

# Faber Writing Academy

## at ALLEN & UNWIN

*Courses aimed at historical novelists*

**SYDNEY**

### **Writing the Past**

**with Hsu-Ming Teo**

**Friday 14 August & Saturday 15 August 2015 + online coaching sessions**

Allen & Unwin – Sydney

83 Alexander St, Crows Nest

*Please note access is via stairs*

Course fee: \$750 (inc. GST)

A two-day workshop followed by online coaching sessions for those interested in incorporating history into their creative writing.

How do writers conduct historical research? What kind of facts about the past do we need to know? How do we recreate a recognisable past with words? How do we deal with potential anachronisms in character, dialogue, and setting ... and when do these actually matter? What are the limits of fiction and history?

This workshop combines discussion of genres of historical fiction and research techniques with practical writing exercises and a trip to the Mitchell library (State Library of NSW) to explore the archives.

The course includes:

- Two full days of intensive tuition from Hsu-Ming Teo from 10am to 4pm plus three online coaching sessions where drafts of students' writing will be workshopped.
- A research trip to the Mitchell library (State Library of NSW).
- Lunch on both days and regular tea and coffee breaks.
- A complimentary copy of a recent A&U publication.

#### **Praise for Writing the Past**

'During this course I met other writers who had the same interests as myself, I learnt how to access various databases, ethical considerations to take into account and the importance of perspective and issues relating to writing about a time period with values that are dissimilar to these modern times. We had the opportunity to do some exercises in class to cement in the techniques we were learning, and had a guided tour of the NSW Library with lessons on how to access their databases. As a result of doing this short course, I felt I had the strong basis to write my manuscript confidently and I was able to complete it fairly quickly.' - Lisa Venables

'(It) helped me shape my project into something manageable. A very intimate course with a focus on us as individuals as well as a group.' - Carolyn Matthews

## About the Tutor

Hsu-Ming Teo is a novelist and historian who teaches European history and cultural history at Macquarie University. Her history publications include *Cultural History in Australia* (2003) and *Desert Passions: Orientalism and Romance novels* (2012). She is currently editing a book on *The Popular Culture of Romantic Love in Australia* and co-editing the *Ashgate Research Companion to Popular Romance Studies*.

In 1999 she won The Australian/Vogel's Literary Award for her first novel *Love and Vertigo* (2000), which was also short-listed for the inaugural Tasmania Pacific Region Literary Prize and the Dobbie Award for women's fiction. Her second novel, *Behind the Moon*, was published in 2005 and was shortlisted for one of the New South Wales Premier's Literary Awards in 2006. Both novels drew heavily on South-east Asian and Australian history in the second half of the twentieth century. Hsu-Ming judged the 2007 NSW Premier's Literary Awards, the 2010 Man Asian Literary Prize, and the 2013 NSW Premier's History Awards. She is working on her third novel – a historical novel.

Please note in the event of unforeseen circumstances, courses - including tutors and venues - may be subject to cancellation or change.

## How to Apply

To secure your booking, download your application form from our website and email it to [faberwritingacademy@allenandunwin.com](mailto:faberwritingacademy@allenandunwin.com) or send by post to Faber Writing Academy at Allen & Unwin, PO Box 8500, St Leonards NSW 1590

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## MELBOURNE

### Facts to Fiction

with Lisa Lang

**Saturday 23 May 2015**

Allen & Unwin – Melbourne  
406 Albert Street, East Melbourne

Course fee: \$295 (inc. GST)

Facts to Fiction is a one-day workshop for people who want to draw on real stories - a slice of history, a family tale, a newspaper article - in order to create a work of fiction. Having a great story in mind is just the beginning. How do we take an idea and transform it into a rich and compelling narrative? Do we stick closely to the facts, or allow ourselves total freedom to invent and imagine? What role does research play? And what happens to our concept of the 'truth'?

Through the use of writing exercises, readings and guided discussions, participants are given tools for turning the bones of fact into credible, full-bodied fiction.

Topics covered include the use of sensory detail, the inner lives of characters, narrative structure and the importance of taking creative ownership.

The course includes:

- A full day of intensive tuition from 10am to 5pm
- Lunch and regular tea and coffee breaks
- A copy of a recent A&U publication
- A 10% discount on full priced books purchased at any Readings shop - the official bookseller for the Academy (not valid for online purchases, other offers, lay-bys or special orders)

### **Praise for Facts to Fiction**

'The... course run by Lisa Lang was a totally worthwhile experience. The course work was very professional and the day was very focused.' Facts to Fiction 2013

'Very encouraging and supportive.' Facts to Fiction 2014

### **About the Tutor**

Lisa Lang has written two books based on the life of eccentric Victorian bookseller E.W. Cole, the man behind Cole's Funny Picture Book. *Utopian Man*, a novel, was a joint winner of the Australian/Vogel's Literary Award, and was shortlisted for the NSW Premier's Literary Awards and WA Premier's Book Awards. *E.W. Cole: Chasing the Rainbow* is a nonfiction title in the popular Arcade history series. Lisa was named a Sydney Morning Herald Best Young Novelist in 2011. She has previously taught creative writing workshops for the Northern Territory Writers' Centre and Katharine Susannah Prichard Writers' Centre, Perth.

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**For further information on all courses email [faberwritingacademy@allenandunwin.com](mailto:faberwritingacademy@allenandunwin.com) or call (02) 8425 0171 [www.faberwritingacademy.com.au](http://www.faberwritingacademy.com.au)**