

A 'DOUBLE DIALOGUES' INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS ON THE THEME OF WHY DO THINGS BREAK?

We invite you to consider why do things break, fall apart, fall down, disintegrate, splinter, corrode, degenerate, devolve?

Think: break out, break into, break up, break around, break from, break down.

Think: families, relationships, institutions, communities, buildings, walls and boundaries

Think: ideological contexts – political, economic, religious, ethical, intellectual, social, sexual, artistic movements or revolutions

People from all art forms and disciplines are invited.

It is open to participants to present within one artform alone, for instance, simply the reading of a poem or a display of images or a theatrical monologue. It is also open to participants to work collaboratively in multiple art forms, for example, a reading of a poem related to 'Why Do Things Break?' accompanied by a dance or by images (still or moving); a performance or enactment accompanied by music or lighting or installation; or even a scene from a play pitted against a reading of a short story or of a director's running commentary.

Background Note

In October 2016, Double Dialogues in conjunction with J.M. Coetzee Centre for Creative Practice, The University of Adelaide, celebrated twenty years of Double Dialogues with an event held at the J.M. Coetzee Centre for Creative Practice, The University of Adelaide on "Creativity: Why Do Things Break?"

This event is an extension of the earlier event and is being held at a venue designed to attract international participation:

WHERE: THE NATIONAL OPERA CENTER, 330 SEVENTH AVENUE,
CHELSEA, NEW YORK

WHEN: THURSDAY TO SATURDAY, 20, 21, 22 APRIL 2017

Ideas for embracing the theme of 'Why Do Things Break?'

In writing or presenting a creative piece, you may be engaging indirectly with the creative process itself as Ted Hughes does in Thought Fox. Discussions may probe the following kinds of questions, for example:

- * Why do artforms change or break in the Arts across time?
- * To what extent do shifts in subject-matter break and restructure creative techniques?

- * What is the role of thought and feeling in shaping/breaking/dissolving artistic forms?
 - * Again, how does subversion of prevailing artistic ideals or standards shape/break/dissolve artistic practice?
 - * What about the act of breaking? Do we make broken things or are they just broken? And who is the 'we' that makes and breaks?
 - * What forces drive the world's relentless breaking? What makes us broken and breaks the things we make?
- How have others considered the question "Why do things break?"
- * "If scientific analysis is a process of breaking down, then artistic analysis is one of breaking into" [anonymous]
 - * "The shell must break before the bird can fly" [Alfred Tennyson]
 - ** "I broke something today and I realized I should break something once a week...to remind me how fragile life is" [Andy Warhol]
 - * "Habit is a cable; we weave a thread of it each day, and at last we cannot break it" [Horace Mann]
 - * "Sticks and stones may break my bones, But words can never hurt me" [nursery rhyme]
 - * "However long the night, dawn will break" [proverb]
 - * "Madness need not be all breakdown. It may also be breakthrough" [R.D. Laing]
 - * "A wise architect observed that you could break the laws of...art provided you had mastered them first" [Reinhold Niebuhr]
 - * "Easy to break the mirror; less easy to see oneself" [Charles de Leusse]
 - * "...pain is the breaking of the shell that encloses...understanding" [Kahlil Gibran]
 - * "Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
All the King's soldiers and all the King's men
Couldn't put Humpty together again" [nursery rhyme]

Publication: Double Dialogue conferences are typically followed with contributions to our two online journal issues, *Double Dialogues* and *In/Stead*, and a thematic book of essays.

Co-Conveners/Editors

Emerita Prof Ann McCulloch, Deakin University, Executive Editor: Double Dialogues

Dr R.A. Goodrich, The University of Melbourne

Dr Tony Hood: Project and Web Producer

Dr Dominique Hecq, Independent Scholar and Writer

Dr Paul Monaghan, University of Ottawa, Canada

Dr Kathryn Keeble, Deakin University