**Research Seminar by Representatives of Monash University**

**Week 8 – Wednesday 2nd March 2011 1.05pm**

**Room H502 (Senior Common Room)**

**Sue Kossew - Home and Away: Teaching (World) Literature in an Australian Context**

Abstract: How do contemporary English Departments respond to the challenges of teaching English Literature not just in an ex-outpost of the British Empire like Australia but also within current global contexts? Not only have the production, publication and distribution of literary texts been forever changed by the internet and its global reach, but the whole concept of national identity as a fixed or definable category for writers and their writing has been under reconstruction and reconsideration. It seems that wherever we are, we are always both ‘home’ and ‘away’.

This paper provides a brief survey of Australia within a ‘world literary space’ and how we at Monash have adapted our English curriculum accordingly.

**Chandani Lokuge - Rethinking the Role of Diasporic Literary Imaginaries in the Context of World Literature**

Abstract:This presentation outlines the controversial role that postcolonial diasporic literatures assume in reconfiguring traditional English literature, and the ways in which this canon of ‘new’ literatures enriches the research and pedagogy of our Literary and Creative Writing programmes at Monash University.

**Lynette Russell - Indigenous and Native, Newcomers and Others: A consideration of the role of Aboriginal narratives, stories, characters and language in (post)colonial Australian fiction and literature.**

Abstract:One of the most contentious, debated and disputed areas of Australian literature has surrounded the ‘right’ to tell stories that include an Aboriginal component. Some authors, so concerned with not appearing culturally insensitive, colonialist or appropriationist, have vowed to write literature only from a European or white perspective. In this presentation I will discuss the problematic nature of this and a number of potential ways out of the black/ white, colonizer/ colonized divide. In particular I will consider how our Literary Studies and Creative Writing programmes at Monash University has engaged with this issue and has led to the production of culturally sensitive and politically engaged new literature.