

FOREWORD

Rewording and Reworlding are two different and yet the same things. To “word” is to express an idea or feeling using language, to give birth to a concept, to lay out a connection between cognition and articulation. To “world” is to create an episteme that encompasses all kinds of articulation. The term “worlding” comes from Martin Heidegger (*Being and Time* 1927) which suggests a creation of a complex network of meanings that is not innocent because of its suggestion of sources and beginnings that may be historically and culturally mediated.

Gayatri Spivak used the term reworlding to question “the act of material and ideological conquest, a form of narrating and inscribing colonial power that has intimate connections to every production of history” (“Reworlding America,” www.ohioswallow.com/extra/0821416758-sample). Historical vicissitudes such as colonialism has dictated much of how the Asia Pacific perceives itself and it now sees why a reworlding is necessary. Reworlding challenges imposed constructions of culture and recuperates subjugated knowledge. It encourages examination of canon and the unyoking of deeply held perceptions. This can be done through the disclosure of textual and critical containments and most importantly through discursive appropriation of the written word, a rewording of the text.

The articles in this issue are in the act of rewording texts and reworlding in the perspective of their respective cultures. As the harvest of the 12th Biennial Symposium on the Literatures and Cultures of the Asia Pacific Region, 2007, the articles examine and reconfigure the literatures of the region, examine and often contest readings of these literatures. They examine identities and locations and negotiate for fresh insight and perspectives that illuminate rather than blindly judge the literary texts.

This issue welcomes the perspicacity and critical forthrightness of the articles as well as their informed cultural engagement with the texts. This is a testament to the region's contribution to literary production and scholarship.

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