Roundtable Title: Found Poetry - A poetry-writing workshop

Presenter: Dean A. F. Gui, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Abstract

Workshop participants will engage with the writing of Found poetry - a form of experimental poetry which takes text in any form, from everyday surroundings and re-arranges it in order to create new meaning with few additions or deletions. Writers who have written in this genre include Erza Pound, William Carlos Williams and Kate Durbin. Found poetry has its roots in Dadaism, the art of "appropriation" and a re-definition of 20th century authorship - in other words, it can be likened to "every person's" poetry, where people from every facet of life can experience, at least for a moment, what it's like to be a poet.

Participants in this workshop are asked to bring with them one of their favourite texts which will be used as the muse for their poem (other materials will be provided by the workshop leader). For those who forget to bring a text, or for those who prefer, they will be asked to trek through the wilds of the PolyU campus to collect their content. As a way to connect these poems to our own context, we will have discussions, if time permits, around such questions as 1) How can we use Found poetry in our own classrooms (even if we are not teaching literature or creative writing courses)?; and 2) can Found poetry, indeed, be accessible to everyone? Participants will be provided a list of journals they could submit their poems to; or be included in a tentative poetry anthology published by the English Language Centre.

Biodata

Dean is a Language Instructor at The English Language Centre, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (HKPU). His B. A. is in English Literature, his M.A. in Creative Writing. In addition to his academic research in language and literature in virtual worlds, and hybrid identity, Dean has had his poetry published in such literary publications as Blackmail Press and Fleeting. He is the father of three Found poems although he is still finding a home for them.