Katherine Bode (Australian National University): *Reading (as) Data: Modelling Transnational Literary Entanglements*

In the 19th century, newspapers were the main publishers of fiction in Australia; in the 21st century, the National Library of Australia's Trove database offers the world's largest open-access collection of mass-digitised historical newspapers. This fortunate confluence of two technological systems enables the discovery of thousands of publications of 19th-century novels, novellas and short stories in 21st-century digitised pages. Katherine Bode's paper reflects on this project, moving from practical to critical to conceptual considerations. After briefly outlining how this fiction was found, the paper explores ways of using modelling to expand transnational literary history. The paper will conclude with some provocations relating to how we use data to re/construct literary communities and cultures, especially the role and limitations of representation as a conceptual framework for this exercise.