

## Eco-Crime in Randolph Stow's *The Suburbs of Hell*

*Salhia Ben-Messahel*

DOI: 10.26379/1686

This paper focuses on Randolph Stow's last published novel, *Suburbs of Hell* (1984). It analyses the transposition of real events into fiction and demonstrates how the narrative strategies of crime-fiction are reflected in the environment. In this novel, the displacing of real Australian events into the fictionalized space of the country-town of Harwich, Essex, designs a counter-space, a heterotopia that relies on processes of translation and a heterochronic vision of history. Taking into account the novel's postcolonial emphasis on place and intersection with the genre of crime-fiction, I argue that Stow designs a psychogeography tracing the danger and violence within the community so that the domestic and the familiar are nothing but mere illusions. Thus, home, the rural and urban (suburban) space, the self, surface as places of otherness subjected to the subversive and uncanny effects of gothic imagination.