

Urban Futures Symposium

Candidate: Anne Carson (3MR)

School: Media and Communication

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Presentation: George Sand (and Me): An Auto/Biography

This thesis blends poetry, personal and critical reflection, in an autotheory essay form (Fournier, 2021) to interweave three key creative writing practice drivers: feminist politics; poetic auto/biographical form; and writing process (through synchronicity/serendipity methodology). Using a 'poetics of restitution', my creative and critical work contributes to George Sand's restoration as a significant figure in a lineage of creative women of accomplishment. Sand was a pre-eminent literary figure in the French Romantic movement, an 'idealist' (Schor, 1993), despite the 'realist' tenor of her times, who used innovative novel forms to further her socio-political agenda.

My creative practice research is driven by 'reparative' aesthetics (Best, 2016, Sedgwick, 2002 & Klein, n.d.) and is represented by the metaphor of 'suturing', with multiple functions – cohering an auto-self fractured by my own trauma, restitution of my 'idealist' poetics, historical reparation of Sand's literary ('idealist') legacy, and a lens through which her contribution can be understood and appreciated.

I explore how the affordances of poetry, particularly 'segmentivity' (DuPlessis, 1996), and the possibility of multiple first-person voices, give the poetic biographical form agility, and opportunities for innovation.



Artwork by Deborah Klein