

THE MUSEUM OF PAPER AND WIRES

READING AND WRITING REFUGEE FICTION

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ABSTRACT:

The Museum of Paper and Wires is a novel exploring the ways in which loss, absence and trauma manifest in the lives of two young men living in Adelaide. The novel deals with issues of exile, loss, relocation and the burden of history, drawing heavily on modern technologies – e-mail or text messages, online gaming and Google searches. Using a fragmented narrative of documents and memories, it pieces together an impossible friendship between two young men.

The accompanying exegesis examines contemporary refugee fiction, focusing on the difficulties and challenges of telling such stories and the conflicts that arise when attempting to recreate the refugee plight through fiction writing. It includes a discussion of my own creative and research processes as these relate to development of the novel.

DECLARATION:

This work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution to SONJA DECHIAN and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text. I give consent to this copy of my thesis, when deposited in the University Library, being made available for loan and photocopying, subject to the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968. I also give permission for the digital version of my thesis to be made available on the web, via the University's digital research repository, the Library catalogue, the Australasian Digital Theses Program (ADTP) and also through web search engines, unless permission has been granted by the University to restrict access for a period of time.

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