



Literature, Identity & Culture

RESEARCH GROUP

SEMINAR SERIES 2010

Narrative duality: reconciling the differing sexualities of Bret and “Bret” in Bret Easton Ellis’s *Lunar Park*

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For an author who earned his infamy through his creation of transgressive narrator Patrick Bateman, Ellis’ most overt narrative transgressions occur in his (often critically overlooked) novel *Lunar Park*.

Ostensibly narrated by the author, Bret Easton Ellis (or a version of Ellis), there are many points in the novel when the fictional Bret’s life makes a dramatic departure from the publically known biography of the author, Ellis. This is no more clear than in the fact that fictional Bret is married with two children and factual Ellis dedicated *Lunar Park* to his recently deceased partner, Michael Wade Kaplan.

Although there is much that can be said about the various binary pairings reversed and reinscribed throughout the text, this paper will focus on the issue of sexuality. Specifically, I will consider the purpose and effect of Ellis’ fictional departure from his personal biography, and how this departure frames and informs the textual representation of sexuality and masculinity in Ellis’ novel.

Tuesday March 16, 12:30pm – 1:30pm
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