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Szeretettel meghívja a Kar Oktatóit és Hallgatóit
Vendégelőadók sorozatának következő rendezvényére:



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Feminist Auto/Biographical Cartography in Kim Mahood's Craft for a Dry Lake (2000)

címmel

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In my talk I will examine the ways in which the debate of spatial anxiety and a troubled sense of settler belonging in contemporary Australia can be extended by foregrounding the aspects of gender and by perceiving the (post)colonized space as both gendered and racialized. Kim Mahood's memoir and travelogue *Craft for a Dry Lake* (2000) has attracted critical attention by provoking a deeper query into the narrator's ambivalent position in the desert space as a white female subject interacting with ancestral land and its traditional owners. In my analysis I highlight the gendered nature of Mahood's text since it significantly determines the narrator's re-negotiation of her position in that space. Having grown up in a traditionally masculine environment of male-dominated homesteads, cattle stations and camps, with a strong attachment to her fathers' authority, Mahood was, as a child and teenage girl, pressured to identify with the male point of view and to adopt a rather disturbed sense of her own femininity. Returning to her home country years later as an adult woman, Mahood has to substantially reconsider her past through a more active and productive engagement with her femininity, body, and whiteness, as well as with female Indigeneity which gets inscribed in the land in the form of an important ceremony. This allows Mahood to at least partly become reconciled with her haunting memories and to develop a healthier relationship to the space of the Australian outback. While this relationship, as I further suggest, is supported by her growing awareness of her femininity, her implication in the privileges based on her whiteness remains largely unquestioned.