



"Patrick White #1."
Kings Cross, 1980. 4/10. William Yang.

Patrick White, 1980 by William Yang

Thursday 24 August

1pm Milgate Room, AD Hope Bldg, SLLL

Jyoti Nandan

Patrick White – A Misogynist? (With special focus on *The Twyborn Affair*)

Patrick White has been called a misogynist. My paper discusses to what extent this is the case. There is no denying that White's male characters are drawn in much greater depth and more empathetically than his female characters. White's initiate, that is, the one with the potential for growth and illumination is almost always male. However, paradoxically, many of White's central concerns are also the fundamental concerns of feminism. A thread that runs through all his work is the acknowledgement and reconciliation of dualisms which have structured Western and Christian thought. Feminists have argued all along that binary oppositions such as mind/body, masculine/feminine, self/other - common in the cultural construction of reality - underlie women's subordination for the inequitable valuation of their constituent terms results in a discriminatory conception of the 'normal'.

Dr Jyoti Nandan is an Honorary Associate Professor in the School of Literature, Languages, and Linguistics, ANU. Her research has mainly been in the area of New Literatures in English. She has in the main employed a post-colonial feminist critical approach for the analysis of literary texts in this area.



Literary
Studies
Seminar
Series
2017

enquiries: russell.smith@anu.edu.au