

## Professor Iain McCalman

Professor Iain McCalman is a renowned historian of eighteenth-century, early-nineteenth British and European history and Australian environmental humanities. He has been a Visiting Research Fellow at All Souls, Oxford, Mellon Visiting Professor at Californian University of Technology, Pasadena, and is the author of numerous articles and books on Modern British, European and Imperial cultural history, most recently *The Reef: A Passionate History* (Penguin: 2013). Professor McCalman is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, the Australian Academy of the Humanities, the Royal Society of New South Wales, and the Royal Historical Society of Great Britain.

**A WOMAN OF MANY MASKS. Alice Sheldon (James Tiptree Jr), feminist, cli-fi pioneer and Anthropocene prophet.**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November (12-1pm)**



In the Fall of 1976, a sixty-one-year-old retiree of McClean Virginia, Dr Alice Sheldon, wrote in her diary, ‘I’m really a minor nature writer... [with] a passion for the unspoiled earth, the vegetable loves.’ These words would have baffled a legion of fans, who knew her as James Tiptree Jr, a famed science fiction writer with a racy, adventurous past as an African big game hunter and CIA operative, as well as some surprising feminist sympathies. Within six months, this pseudonym, as well as another —a feminist sci fi writer Raccoona Sheldon —would be unmasked with devastating eventual consequences. Today, science fiction aficionados still admire Alice’s pungent Tiptree stories, all of which remain in print. Her contributions to feminism are also remembered in the famous James Tiptree prize ‘for science fiction works that expand or explore understanding of gender.’ I will argue, however, that Alice’s fierce anti-patriarchy was twinned with an equally passionate and pioneering oeuvre of science fiction environmentalism that deserves our recognition and recovery.

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