Poetry and the environment
- Poetry as experiment
- Poetry and identity
- Poetry as manifesto
- Poetry and the non-human
- Poetry and nuclear disaster
- Poetry and pandemics
- Poetry and politics
- Poetry as protest
- Poetry and secrets
- Poetry and scandal
- Poetry and taboo
- Poetry and terrorism
- Poetry as testimony/witness
- Poetry and trauma
- The role of the poet

Scholarly papers should be between 6,000 – 8, 000 words, including references. Up to three poems and/or one poetry sequence of any length per poet, will be considered. Please note, all poetry submissions must be accompanied by a 200-word abstract (which may be modelled on an ERA research statement) that clearly explains the submission's aims and significance.

**How to submit your Expression of Interest:**

- Please submit a 200-word Expression of Interest for scholarly essays by email to Alyson Miller ([alyson.miller@deakin.edu.au](mailto:alyson.miller@deakin.edu.au)) with 'Poetry and Extremity EOI' as the subject line. In your EOI please outline how your paper or poems explore(s) the theme of 'Poetry and Extremity'. Also, make sure you include the following information: your full name, institutional affiliation (if any), email address, title of paper/poem, brief biography (50–100 words), and 3 to 5 keywords (at least two of which should clearly relate to the issue's title). Deadline: November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- Contributors will be informed of acceptance by December 15<sup>th</sup>, with final submissions due on March 1, 2023.

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