

SUBMISSION

I am always most nervous at the points where culture intersects with economics. I believe in and support the tenets of both. I like culture and I like capitalism. However, I do worry about the totalising effect of the economic way of seeing things when the two come together.

It is inevitable to a point- theatre needs to have people come to it, books need to sell etc. However, if the differing languages of the two are not treated as a yin-yang, then the economic on its own can crush the cultural. This I believe will happen if the restrictions about parallel importing are lifted.

I don't think that it is doomsaying to say that the ability of Australian publishers to get our own books out will be compromised. I am currently writing a thriller for Penguin entitled *The Kings' Cross* (release date March 2010). It is all set in Kings Cross. I had seriously considered setting it in Seattle instead. If the 'Australian' market was totally globalised I think I would have to as part of seeing the book as a 'global' product only because there were no Australian protections. That would be one (very) small way in which we would lose us writing about our own culture/places. Multiply that by a few thousand and there would be a significant erosion. Australian writing would have its voice diminished. And no-one would notice very much.

The economic argument would have totalised any quieter cultural considerations.

At the moment, it's not much of a window that the restrictions allow. Some people go onto Amazon or elsewhere and get the book in question anyway (thus losing Australian retailers income). But most people don't. Publishers get just enough 'in' to make enough money to take risks on newer authors (like me).

I thus very much hope that the restrictions on parallel importing are not lifted.

Sincerely,

Michael Parker.