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Scientific Article ◀ unige:80

Title **The Law of Storytelling: The Hermeneutics of Relati**

Author [Barras, Arnaud](#)

Published in [Journal of the Association for the Study of Australian I](#)

Abstract In this paper I argue that Alexis Wright's novel *The Swan Book* complicates the genre of Australian literature by aesthetically reworking swan stories told by the European migrant Bella Doro. The novel's protagonist Oblivia, Wright questions the origins and boundaries of the genre and suggests to its readers that Australian literature, from its traditional boundaries to its contemporary borders of the continent, but has to be understood in light of concepts of hermeneutics and relationality to show how it enmeshes Aboriginal storytelling in Australian literature. I argue that the hermeneutics of relationality, which takes the form of a self-reflexive interpretation. Ultimately, I argue that self-reflexivity corrects and changes the rules and scope of Australian literature. I argue that the story of Oblivia Ethyl(ene) may in effect be a new Australian literature.

Keywords [Alexis Wright](#) — [Hermeneutics](#) — [Relationality](#) — [The Australian literature](#) — [Contemporary literature](#)

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