

Borderlands

We wish to think in the spaces between disciplines, their borderlands, so as to challenge the framing and disciplining of knowledge within modernity. We wish to promote and support new forms of writing which blur the lines between fiction, journalism, and essayistic prose. And politically, we feel that the issue of borders – between nations, sexualities, economies, identities and peoples – brings together some of the most pressing issues in the 21st century, issues which drive violence and conflict, mark out profound dilemmas over power, sovereignty and autonomy under globalisation, and remain central to the question of whether we can continue to live together and survive.

In intellectual terms, the **borderlands e-journal** aims to create an open, productive space for the transdisciplinary enterprise - an enterprise that is slowly becoming an ever more common feature of postgraduate and academic research, and is undoubtedly helping to transform the university and the broader public culture, often against its will. Its implications are potentially more profound than latter-day concerns about the rise of cultural studies or the impact so-called postmodernism has had on intellectual culture. Hence, we hope that in the spaces of **borderlands e-journal** you will find economics merging with feminism, continental philosophy and queer theory, politics with cultural theory and history, or the rarefied concerns of political philosophy encountering the complexity, materiality and rush of contemporary events.

borderlands e-journal aims to support transdisciplinarity in two ways.

The first is to promote shared yet diverse spaces of intellectual communication, scholarship and practice. Over time you will read here work from most of the disciplines in the humanities – by establishing this shared space we hope to encourage greater dialogue and cross-fertilisation across the human and social sciences. This pushes beyond multi- or inter-disciplinarity, to encourage writers to draw on tools from other disciplines, to question their own, and to recast the way in which they construct and pursue the apparently stable objects of their inquiry.

The second, more profound and problematic, sense of transdisciplinarity is a blurring of disciplinary boundaries in a way that both creates new hybrids of knowledge and practice, and forces a recasting of the internal rules which govern disciplinary truths – rules which define their boundaries, their shared norms and biases, permissible research projects and forms of writing.

borderlands e-journal aims to be rhizomatic and perpetually unfinished. It will be free to access, and free from the delays and costs associated with hard-copy publication. Similarly no issue will necessarily be closed or complete - more can always be added, or linked together, to continue debate and enhance understanding.

We hope you will join us in this venture - that you will read borderlands e-journal, write for it, enjoy it, and criticise it. Above all, we hope you will use it as a resource to conceive and practice the as yet unthought.

Anthony Burke
November 2001

<http://www.borderlands.net.au/index.html>