

# SCAPE 2011 — Speaker Series

## WHO CARES?

### CREATIVE RESEARCH IN THE SPACE OF THE UNIVERSITY

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#### *Abstract*

No guinea of earned money [money earned by the woman] should go to rebuilding the college on the old plan; just as certainly none could be spent upon building a college upon a new plan; therefore the guinea should be earmarked 'Rags. Petrol. Matches.' And this note should be attached to it. 'Take this guinea and with it burn the college to the ground. Set fire to the old hypocrisies. Let the light of the burning building scare the nightingales and incarnadine the willows. And let the daughters of educated men dance around the fire and heap armful upon armful of dead leaves upon the flames. And let their mothers lean from the upper windows and cry, Let it blaze! Let it blaze! For we have done with this "education"!

Virginia Woolf. *Three Guineas*; cited in Jacques Derrida, *Cinders*, p. 67.

I have provided you with a supplementary text, 'The "Mechanics" of Fluids' by French feminist philosopher Luce Irigaray, which comes from her seminal book *This Sex Which Is Not One*. Here Irigaray closes with a dis/location or a partial exile that exiles the ruling symbolic to make way for (the potentiality of) a feminine language that ex-ists somewhere beyond comprehension. And to which in other parts of *This Sex Which is Not One* she describes as *speaking (as) woman (parler-femme)* as that experimental process that finds connections to female sexuality and writing for the disruption of the syntax of discursive logic based on masculine self-sameness. This writing of bodies (*Écriture Féminine*) on conclusion to her Fluids' text, is suggestive of a proximity in "such close touch with itself that it confounds your discretion" ... of a self-confounded by not having yet understood everything.

This research seminar aims to disclose how creative practice through writing, filmmaking and considerations of spatial design (particularly housed within the ruling symbolic of the University) can open onto something proximate to a poetics of the feminine. Further, it is not only a question of sexual difference here that inaugurates the trembling of propositional and rational forms of knowing, and yet for many it is the body that has been a helpful place to start. This seminar brings Deleuze and Guattari's vitalist philosophy on the image (*affect* and *percept*) into proximity with the language-body-projects of *Écriture Féminines* (Irigaray, Cixous, Le Doeuff, Kristeva).

The seminar will include the viewing of a film excerpt *Desiccations*, along with Postgraduate Spatial Design practice-led research projects from AUT (Honours/MA). It aims to ask questions around the current status of research and creative practice within the university context.