

BRONWYN STEVENS AND ELIZABETH EDDY

The articles in this special non-themed edition of *Social Alternatives* reflect the wide variety of topics and disciplinary approaches contributors have brought to this journal over the past thirty-seven years. These articles are united in their presentation of alternative viewpoints that contribute towards themes fostered in this journal – non-violence, sustainability, egalitarianism and equity.

Binoy Kampmark examines Citizens' War Crimes' Tribunals. These sought to establish some form of accountability for war crimes committed by national leaders too powerful to be indicted by existing domestic or international courts or tribunals. Leaders whose actions have included deliberate deception and flagrant violations of international law which have resulted in massive civilian casualties. He argues that the weaknesses of such tribunals, a lack of jurisdictional authority or enforcement capacity, can also be their greatest strength.

Atsushi Takeda focuses on identity and citizenship in his article, 'Exploring the Subjective Concept of Migrant Native Citizenship: the case of two Japanese migrants in Australia'. This article considers the emotional and subjective element in the concept of citizenship, the way it signifies identity and a sense of belonging, from the perspective of two Japanese migrants.

In 'A Persisting Fascination: German interest in Aboriginal Australians', Oliver Haag examines German translations of two well-known stories of Aboriginal Australians by non-indigenous authors, *The Little Black Princess* by Jeannie Gunn and *The Last of the Nomads* by William John Peasley. He concludes that these translations ignore the historical context of inter-racial relations while reinforcing traditional German perceptions of indigenous Australians as a timeless, unchanging, pre-modern and harmonious naturefolk.

Catalina Botez's article, 'Liquefactions: River floods and tides of memory in Anne Michaels' *Fugitive Pieces*', presents a critical literary approach to this fictional work by Michaels. It introduces the concepts of liquefaction and fluid trauma to explore its themes of healing and co-healing in relation to post-Holocaust trauma and transnational survivorship.

'Society as a Patient: Metapathology, healing and challenges of self and social transformations' unites Western and Indian philosophical traditions to shed insight on the relationship between the health of the individual and the health of society. Ananta Kumar Giri proposes

that understanding 'society as the patient' brings our focus from individual pathology to recognising social pathology – or 'metapathology'. The transformation of self and society necessitates 'creative suffering', referring to the need for critiquing narrow individualised notions of pathology.

In 'The Myth of Femininity in the Sport of Bodysculpting' Jamilla Rosdahl examines the challenge that strong muscular women pose to traditional assumptions of femininity. Through an examination of the sport of bodysculpting she highlights the contradictory relationship between muscles and femininity.

Anoushka Benbow-Buitenhijs utilises the critical theory of Marcuse to analyse the complex and contradictory attitudes of Australian women to the globalised corporate ideal of flawless perfection, in 'A Feminine Double-Bind? Towards understanding the commercialisation of beauty through examining anti-ageing culture'. The images portrayed by the cosmetics industry through commercial advertising create an impossible ideal of beauty that creates anxiety in women and further problematises aging.

In 'Workchoices – Characterisation, Effects and Resistance: An AMWU Perspective', Brett Heino explores the campaign of resistance conducted by the AMWU in response to the Howard Government's Workchoices legislation. Heino argues that this politically oriented campaign was a departure from historic tradition that is tied to the political and economic transformations of Australian neo-liberalism.

Janice Newton's article 'Permanent Residency in Caravan Parks: Alternative and acceptable housing for some', investigates permanent residency in caravan parks and finds some surprising benefits. These include greater sociability and enhanced cooperation and tolerance that suit many residents. But there are also problems including the fragility of the residences and restrictions to secure tenure that indicate limitations to this mode of living.

The edition also includes two commentaries. Richard Hil gives a scathing indictment of the current state and future directions of Australia's university sector in 'Post Whackademia'. Elisse Kleiner identifies the advantages of community living in 'Sharing a Vision: Intentional communities in Australia'.

Authors

Bronwyn Stevens and Elizabeth Eddy are members of the *Social Alternatives* editorial collective.

Austerity Poem

There are no birds in this poem,
no brightly feathered
metaphors for freedom.

This poem won't win any prizes
or be toasted by
clinking champagne glasses.

This poem has upturned hungry faces,
is desperate and fearful,
takes shelter in doorways.

It has cold feet in worn shoes,
uncut hair,
one less shower a week.

This poem works for a pension,
for those who care more for the rights
of the unborn —

than for those who struggle
from pay cheque to pay cheque.

This poem brings no salvation.
It won't bang any drums
for a thousand fallen trees —

because this poem
is already on its knees.

There are no birds in this poem.
They already pecked
the fallen crumbs
and have all flown away.

SARA MOSS
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no country is an island

*"No man is an Iland, intire of itself; every man is a piece of
the continent, a part of Maine." (John Donne)*

*"se escucha también con el alma, con el espíritu"/ "we also
listen with the soul, with the spirit". (Montserrat Figueras)*

I

"i" is en route to the other incessantly
spermatozoids swim towards the ovule
the ovule becomes a human being
human beings get together in societies
societies coalesce around cities
cities are unified in imaginary countries
& countries create their own distances
& degrees of separation & islands

"i" migrates towards the "lucky country"
creating its own imaginary ports & laws
as certainties dilute into unknown currents
& while "i" drifts wor(l)ds vanish &
under his/her feet new islands are brought
into existence by the semantic of fear
so countries create their own distances
& degrees of separation & islands

II

& boats come from all flanks
webbing out their own "tierra del medio"
an aged mediterranean sea languaging
that bridges the islands & continents of the mind
in a seaword made of fleshy stories
conversing & listening themselves to life

& boats come from all flanks
in all colours & in old languages
bewitched by their own beating heart
listening & conversing out a continent
for thee, John Donne tells us, the bells toll

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