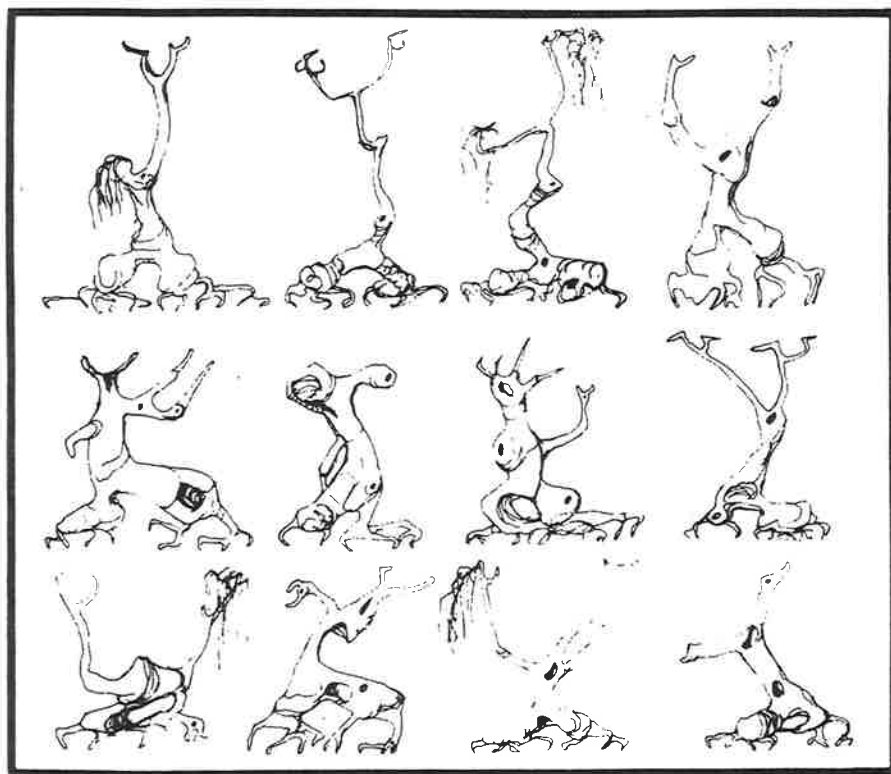


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Australian-Canadian Studies is the official journal of ACSANZ. It is a refereed journal of both the Humanities and the Social Sciences and focuses specifically on comparative, interdisciplinary research in these areas. Its aim is to provide a forum for intellectual debate and information exchange in Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

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editorial

This fourth issue of *Australian-Canadian Studies* (ACS), as previous subscribers will note, brings with it important changes in both format and scope. ACS is now being produced in Brisbane: our Editorial Committee brings together colleagues from both Queensland and Griffith Universities; and our new Editorial Board is wide ranging — across disciplines and with members from Australia, New Zealand and Canada. In Addition, ACS has become the official journal of ACSANZ — the Association for Canadian Studies in Australia and New Zealand — and so consolidates previously diversified Canadian Studies enterprises in Australia and New Zealand, while at the same time promoting discussion and debate of a comparative nature on issues of concern to our three countries. Finally, and most importantly, now includes material from the Humanities as well as the Social Sciences.

Some things, however, haven't altered. ACS is still a refereed journal, and like our LaTrobe predecessors, we plan to continue the interdisciplinary nature of the journal and hope to generate a cross-fertilisation between the two broad areas of the Humanities and the Social Sciences. Our ambit, therefore, is a broad one: although ACS will publish articles from single disciplines or articles which focus solely on one country, we seek, more particularly, to develop interdisciplinary and/or comparative perspectives — articles which range across social, political and cultural issues in Canada/Australia/New Zealand and research that looks outside the traditional demarcations of a Humanities or Social Science discipline to some common ground.

Events like the ACSANZ Conferences spark this kind of energy and create a forum for interrelation and dialogue on larger cultural and international concerns. This special issue of ACS is very much a creature of ACSANZ '86, the Third Biennial Conference of the Association, held at Griffith University, May 13-15, 1986. The Conference was a testament to the ongoing viability and generation of Canadian Studies in Australia and New Zealand, and featured papers from wide-ranging perspectives: Politics and Native Peoples Issues; Management/Administration; Literature and Cultural Studies; Science, Technology and Development; Law and Politics; Social Policy; Communications and Cultural Policy; and History. (Some of the articles from these diverse areas will appear in future issues of ACS.) An additional dimension to the eclectic nature of the Conference was the contribution of Daphne Marlatt, Betsy Warland, Nicole Brossard, Robert Kroetsch, George Bowering, Doug Barbour and Connie Rooke; these Canadian writers provided commentary throughout the sessions and came together to present an evening of readings which was a highlight of the Conference.

The keynote speakers for the plenary sessions also represented an amalgam of interests, while all addressing the Conference theme — The Search for New Futures: Issues and Debates in Science and Technology, Cultural Studies, Social and Economic Policy. That the ACSANZ centre stage ranged from art and literary

history to political commentary and sociological analysis is an appropriate indication of the eclecticism of Canadian Studies. The different interests, personalities and styles of the speakers are reflected in their papers, which we reproduce here much as they were presented at the Conference.

As a collection, these papers illustrate that a focus on issues of national concern can create a loose but interconnected agenda for debate. The opening contribution by Stuart Smith shows that the need for an industrial strategy is well recognised, not just as a question of technology but also as an issue which involves questions of political organisation and institutional mobilisation. Wally Clement touches on similar problems but adds to them an analysis of the class dimension, an analysis which, as discussion at the Conference indicated, raises a further set of debates about the tactics for such mobilisation and organisation.

Bill New's paper looks at the history of the short story in Canada and links this with the broader implications involved in determining a theoretical methodology in the writing of literary history. As usual, Bill raises new, important questions that need to be addressed in any consideration of post-colonial literary theory.

Arthur Kroker's paper discusses the use of technological vision in Canadian art. Although Arthur's superb slide presentation can't be reproduced to great effect here, his comments on the amalgamation of two seemingly disparate media — technology and art — make an important statement on the future of artistic endeavour, not only in Canada, but also internationally.

Bruce Hodgins also discusses the impact of technology; his concern, however, is with the technological exploitation of resources and native peoples as a theme in the history of white settler-societies in Canada and Australia. Finally, Colin Campbell's paper moves from these wider areas to consider the nuts and bolts of government decision-making processes.

The plenary sessions of the Conference were enlivened by the contributions of invited commentators. We were pleased that Barry Jones, the federal minister for Science, was able to attend the opening sessions and introduce Stuart Smith. While his comments lose a great deal without the panache and wit of his delivery, we felt it was worthwhile to reproduce his remarks as they indicate the range of possible comparisons between Australia and Canada (from the sublime to the ridiculous!). His Excellency Ed Schreyer, Canadian High Commissioner to Australia, stimulated much discussion with his introductory remarks to Colin Campbell's paper. And Ian Lowe's comments on Arthur Kroker's paper, expanded here as a Review Essay, show the possibilities of interdisciplinary links of the kind that we wish to encourage.

Both ACSANZ and the Griffith School of Humanities have generously donated substantial resources to the journal for the next three years of its operation. This provides us with the opportunity to realise one of our major goals — that *Australian-Canadian Studies* become a major resource for interdisciplinary studies in Canada/Australia/New Zealand. To this end, we will incorporate a number of new features that we hope will be a useful summary and guide to debates, issues and events in these areas. Starting with this issue, we will be expanding the review section, and have added a new section entitled 'Endnotes' which will

include shorter notices both of books and events and other items of interest.

In future issues, we plan to develop further this resource aspect of the journal. In particular, we will be providing a space for commentary and dispute among readers — appropriately entitled 'Taking Issue' — in addition to the longer polemic material of our regular Review Essay.

In our view, those of us who work in Canadian/Australian/New Zealand Studies, both in and outside these countries, have a particular contribution to make from our various perspectives on cultural, sociological and political issues. ACS will both amplify and scrutinise these perspectives.