

Research Directions

Office of Research Services

Western Sydney Writing Projects

Professor Ivor Indyk from the Writing and Society Research Group has been awarded a Western Sydney Strategic Initiatives grant by Arts NSW to identify and encourage writing of merit in the Western Sydney region.



'Writing in the Western Sydney region has been neglected by arts funding agencies in favour of the visual and performing arts, largely because the mixed cultural make-up of the region makes it difficult for the language-based arts to have a general appeal' says Professor Indyk. 'Arts NSW is now seeking to correct this imbalance by funding writing projects such as the one we have embarked on.'

This project will provide much-needed knowledge about the specific kinds of writing being done in the Western Sydney region. There is a special focus on writing by authors of migrant background, particularly those of Arabic background in the first instance, and of those who write in media which lie outside the mainstream forms of dissemination and publication. Here the task is to identify quality writing in the new technologies, zines, blogs, and other forms of electronically transmitted text, in order to define its characteristics, and provide support for the most talented practitioners.

A series of colloquia and workshops will emerge from this work. The first series has brought young writers, artists and thinkers of Arabic background in Western Sydney together with visiting intellectuals from Beirut. A masterclass for emerging Western Sydney writers has begun in collaboration with the Powerhouse Youth Theatre at Fairfield, and students in writing and performance at UWS. The knowledge of contemporary writing practices gained from these and other initiatives will form the basis of a larger research project exploring the relationships between contemporary writing practice and the literary traditions both of this country, and of the countries from which many of the practitioners have come.

Project Title: *Western Sydney Writing Projects 'Conditions of Possibility' and 'Technologies of Writing'*

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<http://www.uws.edu.au/research/writingandsociety>

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