

Editorial

Trajectories of Desire/GSDS Takes Sides

‘GSDS takes sides—we write history from below, we redress exclusions from the canon, we appreciate lived experience as a crucial voice in the making of expert knowledge, we question divisions between the private and public and what that means for our bodies and lives, and we unpack the bias embedded in power/knowledge relations that are dressed as value neutral and grounded in Reason.’

– Carolyn D’Cruz, [‘Taking responsibility for Gender Sexuality and Diversity Studies’](#)

Writing from Below was conceived in the final throes of La Trobe University’s Gender, Sexuality, and Diversity Studies (GSDS) postgraduate symposium in December 2012, ‘*Desire Lines*’. After a keynote by [Marion May Campbell](#), and a series of papers from La Trobe academics and postgraduates from across the disciplinary spectrum, a plenary was organised to discuss [the future of GSDS at La Trobe](#). The success of the day was clear, but we were baffled. How did we all not know about each other? Most of us had never met before, despite being engaged in very similar research areas—namely those that intersected with GSDS.

There was a sense that we needed a space to speak from, to gather in, to write through, and that an open access journal might be exactly what was needed. Over the last six months, and many editorial meetings, the journal has grown from an idea to a reality. This is in no small part due to the willingness of [La Trobe University’s library](#) to provide us with access to [Open Journal Systems software](#), and to put up with our many requests for support and clarification while we loaded our content. Special thanks must go to our Digital Infrastructure Manager, Simon Huggard, who has been patient, and kind, and passionate

about our project. Special thanks, also, must go to our esteemed [Advisory Board](#), whose members have been so encouraging and supportive of our endeavour.

Almost from its conception, a core issue for *Writing from Below* has been its status as an open access journal. Avoiding print models and eschewing paywalls means that we are able to create iterations of this journal that credit this ghostly and yet ever-present form. Our first issue operates as a proof of concept, showing that *Writing from Below* is not an attempt to generate an inter-disciplinary conversation focussed on issues of gender, sexuality, and diversity, but rather it is a space to facilitate the conversations that are already occurring, fractured and disembodied, across the academic community.

And now to our inaugural issue, *Trajectories of Desire*, named after Marion May Campbell's *Desire Lines* keynote, 'Trajectories of Desire in Genet and Witting'. This exquisite paper operates as a bravura performance of the kinds of interdisciplinary conversations that we hope to support and encourage as we move into publishing subsequent issues. We are grateful to Marion May Campbell for offering now, as then, the first word; opening and broadcasting the dialogue as deftly and muscularly as is done here in 'Trajectories of Desire in Genet and Wittig'. On behalf of the editorial team, we would like to thank Marion May Campbell for the opportunity to publish her work.

We are now [calling for papers](#) for our second issue, the theme of which follows our title: *Writing from Below*. We encourage authors to think broadly about what writing from below means, about all the ways that writing and researching differently from within the academy creates change. Artists, independent researchers, those of you whose work slips between genres and creates ruptures: do not exclude yourselves. If you think that your work belongs here, then it probably does. We look forward to reading your submissions, and hope you enjoy our first issue.

Karina Quinn and Nicholas Cowley

Managing Editors, *Writing from Below*
