



The Fourth Industrial Revolution disrupts, fuses and blurs the lines between all kinds of previously discrete entities – physical, geographical, biological, digital, and cyberspace among them. We live in a world of communication and travel that encourages and enables cultural interaction, and increasing cosmopolitanism. Yet this age is also characterised by the resurgence of a narrow nationalism as people fear that their cultures and societies are being swamped by waves of immigrants from foreign countries, or by cosmopolitan, human-rights based ideas that circulate globally. The leaders of many nations now include explicit and implicit appeals to protect some version of national identity and culture. Is cosmopolitanism at odds with a clearly defined national identity? Does nationalism preclude internationalism? Is a firm sense of national identity necessary for an international outlook? What is the role of literature and the other arts in these debates? How helpful is “soft diplomacy” in dealings between nations?

This symposium welcomes scholarly and creative contributions on any aspect of the following topics as they appear in literature, culture, society and politics:

- Digital and cyber technologies
- Robotics and artificial intelligence
- Travel and migration
- Cosmopolitanism and internationalism
- Nationalism and national identity
- Cultural interaction
- Xenophobia
- Human rights
- Literature and culture as soft diplomacy
- Disruptions

We welcome suggestions for papers on other issues related to the themes of this symposium.

Please send a 300 word abstract and a one-paragraph biographical note in a single document to Associate Professor Hsu-Ming Teo (hsuming.teo@mq.edu.au) by **28 February 2019**.

Conference Details

Date: 28-29 November 2019

Venue: Macquarie University city campus, Sydney, Australia

Registration Fee: AUD 250 for tenured presenters; AUD 150 for non-tenured presenters and students

Conference organizing committee

Prof. Dennis Haskell

Prof. Dr Nor Faridah Abdul Manaf

Assoc. Prof. Hsu-Ming Teo