

have developed their self-esteem, and have established themselves in academia. In this way there is little risk of them being threatened by a more competitive environment. It is only when women flourish and are allowed to demonstrate their full potential and capabilities in a highly challenging and innovative research atmosphere, that gender-equality in higher education will be a more tangible reality.

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<sup>1</sup>By “public” universities we mean state-controlled universities. Although they enjoy a high degree of autonomy, public universities are financed by the federal state, which also sets uniform wages for different types of jobs, and issues general regulations on administrative matters.

<sup>2</sup>This is especially the case for high and/or full-time positions.

<sup>3</sup>This phenomenon has been acknowledged explicitly by the Academic Secretary of the National University of Tucuman, in a recent article published by the Argentinean University Network (UNIVERSIA 2008).

<sup>4</sup>Quoting a high-ranking secretary of a large public university.

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## RONNIE R. BROWN

### Free Associations on RUMPELSTILTSKIN

#### Part I (Rumpel [sic])

He is smiling,  
his green eyes looking  
into hers. Is there's anything else  
she wants from him, he asks,  
and, suddenly, she  
is speechless.

Yes, the word resonates  
within her brain yes,  
yes! I want to take you home,  
rumple my bed with you, ride  
your body from crest  
to crest. Experience  
the wave as it overtakes us,  
sweeps us to shore  
and leaves us there  
damp and weak, but...

before her words  
make their way  
from mind to mouth  
her husband, tired and rumpled  
after a long day, intrudes  
dismissing the man  
of her fantasies with a curt,  
“Nothing else for us, thanks,  
just the cheque.”

Ronnie R Brown's poetry appears earlier in this volume.