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At the Periphery of Trees *by Matt Hall*

another ascent is observed
stonily by the way
water's cold reticence
laps in fallen currents
to salve the evidence
of midlight's
deleterious shoals

everything extends
this want of colour
resins wash ashore
measures of landscapes recede

to the ritual of this occasion
bushfire surrounds them
stalks barrenly across the sky
in bloodlight somnolence
finitudes loom over horizons
how could it be otherwise

Matt Hall is working on a dissertation on J.H. Prynne and Violence at the University of Western Australia and a series of poetic essays that pertain to the radical pastoral. His poetry, occasional prose and criticism have been featured in journals around the world. The writers of greatest influence and intrigue to him are Prynne, Veronica Forrest-Thomson, Peter Larkin, Lisa Robertson, J Kinsella, John Wilkinson, Louis Armand, CD Wright, and Keston Sutherland.