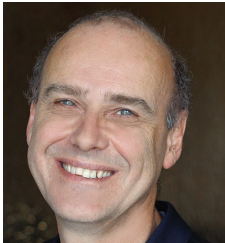


July 2023 issue highlights



Clockwise from top left:
Bain Attwood, Anna Funder, Ben Roberts-Smith, Ebony Nilsson

Welcome to the July issue of *ABR*! This month *ABR* examines questions of politics, history, and immigration. Bain Attwood's cover feature offers a nuanced examination of the Voice referendum from a historical perspective, drawing on the 1967 referendum on Aboriginal rights. Other major features include David Rolph on the Ben Roberts-Smith defamation case and the vindication of investigative journalism, Jack Corbett on sovereignty games in the Pacific Islands, and *ABR* Laureate's Fellow Ebony Nilsson on the ALP's uneasy history with immigration. Sheila Fitzpatrick examines a new history of East Germany and Michael Hofmann reviews Anna Funder's major repositioning of Eileen O'Shaughnessy, George Orwell's first wife. Also in the issue, Helen Morse takes us backstage, Brenda Walker reviews a collection of essays from critic Helen Elliott, Geordie Williamson appraises a new short story collection from J.M. Coetzee, and Patrick Mullins looks at transformations in the Australian media.

- ♦ **Bain Attwood on a referendum in trouble** In our cover article, Monash University Professor of History Bain Attwood compares talk about race, rights and history in the successful 1967 referendum on Aboriginal rights with that occurring now, arguing that the 'yes' campaign in that earlier referendum offers lessons for today.
- ♦ **David Rolph on Ben Roberts-Smith** Leading defamation scholar and Sydney University Professor of Law David Rolph examines the implications of proceedings in the Federal Court relating to Victorian Cross recipient Ben Roberts-Smith, whom three leading newspapers accused of committing war crimes in Afghanistan.
- ♦ **Michael Hofmann reviews Anna Funder's *Wifedom*** Award-winning translator and poet Michael Hofmann reviews Anna Funder's new book on the 'invisible life' of Eileen O'Shaughnessy (1905–45), otherwise known as Mrs George Orwell.
- ♦ **Ebony Nilsson on the ALP's uneasy history with immigration** Australian Catholic University Research Fellow and *ABR* Laureate's Fellow Dr Ebony Nilsson argues that while the ALP no longer looks like a 'happy white men's club', its policy on immigration reflects a longstanding ambivalence around race.
- ♦ **Sheila Fitzpatrick takes us to East Germany** *ABR*'s new Laureate Professor Sheila Fitzpatrick reviews a major new work on life in the 'would-be-socialist' state, *Beyond the Wall: East Germany, 1949–1990* by Katja Hoyer, who, Fitzpatrick argues, writes critically but with empathy and affection.
- ♦ **Geordie Williamson on J.M. Coetzee's short fiction** Geordie Williamson reviews *The Pole and Other Stories* from one of the world's most acclaimed writers of fiction, noting that in denying his characters 'wholeness' or neat endings, Coetzee lends them humanity and truth.

Interview requests and further information

For interview requests, please contact *ABR*: (03) 9699 8822 | abr@australianbookreview.com.au