



“Rencontres”

A Gathering of Voices of the Vietnamese Diaspora

Organised by Dr Tess Do,
French Studies, The
University of Melbourne,
and Dr Alexandra
Kurmann, French and
Francophone Studies,
Macquarie University

Thursday, 1 December
4 - 7.15pm

Macmahon Ball Theatre
Room 107, Old Arts Building
The University of Melbourne
PARKVILLE VIC 3010

Followed by a reception on
Professors Walk to 7.45pm

Admission is free. Bookings
required.

To register visit: [http://](http://alumni.online.unimelb.edu.au/)
alumni.online.unimelb.edu.au/

For further information please
contact

Jennifer Graham-Williams:
jennifer.graham@unimelb.edu.au

Rencontres Study Day
to be held on
Friday 2 December

See Alumni and Friends website for
details:
www.alumni.unimelb.edu.au

Guest of honour:
Anna Moï (France)

‘How the Vietnam War Shaped my Writing’

Anna Moï states: ‘The Vietnam war has jarred my childhood and adolescence, but did not define me as a person and left no scars that I am aware of. However, it did strongly shape me as a writer. Writing about the war might very well be my expression of revolt against its indiscriminate violence.’



Marcelino Truong (France)

‘The Vietnam War Revisited in Two Graphic Novels’

Truong will discuss the purpose of, and techniques employed, in his graphic novels on the Vietnam War: *Une si jolie petite guerre - Saigon 1961-63* (Denoël, 2012) (Such a Lovely Little War, Arsenal Pulp Press, 2016) and *Give Peace a Chance* (Arsenal Pulp Press, 2017)



Thanh-Van Tran-Nhut (France)

‘Clever Mandarin, Hungry Ghosts and Men in Black’

Thanh-Van Tran-Nhut explores the history of Vietnam through crime novels set in the 17th century, a troubled period that led directly to French colonisation. Food, religion, medicine, politics, justice, science and legends are recurring themes in her work, highlighting not only Vietnamese culture, but also the relationship between Vietnam and its neighbours.



Jean Vanmai (New Caledonia)

‘Une merveilleuse nouvelle (Wonderful News)’

Reading from his documentary novel *Fils de Chân Dang* (Son of Chân Dang, Nouméa, Édition de l’Océanie, 1980) about the life of the Vietnamese colonial workers in New Caledonia, Jean Vanmai will discuss the end of the Vietnam War and the impact of this news on the diasporic Vietnamese community in Nouméa.



Chi Vu (Australia)

‘Writing for Two Separate Audiences - Anguli Ma: A Gothic Tale’

Author and playwright Chi Vu talks about the tensions and possibilities of writing for both a broader readership and one’s own minority community. Chi draws on her experience of writing *Anguli Ma: A Gothic Tale* and discusses the issues involved in this writing process.



Hoa Pham (Australia)

‘Haunted Ethics: Writing about the Vietnam/American War’

The Other Shore and *The Lady of the Realm* are both novels set in Vietnam exploring all sides of the Vietnam/American War. For the author, this raises ethical issues of representation that need to be negotiated in the writing and reception of the works. How these issues are addressed is the subject of Hoa Pham’s talk.



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