

Tuesday, July 12th
An invitation

The Victorian Association for the Teaching of English and the Melbourne Graduate School of Education invite you to attend this evening of presentations from world leading experts in English education.



Professor John Yandell – Institute of Education, University of London
“Dead for 400 Years... But Still ‘Living’: Teaching Shakespeare in the 21st Century

The study of Shakespeare has been a compulsory staple of the UK national English curriculum for the past 25 years. As conservative politicians and educationists argued, a study of great canonical national literature makes for good patriotic (and, no doubt, docile) citizens and ‘nation building’. Just the ticket for an increasingly multicultural society and the learning needs and interests of its diverse student cohort.

But, as John Yandell argues in ‘Agency and the canon: Your Shakespeare, everybody’s Shakespeare’ enterprising and resourceful teachers always find ‘room to manoeuvre’ between what policy outcomes dictate and practice actually delivers. His experiences as a teacher and teacher educator suggest that students can be creative, intellectually curious and critical in their multifaceted study of Shakespeare: in so doing they can arrive at ‘an appreciation of their own power over the text, the validity of their readings and their meanings’.

Professor Andy Goodwyn – University of Reading
“Not what it says in any National Curriculum for English: a new paradigm for teaching literature to adolescents in secondary schools - examining literary reading from a Darwinian perspective.”

Secondary schools in England are once more grappling with a revised National Curriculum for English and revised examinations at 16 and 18. In a similar way to the Australian curriculum, one stated aim is that all students will ‘appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage’. Although there is some attention to the idea of ‘world literature’ the overall aim, expressed in Key Stage Four, is that students should ‘read and appreciate the depth and power of the English literary heritage’, making it clear what ‘our’ means above, it is a nationalistic project for England.

Empirical studies of literary reading have begun to accumulate over the last 25 years although the ‘Scientific Study’ of literature is relatively new. This paper will draw on empirical studies but also review recent developments in ‘Literary Darwinism’, specifically their implications for teaching literature in schools, both in England and Australia.



Event Details

Where: 234 Queensberry St, Carlton Level 2, Room Q219

When: Tuesday, July 12th

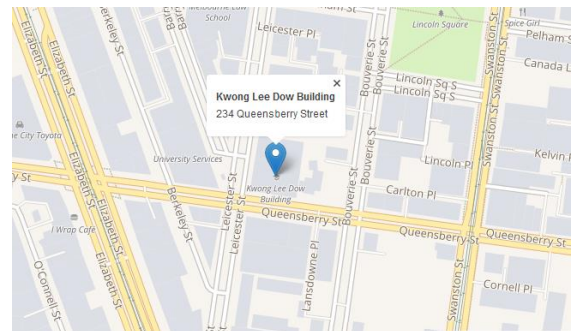
4-5pm Professor Andy Goodwyn

5-5:30pm Light refreshments

5:30-7pm Professor John Yandell

Cost: Free attendance for 2016 Individual VATE Members.

\$15 for 2016 Institutional VATE Members.



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