

No Man on *The Island*: Emotions, Ethics, and the Politics of Recognition

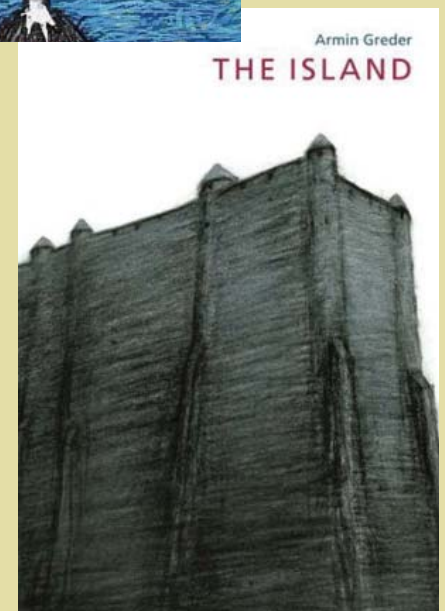
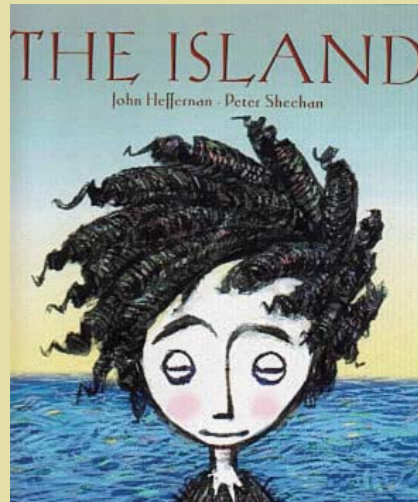
Lecture by Dr. Debra Dudek

Date: December 10, 2010

Time: 1:30PM - 3:00PM

Where: 2M70

This talk focuses on how representations of displacement present young readers with ethical dilemmas relating to displaced beings as objects of fear and compassion and as triggers to social justice. Narratives which work overtly to encourage an ethical action often rely on an emotional engagement with—or a compassionate response to—the story and/or with a particular character. In two recent picture books both titled *The Island*, readers bear witness to unethical behaviour by a group, behaviour that is offset by the compassionate actions of an individual. In these narratives, readers both recognize themselves and acknowledge others, which leads to an understanding of how the ethical actions of an individual can challenge group belief systems. These two picture books exemplify a growing body of literature for young people that demonstrates the importance of recognizing emotional engagement as a key component of ethical action.



Dr Debra Dudek is a Lecturer in the School of English Literatures, Philosophy and Languages at the University of Wollongong, Australia, and her areas of research and teaching are Canadian, Australian, and Children's literatures. She has published internationally on Children's Literature, Postcolonial Studies, and Comparative Literature. In her current research, she is analysing representations of activism in contemporary Children's Literature.

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