



Narratives in the Anthropocene era

Charles Travis, Vittorio Valentino (Eds.)

Fire and Form: First Nation Eco-Georgic Practices in "Borri is Fire Waru is Fire" by Lionel Fogarty

Trevor Donovan¹

Abstract

This article develops the idea of an Eco-Georgic literature based on the use of fire as a tool in the agricultural practices of Australian First Nations. It confronts our preconceived expectation of what constitutes a Georgic Landscape with the reality of the environment. In this regard, the article demonstrates that a phenomenological experience of the georgic is influenced by the literary representation of the Georgic and vice versa. The aim is to show that the use of fire as a tool in agriculture responds not only to the definition of the Eco-Georgic, but its representation in poetry contributes to an ecocritical approach to literature.

Keywords: Fire, Agriculture, Poetry, Representation, Eco-Georgic.

Works cited

Bliege Bird, R. *et al.*, September 2008, "The 'fire stick farming' hypothesis: Australian Aboriginal foraging strategies, biodiversity, and anthropogenic fire mosaics", *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, National Academy of Sciences, 105, 39, 14796-14801. URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/25464315>. Tuesday 15 December, 2020.

Bowman, D., November 1998, "Tansley Review no. 101. The impact of Aboriginal Landscape Burning on the Australian Biota", *The New Phytologist*, Wiley on behalf on the New Phytologist Trust, 140, 3, 385-410. URL: <https://jstor.org/stable/2588473>. Tuesday 15 December, 2020.

Clark, G., June 2003, "Rethinking Literary Ecology: Social Ecology, Anarchism and the Poetry of John Kinsella", *Antipodes*, Wayne State University Press, 17, 13-20. URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41957258>. Tuesday 08 December, 2020.

Clark, T., 2012, Old World Romanticism. In: *The Cambridge Introduction to Literature and the Environment*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 15-24. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511976261.004>. Wednesday 21 April, 2021

Cooke, S., 2013, Tracing a Trajectory from Songpoetry to Contemporary Aboriginal Poetry. In: Wheeler, B., (Ed.), *A Companion to Australian Aboriginal Literature*, Boydell and Brewer, Rochester & Suffolk, 89-106.

Cronon, W., January 1996, "The Trouble with Wilderness: Or, Getting Back to the Wrong Nature", *Environmental History*, 1, 1, 7-28. URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/3985059>. Tuesday 23 March, 2021.

Fairer, D., 2011, "'Where Fuming Trees Refresh the Thirsty Air': The World of Eco-Georgic", *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 40, 201-218. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1353/sec.2011.0006>. 17 December, 2020.

¹ Sorbonne Université, Paris ; e-mail : tsdo1979@gmail.com.



Narratives in the Anthropocene era

Charles Travis, Vittorio Valentino (Eds.)

Fallon, P., (ed.), 2004, *Oxford's World Classics: Virgil: Georgics Book 2*, Oxford University Press; Oxford's World Classics, online July 2015. URL: <https://www.oxfordscholarlyeditions.com/view/10.1093/actrade/9780199538836.book.1/actrade-9780199538836-book-1>. Wednesday 21 April, 2021.

Fogarty, L.G., 2014, "Borri is Fire Waru is Fire", *Eelahroo (Long Ago) Nyah (Looking) Möbö-Möbö (Future)*, Vagabond Press, New South Wales.

Heinzelman, K., Summer 1991, "Roman Georgic in the Georgian Age: A Theory of Romantic Genre", *Texas Studies in Literature and Language*, University of Texas Press, 33, 2, Romans and Romantics, 182-214. URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/40753554>. Tuesday 08 December, 2020.

Indyk, I., 1993, "Pastoral and Priority, The Aboriginal in Australian Pastoral", *New Literary History*, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 24, 4, Papers from the Commonwealth Center for Literary Cultural Change, 837-855. URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/469397>. Sunday 20 December, 2020.

Johnson, C., September 1986, "Guerilla Poetry: Lionel Fogarty's Response to Language Genocide", *Westerly*, 31, 3, 47-55. URL: https://westerlymag.com.au/digital_archives/westerly-313/. Wednesday 21 April, 2021.

Jones, R., 2012, "Fire-stick farming", *Fire Ecology*, 8, 3, 3-8. Reprinted from *Australian Natural History* (September 1969), 16, 7, 224-228. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF03400623>. Wednesday 21 April, 2021.

Kerridge, R., 2013, *Ecocritical Approaches to Literary Form and Genre: Urgency, Depth, Provisionality, Temporality*. In: Garrard, G., (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Ecocriticism*. DOI: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199742929.013.020. Wednesday 21 April, 2021.

Kinsella, J., Summer 2004, "Is There and Australian Pastoral ?", *The Georgia Review*, Georgia Review, 58, 2, 347-368. URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/41402499>. Tuesday 08 December, 2020.

Latour, B., 2014, "Agency at the Time of the Anthropocene", *New Literary History*, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 45, 1, 1-18. URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/24542578>. 14 December, 2020.

Muller, S., Hemming, S., Rigney, D., November 2019, "Indigenous sovereignties: relational ontologies and environmental management", *Geographical Research*, 57, 4, 399-410. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-5871.12362>. Wednesday 21 April, 2021.

Rigby, K., 2013, *Romanticism and Ecocriticism*. In: Garrard, G., (Ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Ecocriticism*, Oxford University Press, Oxford. DOI: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199742929.013.003. Wednesday 21 April, 2021.

Rose, D. R., 1996, *Nourishing Terrains, Australian Aboriginal Views of Landscape and Wilderness*, Australian Heritage Commission, Canberra. URL: https://www.academia.edu/43504044/Deborah_Bird_Rose_-_Nourishing_Terrains_Australian_Aboriginal_views_of_landscape_and_wilderness

[Nourishing Terrains Australian Aboriginal views of landscape and wilderness](https://www.academia.edu/43504044/Deborah_Bird_Rose_-_Nourishing_Terrains_Australian_Aboriginal_views_of_landscape_and_wilderness) Wednesday 21 April, 2021.

Ryan, J.C., 2015, "'No More Boomerang': Environment and Technology in Contemporary Aboriginal Australian Poetry", *Humanities*, 4, 938-957. DOI: 10.3390/h4040938.

Shoemaker, A., 2004, *The Poetry of Politics: Australian Aboriginal Verse*. In *Black Words White Page: New Edition*, ANU Press, Canberra, 178-230. URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt2jbkhp.13>. Wednesday 28 October, 2020.



Geographies
of the
Anthropocene



PEER-REVIEWED
SERIES

ISSN 2611-3171

IL Sileno
Edizioni

Narratives in the Anthropocene era

Charles Travis, Vittorio Valentino (Eds.)

Xiangzhan, C., Autumn 2010, "Ecoaesthetics and ecocriticism", *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, Oxford University Press, 17, 4. URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/44087678>. Tuesday 08 December, 2020.