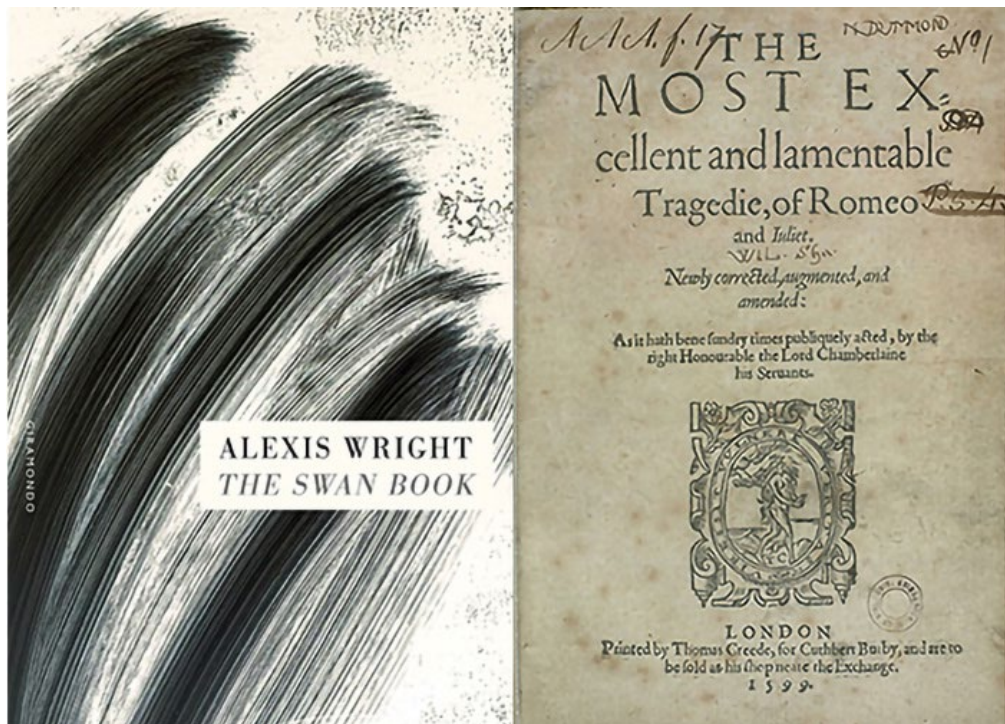


Writing & Society Research Centre Seminar Program
'Writing by the River'

The Whole and the Part: *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Swan Book*
Anthony Uhlmann



This paper draws on concepts of knowledge from Spinoza and concepts of continuous and discontinuous being to examine elements of literary form. It involves readings of William Shakespeare and Alexis Wright to shed light on how literature operates as a mode of thinking.

Further, the paper will consider the concept of 'theme' and how works can be considered to encompass an individuality or disposition, drawing on Bergson, Bachelard, Ruyer. It will further touch on Spinoza's reading of adequate and inadequate ideas to posit how works might lead audiences to think actively or react passively. This is a work in progress, rather than a fully complete paper and so involves elements of speculation.

DATE: Friday 19 June

TIME: 11:00am - 12:30pm

VENUE: Western Sydney University Parramatta City Campus - 169 Macquarie Street, Parramatta. Level 9, Conference Room 4 (just outside Parramatta train station).

RSVP for face-to-face attendance via [Humanitix](#). To attend online please register [here](#).

ALL WELCOME!

ANTHONY UHLMANN is Distinguished Professor of Literature at Western Sydney University. He is the author of four monographs: *Beckett and Poststructuralism* (CUP, 1999), *Samuel Beckett and the Philosophical Image* (Cambridge UP, 2006), *Thinking in Literature: Joyce, Woolf, Nabokov* (Bloomsbury, 2011), *J. M. Coetzee, Truth, Meaning, Fiction* (Bloomsbury, 2020). From 2008-2013 he edited the *Journal of Beckett Studies*. He was Director of the Writing and Society Research Centre from 2011-2019 and is a former President of the Australian University Heads of English. He is the author of a novel *Saint Antony in His Desert*, (UWAP, 2018).



Writing and Society Research Centre

EQ.G.40 Parramatta South Campus

P: (02) 9685 9377

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