

REREADING THE MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN

CFP: Due August 10, 2018

For Vladimir Nabokov, the process of re-reading is always constructive: “A good reader, a major reader, an active and creative reader is a rereader.”¹ For Patricia Meyer Spacks, re-reading—though satisfying for pure literary analysis—can reveal unwelcome truths about the past, and cause disenchantment with works we used to love.² While a first reading depends (primarily) on the expectation of pleasure (of a vicarious or hermeneutic kind), re-reading draws on critical self-awareness. According to Michael Riffaterre, only a second and separate retroactive reading can produce “significance” by identifying and reconfiguring the various perspectives of the text.³ Thomas Leitch argues that re-readings allow for an “appreciation of the story through an analysis of the ways in which it achieves its initial effects.”⁴ If we all already know what will happen in medieval and early modern texts, what changes for us when we return to them? Do different words, phrases, symbols, and ideas become important when refocused by class, gender, and race? How do these texts have different meanings when read in different contexts? Are re-readings better readings? This panel aims to examine the process of re-reading the medieval and early modern, in revisitations and adaptations.

Proposals are invited for 20-minute papers on any aspect of modern-day re-readings of the medieval and/or early modern periods.

Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Adaptation in popular culture (such as in comics, novels, children’s literature/YA fiction, and cinema/television)
- Adaptation through translation
- Adaptation and genre
- Adaptation and medievalism/early-modernism
- The relationship between history and fantasy fiction (such as JRR Tolkien, George RR Martin, Ursula Le Guin, and Robin McKinley, or less canonical authors!)
- The relationship between history and historical fiction
- Reader-response/reception theory, and/or cross-cultural explorations
- Fan culture

We are committed to ANZAMEMS’ stance on equity and diversity and hope to have a diverse group of panellists.

Please email your completed proposal to BOTH mgerzic@gmail.com and jennifer.nicholson@sydney.edu.au by **August 10, 2018**.

When submitting a proposal, you will need to include the following information:

- Name
- Affiliation (if any)
- Preferred email
- Is there a day(s) of the conference on which you will NOT be able to give your paper? (The committee will work to accommodate your request.)

¹ Vladimir Nabokov, *Lectures on Literature*, ed. Fredson Bowers (New York: Harvest Books, 1982), 3.

² Patricia Meyer Spacks, *On Re-Reading* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2011).

³ Michael Riffaterre, *Semiotics of Poetry* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1978), 81 ff.

⁴ Thomas Leitch, “For [Against] a Theory of Rereading,” *MFS: Modern Fiction Studies* 33.3 (Fall 1987): 491–508 (at 494).

- Do you have any audiovisual requirements?
- Abstract (up to 300 words)

This panel will convene at the ANZAMEMS conference on 5-8 February 2019 at the University of Sydney, Australia. Please visit <https://anzamemsconference2019.wordpress.com/> for further conference information as needed.