

Review of Postgraduate Conference by Martina van Heerden

On the 22nd and 23rd of May 2018, Writing360, along with the Division for Postgraduate Studies, hosted the Postgraduate Conference on Literature, Creative Writing, Media and Culture. The event was held in the Artspace at the University of the Western Cape. The conference presented postgraduate students the opportunity to present their work and ideas to their fellow students and academics. On the first day, after registration, presenters were greeted by Prof Duncan Brown, dean of the Arts Faculty. Thereafter, Prof Gabeba Baderoon presented an inspiring keynote address dealing with the ambiguous nature of language and words. She ended by reading one of her poems, which drew rapturous applause; a fitting lead-in to the poetry session that she chaired.



Prof. Gabeba Baderoon delivering her keynote: "Not words"

After a short break, the various parallel sessions of the day started. In total, there were eight parallel sessions on the first day, ranging in

theme from poetry to memory to ecocriticism. As one of the audience members noted: “People are really passionate about their work. Being here is inspiring”. Prof Julia Martin provided the closing message of the day.

Day Two started with a welcome by Prof Hermann Wittenberg. Prof Jane Taylor provided an animated keynote address that asked us to consider the connection between authenticity and voice, through Samuel Beckett’s *Not I*. She played a short section of Beckett’s *Not I* that had the audience spell-bound. Thereafter, Day Two’s parallel sessions started, of which there were five. These ranged in theme from exploring sexuality in various contexts, to (re)writing and feminism. Prof Duncan Brown provided the closing for the day, by giving advice to all the students and wished them “stellar pathways in [their] careers”.



Prof. Jane Taylor delivering her keynote: "Not I"

Overall, the conference was, by all accounts, a resounding success. Many memories, friendships and connections were made and it presented postgraduate students with the invaluable experience of sharing their work.