

Edited by Natalie Honein, Margaret McKeon

Language, Land and Belonging

Poetic Inquiries

SERIES IN LITERARY STUDIES

This collection is a vital and important volume that shows how poetry and poetic inquiry can be part of relational, ancestral and community repair.

The 23 poets who are featured in this book use their poems to bring attention to the nuances, harm and possibilities of language. They represent a variety of geographies, languages, lands, and cultures. The three sections—language, land, and belonging—sing with personal and community examples focusing on our relationality. Poetic Inquirers interested in the power of language and identities will find the work in this book to be instructive as they work through issues of reparation, indigenous rights, and meanings of community.

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Summary

This volume takes up themes emergent from the 7th International Symposium on Poetic Inquiry (ISPI) which invited participants to reflect on the United Nations Declaration of 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages. In this refereed collection, Indigenous and non-Indigenous authors use poetic inquiry to explore the importance of their ancestral languages and lands, and consider the Indigenous languages and peoples of the lands where they live.

Situated in diverse global contexts, poet-researchers examine the intersectionality of their languages, their lands, and their sense of belonging. They offer relational understandings of, and articulate obligations for, their environment and communities. Through stories of shared generational pain and renewal, each author brings the reader into their world of learning and growth. They do this through discourses of belonging and relational responsibilities that tie them to a place, a genealogy.

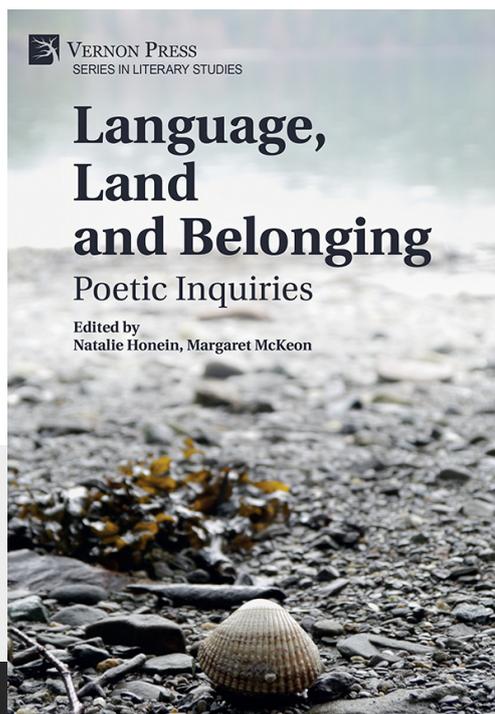
As a method of study that incorporates poetry into academic research, poetic inquiry is concerned with particularity, complexity, and transformations. Making research more visceral and evocative, it invites researchers to examine and engage

with the knowledge they seek through a continual process of questioning, welcoming, and awareness. In this volume, poetic inquiry helps to honor languages and histories taken for granted; it allows looking back in order to reexamine, redefine, and make sense of the present and its shortcomings while reimagining a different future. This work seeks to reclaim, through poetic inquiry, wisdom of language, land, and belonging.

About the editors

Natalie Honein is a writer, educator, and life-long learner. She has taught academic writing at universities in the Middle East for the past twenty years and holds postgraduate degrees in political science, language, and education. She is a strong advocate for narrative research and poetic inquiry. Her publications have appeared in several academic journals and books, and have explored Arab women's activism, social equity, identity, and the plight of refugees. She lives and writes in Dubai.

Margaret McKeon is an outdoor educator, writer, and Adjunct Assistant Professor at St. Mary's University in Calgary Alberta. In her research and in life, as a settler person of Irish and German ancestry, she considers land relationship, ancestral knowledges and colonialism through story and poetry. Her work has been published in literary and academic journals, and book collections. She lives with her partner surrounded by mountains and rivers in Canmore, Alberta, Canada, in Treaty 7 Territory.



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