

# CONFERENCE: LAND OF HOPE AND TOIL

WEDNESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2021

Conference can be accessed via YouTube: <https://youtu.be/oJi6uZi8Xlc>

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Nottingham Trent University & Kwantlen Polytechnic University are delighted to announce their first conference together: 'Land of Hope and Toil'. In a world where cultural identity is at the forefront of most discussions, literature is key in shaping it for many people. Canadian cultural identity in particular is a rich mix of Indigenous Canadians & immigrants from many other countries. This shapes what we refer to as Canadian literature, with its many different linguistic & cultural communities. This one-day conference will explore the different aspects of Canadian Literature & how it relates to Canadian Cultural Identity, & if you can say that 'Canadian Literature' exists.

## SCHEDULE:

10:00 – Introductions with Nathan Trotman

10:15 – Guest speaker – Valentina De Riso. 'Indigenous Literatures in Canada.'

11:15 – Flash talks from students of Kwantlen Polytechnic University and a presentation by Elmo Moorby

12:15 – Break

12:45 – Round Table discussion – 'What is Canadian literature?' with John Lewell, Pat Gil and Red Smith

13:45 - Break

14:00 – Guest Speaker – Sara De Waard: Permission to Speak

15:00 – Break

15:10 – Guest Speaker – Evan Jones: Before our eyes in oceanic light: reading Canadian poetry transatlantically'.

16:10 – Outro and Journal information - Nathan Trotman and Abby De Witt.

16:30 – Workshop via Microsoft Teams. 'What does Identity mean to you? This can be accessed via Teams here: <https://bit.ly/3nPi8yM>

Audience members will be able to ask questions during the event via our social media and YouTube chat.



### Valentina De Riso: Indigenous Literatures in Canada

Valentina de Riso is a Vice Chancellor's Scholarship PhD student at NTU. Her research focuses on contemporary writings by First Nations, Métis, and Inuit women who challenge and re-think models for testimony and Indigenous-settler relations in Canada. This talk addresses the conference's theme of literary nationalism(s) by situating Indigenous literature and its relationship to Canadian literature. Valentina discusses how contemporary writings by Indigenous women in Canada articulate Indigenous identity and bolster Indigenous national sovereignty and cultural resurgence.

### Sara De Waard: Permission to Speak

Some would maintain that Canada has a reputation as a cultural mosaic, rather than a melting pot. Seeing as we don't necessarily have a collective identity, does this imply permission to express ourselves more freely? The presentation explores what all of this means for me personally and how I reached the point of publishing my first Young Adult novel *White Lies*.

### Evan Jones: Before our eyes in oceanic light: reading Canadian poetry transatlantically'

Evan Jones is a Canadian poet who has lived in Manchester since 2005. He has PhD in English from the university of Manchester. He has published three collections: *Nothing fell Today but Rain* (2005), *Paralogues* (2012) and *Later Emperors* (2020).

### John lewell: What is Canadian Literature? The Insurmountable Question

The question: what is Canadian literature? From the critical perspective of John Lewell, a second-year creative writing student at Nottingham Trent University, an ambassador of the Writing Reading and Wrap programme, a performance poet, and a writer.

### Pat Gill

The concernments of nature and culture of indigenous people in Canada among the Modern Native Americans based on traditional stories of the Sioux tribe in the book *The Grass Dancer*, written by Susan Power and published in 1994.

### Red Smith

A talk on the philosophy of identity in relation to the status of Canadian literature, looking at the history of Canadian culture and llaw.