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School of Philosophy Seminar Series 2021

Returning to Irigaray's Radical Materialism: Sexuate Difference, Ontology and Bodies of Water

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Friday, September 10th 12-1:30 PM (AEST: VIC/NSW/QLD)
over Microsoft Teams

ABSTRACT

This paper reads Luce Irigaray's philosophy of sexual difference as an ontological project which challenges misreadings of Irigaray's work as biologically essentialist and allows us to (re)turn with fresh eyes to contemplate her engagements with matter, biology, and nature—understood as fluid, dynamic and always in flux. This (re)turn enables a (re)consideration of sexuate difference as an ontological framing that not only refigures understandings of matter but also appreciates the *interval* between the material and the semiotic, matter and form, nature and culture in the formation of sexuate subjectivity. In doing so, this paper highlights important connections between Irigaray's ontological project, her elemental thinking and some of the main themes in environmental feminist humanities undergirded by recent posthuman and new materialist feminist approaches.



Laura Roberts is Lecturer in Women and Gender's Studies at Flinders University. She received her PhD in Philosophy from The University of Queensland, Australia where she taught philosophy and gender studies before taking up her current position in 2020. She is author of *Irigaray and Politics: A Critical Introduction* (Edinburgh University Press, 2019), co-editor of a Special Issue on Irigaray and Politics (*Sophia*, 2022) and has published articles in anthologies and journals including *Hypatia* and *Australian Feminist Studies*.

To register for the Teams event or for other questions, please email margot.strohminger@acu.edu.au.