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Originally from Durham, England, Fiona Coyle completed her MA in geography at York University under the supervision of David Morley. She has recently started the PhD programme at Memorial University of Newfoundland, where she wishes to explore the links between chaos/complexity theory and culture, particularly as it relates to the experience of independent travel.

Outward Bound

I could choose to rest, to glory in
the smooth glacial slopes of isolation
my form reflected on the arctic's deep
I could abide on ice floes glowing
generous white as my skin, and
buried in Aurora's blue-snow-sleep
dream the echo of my native speech
crystal banks refracting voice and light
spilling the tundra flush with tones of me
white on white, a swelling insulation

but, selling my mother's diamonds for the fare
and knowing the place will scorch my skin
beyond all repair, I still choose
the high noon of your so southern love
walking the line where north meets south
feet bare, sun-blistered for the tight-rope stunt
bedsores from the lumpy seam where sex is stitched
two poles, worlds, flags, lives, bodies stewed
the equatorial mists rise sizzling from the mix
salt for the earth and meet for each other
flesh/bone baked and broiled as one
we'll make our love on the burning meridian

Sheila Hassell Hughes
1991-97