



Turning Points and Transformations: Essays on Language, Literature and Culture

Christine DeVine and Marie Hendry, Associate Editors: Amanda Anderson, Jennifer Page and Jennifer Roy

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From the Irish Cailleach and other shape-shifters of folk legends to modern movie 'transformers'; from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* to the moment when Gregor Samsa woke up one morning to find himself transformed into an insect in Kafka's novella; from conversion narratives to slave narratives, turning points and transformations have always been central to literary works and to cultural developments. In fact, with Freytag's pyramid in mind, one could claim that all literary works focus on the trope of a transformation born of a turning point, because such moments comprise the very essence and vitality of human life and culture. But why are turning points necessarily transformational and in what way? And what brings about those turning points in language, literature, culture and human lives? These are essentially the questions the essays in this volume seek to answer. The contributors examine turning points and transformations personal, literary and cultural brought about through the randomness of the universe as well as through human interference, and discuss ways in which humans in general and writers in particular, through their art, experience and cope with the ineluctable results.

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