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POETRY AND ENVIRONMENT QUICK SCAN BIBLIOGRAPHY

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INTRODUCTION

RESEARCH GOALS

This research aimed to inform the poetry writing element of the ReMediate interdisciplinary arts project by providing a bibliography of scholarly resources housed in the University of Guelph library on a list of interconnected topics provided by the community partners. Research topics and project details will be outlined below.

BACKGROUND

This search for resources was carried out in support of the ReMediate project, a Guelph-based artistic project led by Christina Kingsbury and Anna Bowen. As Kingsbury explains, the project will create a 1,000 ft² quilt for the decommissioned Eastview Landfill in Guelph. The quilt, made from recycled paper and plant material and embedded with native seeds, will be sewn together on site. It is intended to biodegrade over time and become living habitat for threatened pollinators and other indigenous species. My collaborator Anna Bowen will be producing a series of poetry vignettes that serve as a narrative of the layered history of the landfill site, and will document the making of the quilt. Text and imagery from her poetry will be printed onto the quilt, playing on the idea of a living word.” (<http://www.christinakingsbury.com/remediate/>)

The community partners sought access to journal and other scholarly sources that could inform Bowen’s work to create poetry speaking from varying perspectives about the site. Bowen sought resources to further inform the broader contexts in which she was working.

This bibliography is the result of a targeted search of the University of Guelph library’s journal databases, following the parameters of the request for research provided by the artists working on ReMediate. **The annotations draw directly from abstracts and/or opening sections of the sources – thus any citation of these sections should credit their original sources, listed directly above them.**



METHODS

SOURCES

Using the University of Guelph library's online search function, a journal database search was carried out using a series of terms identified through consultation with the community partners. These were: eco-poetry; eco-poetics; Canada; environment; ethics; gender; landscape; indigenous philosophy. The annotated entries draw from the results of this search, filtered through the researcher's understanding of the artists' interests.

Subsequent research sought broader context for the bibliography, broadening its scope to include books as well as articles, and including gender, environment, and indigenous theories and philosophies. The results of this search are contained in the latter sections of this report and do not include annotations.

RESULTS/FINDINGS

ECO-POETRY; ECO-LITERARY THEORY; CANADIAN CONTEXT

Bai, Heesoon, Daniela Elza, Peter Kovacs, and Serenna Romanycia. "Re-searching and re-storying the complex and complicated relationship of biophilia and bibliophilia." *Environmental Education Research* Vol 16(3-4). 351-365.

This article is a collaborative bricolage of poetry, autobiographical fragments, essay pieces, and images assembled together as a portrait of the authors' ongoing existential, psychological and epistemological struggles as educators and learners, parents and children. The article captures a reflective exploration and collective sharing of their own life experiments, seeking to create ripples of provocation as well as resonance in the reader. Identifying biophilia (love of life/nature) as a key learning in environmental education, this work looks into the complex and complicated relationship between biophilia and bibliophilia (love of books). The article ends by identifying indwelling experience as key to biophilia, and suggests and advocates poetry-making and story-telling as methods for fostering indwelling.



Dragland, Stan. "Be-wildering: The Poetry of Don McKay." University of Toronto Quarterly. Fall 2001. Vol. 70 (4).

To European explorers and settlers, North America was one of the waste places of the earth that the book of Genesis encouraged Christians to subdue. Subduing and naming, Adam's task in Genesis, went hand in hand. The whole continent was in stages mapped, ordered with arbitrary names, as though correspondence between place and name was never a question. Ironically, non-Native peoples are coming around to the view of those suppressed First Nations, that the earth and its creatures are family, that the earth is our only home and its resources are exhaustible. Since Canada is an underpopulated anomaly in a crowded world, it still has large tracts of 'that strangely depopulated richness we like to call wilderness' (Bringhurst, Pieces, 52), and the land is as significant an issue now as it was in colonial times. Much of it is relatively unchanged; some of the poorer settled areas have in fact been abandoned and have reverted to bush. But its meaning has transformed, which means that changes in human attitude may be charted against it. For a number of contemporary Canadian poets, Don McKay prominent among them, wilderness is anything but wasteland in need of stamping with the human imprint. Hard thinking about wilderness has drawn them into the space between name and thing, into thinking of language as a threshold that you can never quite step across into a wilderness of desire.

Poetry and Knowing, a volume of essays edited by Tim Lilburn, is the most visible sign so far of the recent coalescence of a community of Canadian poets concerned with relationships among poetry, philosophy, and the environment. At the core of this group are Robert Bringhurst, Dennis Lee, Tim Lilburn, Don McKay, and Jan Zwicky.

Forbes, Peter. "Poetry and science: greatness in little." Nature. 2005. Vol 434 (7031). 320.

This piece "explores how poetry and science can mutually inspire."



Forster, S. "Don McKay's coming anthropocentrism: Ecocriticism meets 'Mr. Nature Poet.'" *Essays on Canadian Writing*. Fall 2002. Issue 77. 107-135.

This essay reads Don McKay's unorthodox 'nature poetry' through forms of ecocriticism that engage the question of what humans' inevitably anthropocentric approach to the nonhuman world means for the ecological capacities of poetry. It suggests that McKay's use of humour and metaphor can be understood as profoundly ecological in the context of two related paradigms: Joseph Meeker's theory of comedy and Jan Zwicky's postulation of 'lyric comprehension' as ecological modes of approach to the nonhuman.

Garrard, Greg. "The Year's Work in Critical and Cultural Theory." *3Ecocriticism*. 2011. Vol. 19(1). 46-82.

This review of ecocritical theory in *The Year's Work in Critical and Cultural Theory* covers the year 2009. The chapter is divided into six sections: [1](#). The Estok–Robisch Controversy: debates over theory and 'ecophobia'; [2](#). More Intersectional Analyses or 'Confluent Theorizing'; [3](#). Eco-Poco or Postcolonial Ecocriticism; [4](#). Literary Ecology and Eco-poetics: the relationship between literary studies and the science of ecology; [5](#). Beyond Literature: ecocriticism in art, film and eco-philosophy; [6](#). On God, Climate and Moral Humility: on the metaphysics of ecology and environmental ethical thought.

Leduc, Timothy B. "Lyric Ecology: An Appreciation of the Work of Jan Zwicky." *Environments*. 38.1 (Jan. 2012). 99.

Book review. It is presently a common assumption that environmental science and policy are essential for a sustainable future, but claims that the 'ecological' or 'eco' humanities are also vital is rarely voiced. Into this conceptual gap of academic research and the popular discourse enters *Lyric Ecology*, an edited compilation of essays on the philosophy and poetry of Canadian writer Jan Zwicky. The book's editors, Mark Dickinson and Clare Goulet, introduce us to Zwicky's work with a quote from her *Lyric Philosophy* that defines thought as "an attempt to arrive at an integrated perception, a picture or understanding of how something might affect us as beings with bodies and emotions as well as the ability to think logically" (cited in Goulet and Dickinson: x).



Macgregor, Sherilyn. "From Care to Citizenship: Calling Ecofeminism Back to Politics." *Ethics & the Environment*. 2004. Vol. 9(1). 56-84

Although there are important aspects of ecofeminist valuations of women's caring, a greater degree of skepticism than is now found in ecofeminist scholarship is in order. In this article I argue that there are political risks in celebrating women's association with caring, as both an ethic and a practice, and in reducing women's ethico-political life to care. I support this position by drawing on the work of feminist theorists who argue that the positive identification of women with caring ought to be treated cautiously for it obscures some of the negative implications of feminized care and narrows our understanding of women as political actors. I explain why I think ecofeminists would be better served by using feminist theories of citizenship to understand and interpret women's engagement in politics.

Natoli, Anna. "Reading my Mother's Care: On the Fringes of a Compassionate and Empathetic Ethic." *Canadian Women's Studies*. Spring/Summer 2010. Vol. 28(2-3). 34.

This is exploratory writing and reflection of the data and documentation of my mother's health records which tracks her care by healthcare practitioners and professionals as a patient/customer/client with cancer. It is an attempt to make visible my difficulty with my mother's death read adjacent to my frustration with my mother's care and is written in a style that lends voice to the tension between "[c]lean and reasonable scholarship about messy, unreasonable experiences" (Tamas paragraph 18). It is also a reflection on what I experience as a tension between the importance and significance, on the one hand, of interprofessional collaboration, a model of health-care which recognizes the importance of a multi-disciplinary healthcare team as a best practice, and interprofessional collaborative care, a model of health-care which recognizes the importance of a multi-disciplinary healthcare team to foster patient-centred care.



Northrup, Tina. "Lyric Scholarship in Controversy: Jan Zwicky and Anne Carson." *Studies in Canadian Literature – Etudes en Litterature Canadienne*. 2012. Vol. 37 (1). 192-214.

Counted among Canada's most influential poet-scholars of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, Jan Zwicky and Anne Carson challenge the conventional distinctions that separate classical scholarship, art criticism, philosophy, and poetry. Although seldom paired by critics, their scholarly and creative methods are comparable, serving as examples of lyric – a term that, through Zwicky's work especially, signifies a contemporary movement in which poets and scholars resist what they see as prescriptive and unethical programs for academic pursuit. By allowing diverse genres of research and writing to infiltrate their writings, Carson and Zwicky have helped bring the political assumptions and cultural ramifications of certain academic conventions to light. Notably, in two controversial critiques of these writers and their work, David Solway and Zach Wells implicitly attribute the lyric approach to a markedly feminine and naive intellectual stance. Particularly in the contexts provided by Carson's and Zwicky's writings, such perspectives betray deep-seated gender prejudices that hinder Canada's artistic and intellectual future.

Peace, Walter. "Falling into Place." Book Review. *Urban History Review*. Vol. 32(2). 66.

Review of Terpstra, John. *Falling into Place*. Kentville: Gaspereau Press, 2002. Pp. 318. Illustrations, maps. \$25.95 (paperback).

"This book is what happens when one person becomes completely enamored of the landscape, and a particular feature of the landscape, in the city where he lives."



Taylor, Bron. "Earthen Spirituality or Cultural Genocide?: Radical Environmentalism's Appropriation of Native American Spirituality." *Religion*. April 1997. Vol. 27(2). 183-215.

The appropriation by non-Indians of Native American religious practices has become a highly contentious phenomenon. The present analysis focuses on the controversy as it has unfolded within the 'Deep Ecology' or 'Radical Environmental' Movement in North America. Taking as its central case study Earth First!, the radical vanguard of this movement, it describes the diverse forms such borrowing takes, the plural American Indian and non-Indian views shaping the ensuing controversy, and the threats this controversy poses to a nascent and fragile Indigenous-Environmentalist alliance. Concluding reflections address the ethics of appropriation with the aim of reducing the tensions attending these phenomena.

FURTHER RESOURCES: INDIGENOUS THEORY, PHILOSOPHY, LITERATURE

Alfred, Taiaiake. *Wasáse: Indigenous Pathways of Action and Freedom*. Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2005. Print.

Anderson, Kim. *A Recognition of Being: Reconstructing Native Womanhood*. Toronto: Second Story Press, 2000. Print.

Battiste, Marie. "Introduction: Unfolding the Lessons of Colonization." *Reclaiming Indigenous Voice and Vision*. Ed. Marie Battiste. Vancouver: UBC P, 2000. xvi-xxx. Print.

Battiste, Marie and James (Sákéj) Youngblood Henderson. *Protecting Indigenous Knowledge and Heritage: A Global Challenge*. Saskatoon: Purich Publishing Ltd., 2000. 21-56. Print.

Dowie, Mark. *Conservation Refugees: the Hundred-year Conflict between Global Conservation and Native Peoples*. Cambridge: MIT, 2009. Print.

Episkenew, Jo-Ann. *Taking Back Our Spirits: Indigenous Literature, Public Policy, and Healing*. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba, 2009. Print.

Ermine, Willie. "The Ethical Space of Engagement." *Indigenous Law* 6.1 (Fall 2007): 193-203. Print.



King, Thomas. "Godzilla vs. Postcolonial." *World Literature Written in English* 30.2 (1990).

Maracle, Lee. "Oratory on Oratory." *Trans.Can.Lit: Resituating the Study of Canadian Literature*. Eds. Smaro Kamboureli and Roy Miki. Waterloo: Wilfred Laurier UP, 2007. 55-70. Print.

Smith, Linda Tuhiwai. *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples*. London: Zed, 1999. Print.

GENDER/ENVIRONMENT

Adamson, Joni. *American Indian Literature, Environmental Justice, and Ecocriticism: the Middle Place*. Tucson: University of Arizona, 2001. Print. Alaimo, Stacy and Susan Hekman. "Introduction: Emerging Models of Materiality in

Feminist Theory." *Material Feminisms*. Eds. Stacy Alaimo and Susan Hekman. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2008. 1-19. Print.

Alaimo, Stacy. "Trans-Corporeal Feminisms and The Ethical Space of Nature." *Material Feminisms*. Eds. Stacy Alaimo and Susan Hekman. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2008. 237-264. Print.

Harvey, Graham. *Animism: Respecting the Living World*. New York: Columbia UP, 2006. Print.

Huggan, Graham, and Helen Tiffin. *Postcolonial Ecocriticism*. New York: Routledge, 2010. Print.

Melosi, Martin V. "Equity, Eco-racism and Environmental History." *Environmental History Review* 19 (Fall 1995): 1-16. Print.

O'Brien, Susie. "Articulating a World of Difference: Ecocriticism, Postcolonialism and Globalization." *Canadian Literature* (Autumn 2001) 170/171: 140-158.

Scharff, Virginia J. "Introduction." *Seeing Nature Through Gender*. Ed. Virginia J. Scharff. Lawrence: UP of Kansas, 2003. xiii-xxii. Print.



CONCLUSIONS

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

There is an abundance of literature on the topics of literature and landscape, eco-poetics, and literary theory. The challenge of this time-limited project was to work through large numbers of search results and identify the sources that might prove most fruitful for the community partners. While the partners provided a list of specific search terms to work from, those proved to pull in very high numbers of articles that were often only very loosely related to the partners' stated interests. For this reason, much of the researcher's time was spent going through search results and selecting pieces that were relevant and possibly useful given the broader context in which they would be used and consulted. For this element of the research, the ReMediate project description and several interpersonal conversations with the community partners were very helpful in lending further context for the literature search.

The resources collected here could be useful to a range of artists, scholars, and other interested readers. The scope of topics and theoretical fields that are scanned here could be of use to people working, for example, in the field of public art and writing; environmental art and activism; indigenous histories and justice; and colonial/postcolonial gender studies.

LIMITATIONS OF THE REPORT

Due to the nature and purpose of this research – a time-limited scan that was meant to pull potentially helpful resources for the poetry writing element of the ReMediate project – it does not provide synthesis or analysis of the resources it has gathered. Rather, it provides a list of resources and, for those identified as potentially more relevant to the community partners' research request, uses brief passages from the articles to signal their content and scope. This bibliography provides an overview of available resources for further research, rather than setting out to perform the analysis itself.



REFERENCES

“ReMediate.” *Christina Kingsbury*. Web. Accessed March 1, 2014.