

“Sorry for the history, they say:” on the Mobility of Memory, Historical Trauma, and Reconciliation in Kim Scott’s *Taboo* (2017)

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Kim Scott's *Taboo* (2017) is a powerful investigation into the complexity of contemporary Australia as it faces issues of memory, historical trauma, and reconciliation. This paper focuses on the significance of the inauguration of the Peace Park of Kokanarup in Scott's narrative, portraying it as a dynamic space where memory, moving both synchronically and diachronically, transcends cultural and generational boundaries.

Drawing upon Landsberg's concept of 'prosthetic memory' and on Rothberg's definition of 'multidirectional memory,' this paper suggests that the fictional massacre site of Kokanarup (which is inspired by the real-life Cocanarup massacre that occurred in Western Australia in 1880) can be conceptualised as a place of cultural revitalisation, where descendants of both perpetrators and victims can actively engage in discussions around issues of shared memory and reconciliation. As a space where traumatic history and collective memory intertwine, the Kokanarup massacre site shapes both cultural memory and collective identity, promoting social dialogue while simultaneously confronting historical trauma. Through a detailed examination of exemplary sections of the novel, the paper demonstrates that reconciliation is a process of 'empathetic unsettlement', as in LaCapra (2014), wherein individuals confront their own perspectives and listen to the narratives of others without taking their positions.

In conclusion, the paper highlights how memory can be perceived as a dynamic force capable of contributing to the Australian reconciliation process. Since memory can be shared and exchanged between different parties within a specific commemoration setting, a transcultural approach such as the one depicted in *Taboo* can offer new perspectives of reciprocal understanding and collaboration.