

IHSS Research Seminar Program 2023

Structures of Feeling in *Too Much Lip* and *The Yield*

Associate Professor Maggie Nolan (University of Queensland)

Co-chairs: Dr Kristie Flannery and Dr Killian Quigley

Tuesday 5 September, 12-1pm AEST

To be held in room 460.3.01 and online via Teams

Abstract: This paper considers two significant recent Australian novels by Indigenous women, Melissa Lucashenko's *Too Much Lip* (2018) and Tara June Winch's *The Yield* (2019). Although different in tone and style, there are a number of striking similarities in what we might call these "novels of return" including that in successive years (2019 and 2020), both won Australia's most prestigious literary prize, the Miles Franklin Literary Award, given to a novel of the highest literary merit that "presents Australian life in any of its phases". The paper explores the similarities between these award-winning novels and suggests that this might reflect what Raymond Williams called an emergent "structure of feeling". This paper revisits Raymond Williams' idea of culture, and specifically his theorisation of a "structure of feeling", in order to think through the role of literature in responding to and articulating cultural change.

Bio: Maggie Nolan is, since July 2023, an Associate Professor of Digital Cultural Heritage in the School of Communication and Arts at the University of Queensland. She is also the incoming Director of AustLit, a bibliographical database housed at UQ. Prior to that, she was based in the National School of Arts and Humanities at ACU for two decades. Her research is in the broad field of Australian literary cultures, and she has published on contemporary Indigenous literature, hoaxes and impostures, and cultures of reading. Her most recent project is on Irishness in Australian literature, and she is a CI on an ARC Discovery Grant for this project with Ronan McDonald at University of Melbourne and Kath Bode at ANU.

