

**Relations of Power and Competing Knowledges
Within the Academy:
Creative Writing as Research**

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Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to explore the politics of discourse within Australian universities with particular reference to the position of creative writing as a research discipline. My thesis argues that some discourses have more power than others, with the effect that some forms of knowledge are seen as valid research and others as invalid, at least in research terms.

Academic research has been increasingly dichotomised in the short history of research in Australian universities through issues of public versus private funding, and university concern for sector autonomy. The growing influence on university research, stemming from a global market economy, is one that privileges applied research. Creative writing's position within a basic/applied dichotomy is tenuous as its practitioners vie for a place in the shrinking autonomous research sector of universities.

I show the philosophical understanding of creativity (with specific reference to creative writing) from a historical perspective and explore this understanding in the current climate. This understanding of creativity confounds creative writing's position as research, for this highlights the obstacles faced in certifying it as a valid form of knowledge. I investigate the current status of creative writing in the area of university research in relation to research equivalence, and examine the terminology, the social structures and individual experiences surrounding creative writing as a form of research.

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List of Abbreviations

AAH	Australian Academy of the Humanities
AAWP	Australian Association of Writing Programs
ALP	Australian Labor Party
ARC	Australian Research Council
AUC	Australian Universities Commission
AVCC	Australian Vice-Chancellor's Committee
CHASS	Council for Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DCA	Doctor of Creative Arts
DEET	Department of Employment, Education and Training
DEETYA	Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs
DEST	Department of Education, Science and Training
DETYA	Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HEC	Higher Education Council
IGS	Institutional Grants Scheme
NBEET	National Board of Employment, Education and Training
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NRP	National Research Priorities
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
RQ	Research Quantum
RRTMR	Research and Research Training Management Report
RTS	Research Training Scheme
SET	Science, Engineering and Technology
SS&H	Social Science and Humanities
TEC	Tertiary Education Commission
UTS	University of Technology, Sydney