RSHA ANNUAL FIRST-YEAR STUDENT CONFERENCE
Interdisciplinary Cross-Cultural Research
29 & 30 August 2011
Sir Roland Wilson Building, Theatrette Room 2.02

Convenor: Professor Paul Pickering

All members of the RSHA and wider ANU community welcome

Program

MONDAY 29 August

Session 1: 9:00 – 11:30

8:55 – 9:00 Prof. Paul Pickering Welcome

9:00 – 9:30 Dorothy Horsfield Critiquing Conceptions of Russia amongst Western Intellectuals in the Aftermath of the Cold War

9:30 – 10:00 Nancy Opdyke A Biography of Lt Col Calvin Pearl Titus

10:00 – 10:30 Catherine Akeroyd Terra Australis as a Framework for Knowledge: A Cartographic/Iconological Study
10:30 – 11:00  **Tzu-yu Chiu**  
Museum as a Public Sphere: Exploring the Potential of the City Museum

**Morning Tea: 11:00 - 11:30**

**Session 2: 11:30 - 1:00**

11:30 – 12:00  **Genna Burrows**  
Visualising the Arabic Script: Politics, Technology and Graphic Design.

12:00 – 12:30  **Christina Kenny**  
Legal and cultural frameworks of consent – an examination of the sexual experiences of Kenyan women in a new constitutional age

12:30 – 1:00  **Megan Deas**  
Imag(in)ing Australia: the construction of identity in newspaper and magazine photography, 1945-1956

**Lunch (Student common area, lower ground floor): 1:00 - 1:45**

**Session 3: 1:45 - 5:15**

1:45 – 2:15  **Jennifer Moncrieff**  
Hobart Vogue

2:15 – 2:45  **Joanne Ryan**  
Mapping Modernity: Cultural Memory and the Mythology of Istanbul in poetry of the Turkish Republic

2:45 – 3:15  **Kaaren Sephton**  
Explore the social, cultural, economic and technological changes that occurred with the development of the sugar cane industry in the Mia Mia area, 1917 - mid 1970’s

3:15 – 3:45  **Ian Hodges**  
The rural returned, Wagga and the Australian Imperial Force

**Afternoon tea: 3:45 - 4:15**

**Session 4: 4:15 - 5:15**

4:15 – 4:45  **William Shannon**  
Becoming World Citizens? Australian and New Zealand Students in Europe

4:45 – 5:15  **Dewi Cut**  
Architectural Heritage Post-disaster and war: Memory and Emotion - Case Study: Acehnese Architectural Heritage post 2004 tsunami disaster
TUESDAY 30 August

9:30 – 10:00  Laura Parker

10:00 – 10:30  Cate Massola
Art, agency and education in the east Kimberley

10:30 – 11:00  Keven Francis
Shared Management of Cultural and Natural Landscapes

11:00 – 11:30  Stewart Sutherland
Social Emotional Wellbeing of the Stolen Generations: does Reconciliation help?

Morning Tea: 11:30
PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

Critiquing Conceptions of Russia amongst Western Intellectuals
in the Aftermath of the Cold War
★Dorothy Horsfield★

Western conceptions of the new Russia are often underpinned by two opposing perspectives: those that focus on the ways the Putin/Medvedev government embodies centuries-old traditions of autocracy, Charismatic leadership, ethnic nationalism, anti-Western sentiments and regional and international aggrandisement. Their critics reject such views as both Eurocentric and based on a retrogressive form of Realpolitik.

The dissertation seeks to untangle the presumptions and prejudices behind these perspectives through analysis of contentious areas such as Russophobia, Russophilia and Geopolitics.

A Biography of Lt Col Calvin Pearl Titus
★Nancy Opdyke★

Calvin Pearl Titus was a half-orphaned boy brought up by an Aunt and Uncle in Indian territory in Oklahoma and Kansas, but joined the Army to serve in the Spanish-American War and ended up in China during the Boxer Rebellion, earning a Medal of Honor and appointment to West Point. This biography will explore the life of this ‘accidental’ hero, using archival sources, contemporary media, and family records to attempt to untangle why his story captured the imagination of America, how his early exploits affected his later life, and allowing an inside look at many major historical events along the way.

Terra Australis as a Framework for Knowledge: A Cartographic/Iconological Study
★Catherine Akeroyd★

The theorizing of a southern continent and its long history of representation in maps have been examined from the perspective of disciplines including map history, historical geography, art history and philosophy. However, few studies have taken an interdisciplinary approach. This thesis focuses on the iconography of a selection of 16th and 17th century maps depicting Terra Incognita (unknown land) in the southern hemisphere and examines how these maps and their imagery created or helped to frame contemporary European understandings of the world. The thesis asks, is it possible to discover the underlying values, attitudes and principles of a culture through such maps?; and, if so, how can one unravel the threads which connect these maps to the world in which they were created?

Museum as a Public Sphere: Exploring the Potential of the City Museum
★Tzu-Yu Chiu★

This project aims to improve the museum practitioners’ capacity for working with its community and to establish a better audience development strategy within the context of a city museum in Keelung City, Taiwan. Specifically, through action research at a museum, the project will explore ways of fulfilling a museum’s potential to establish itself as a public sphere, of encouraging a democratic dialogue between the museum’s curatorship and its audience, and of developing public opinion through rational debate among the citizens of that museums’ city. This project will include a plan for regenerating exhibitions through community engagement conducted in collaboration with the museum staff of the Yang Ming Oceanic and Art Museum (hereafter Yang Ming Museum) located in Keelung city, Taiwan. The significance of this project is:
(1) Its innovative experimental investigation of the practice of museums as public spheres in Taiwan and city museums in a similar context around the world.
(2) Improving target audience development strategy for the Yang Ming Museum and museums in a similar context around the world.
(3) Its contribution to research representing an Asian view in the field of museum practice, thereby promoting the ideals and practice of museums for the Asian public.

This project will draw on and contribute to the existing literature on public sphere, public memory, city museums and communities, while employing action research and oral history as research methods.

**Visualising the Arabic Script: Politics, Technology and Graphic Design**

★Genna Burrows★

My thesis explores the ways in which the Arabic script is visualized within contemporary new media and graphic design spaces. Alphabets are invested with cultural and national symbolism, and are often considered vital to the preservation of national histories and cultures. The Arabic script in particular has gained a split international significance, functioning as a sacred sign for Islamic communities, and as a threatening image of terror and violence within much of Western media. As a field of graphic design, typography directly engages this cultural significance through the aesthetic and political potential of the written word: typography operates by blurring the boundaries between language and image in order to simultaneously communicate a message and produce a cultural idea. I am interested in those designers who draw on this later aspect to engage with questions of modernity and cultural difference, and who aim to redefine the way the Arabic script – and by extension, Arab cultures – are understood and presented in international spaces. The Arabic script is frequently framed within the context of violence in the Western media, reflecting current political prejudice and the continuation of Oriental structures of perception and assumption. I explore the way graphic designers confirm or challenge these hierarchies through the structure of their visual field and methods for presenting the complex contemporary relationships between Arabic and other international scripts.

**Legal and cultural frameworks of consent - an examination of the sexual experiences of Kenyan women in a new constitutional age**

★Christina Kenny★

My research focuses on gender and sexual rights in sub-Saharan Africa, drawing on case study material from Nairobi, Kenya. I am exploring the relationship between international human rights instruments and norms, local women’s experience of sex, and their conception and expressions of sexuality. I will interrogate the concepts of consent in culturally specific local contexts, in order to better understand the capacities and limitations of implementing universalised human rights frameworks.

**Imag(in)ing Australia: the construction of identity in newspaper and magazine photography, 1945-1956**

★Megan Deas★

Focussing on photographic images published in the national press from the end of the Second World War in September 1945 until the introduction of mainstream broadcast television in September 1956, this thesis will examine how these photographs reflected the evolution of identity in Australian culture during the post-World War Two period. Framed by two events which in themselves provoked profound changes to Australian culture, the eleven year period marks a timeframe in which Australia underwent significant shifts in its social structure, population base, political outlook and ideals. The thesis will argue that photographs published
in the national press will provide a valuable insight into how Australians were represented during these formative postwar years.

**Hobart Vogue**

*Jennifer Moncrieff*

This paper introduces the Narryna Heritage Museum (NHM) dress collection and explores its potential for furthering our understanding of the social history of 19th century Australia, and specifically Tasmania. The NHM, located in Hobart, has a large, unique, and under-researched collection of men’s, women’s and children’s clothing from around 1820-1915. Key questions for this research include: How does the NHM collection relate to the broader theoretical foundations of Australian colonial dress history? Does the NHM collection reveal evidence of innovation in Australian dress in an urban context? How did ‘fashion’ as illustrated by the NHM collection relate to supposed labels of national identity? In short, this paper provides an initial overview of a collections-based study focused on social history, ‘style’, and the exploration of ‘Hobart Vogue’.

**Mapping Modernity: Cultural Memory and the Mythology of Istanbul in poetry of the Turkish Republic**

*Joanne Ryan*

A study of the representation of Istanbul in poetry of the Turkish Republic and how this is used to establish a sense of self and place in a modern changing environment. I will examine the impact on the Turkish people, of one of the most aggressive modernisation projects in history, in light of interdisciplinary discussions of cultural memory and of modernity as not occurring singularly but as having cultural variations.

**Explore the social, cultural, economic and technological changes that occurred with the development of the sugar cane industry in the Mia Mia area, 1917 - mid 1970’s**

*Kaaren Sephton*

What is the object of the enquiry?
The object of the enquiry is to investigate and document the changes that occurred with the development of the sugar-cane industry in the Mia Mia area of North Queensland. People migrated from Malta, Italy and other countries as well as the recruitment of the Kanakas. Other Australians were recruited from various Australian States as well as indigenous population to work in the sugar industry in the Mackay district of North Queensland which Mia Mia is one community. The inquiry seeks to uncover not only what is recorded history but to also bring to light any underlying history that has gone unrecognised.

**The rural returned, Wagga and the Australian Imperial Force**

*Ian Hodges*

The Wagga district sent some 2,000 men to the First World War. Of these about one fifth were killed, most of the survivors returned home either as a result of wounds or illness suffered during the war or as part of the massive repatriation effort that followed its end.

Using collections held in the Charles Sturt University Regional Archive, the Australian War Memorial, the National Library, the National Archives of Australia as well as newspapers, local publications and the files of those returned men who entered the repatriation system, I will look at how this group adapted to their post-war lives, the role they played in the
community and the importance of their military associations as the years passed. While the thesis will focus on the Wagga district I will seek to draw broader conclusions about the post-war experience of ex-soldiers and the communities from which they came.

Becoming World Citizens? Australian and New Zealand Students in Europe
★William Shannon★

This paper is interested in the notion that spending a study period abroad as part of a university education contributes to a preparation for world citizenship. It constitutes a working paper designed to set the conceptual scene for a doctoral project which will explore whether this actually occurs in the context of the experiences of a group of Australian and New Zealand undergraduate students who are participating in a one semester exchange program in Europe. The paper will conclude by discussing the methodological approach to this project.

Architectural Heritage Post-disaster and war: Memory and Emotion
Case Study: Acehnese Architectural Heritage post 2004 tsunami disaster
★Cut Dewi★

This research aims to explore the social relationship between people and place constructed by both monumental and everyday aspects of architectural heritage. I examine the idea of heritage beyond its physical remains, and consider its relation to people in post-disaster and post-conflict contexts. The relationship between people and place will be explored through understanding the ways people use, interpret and construct their cultural heritage. This topic is important because there is increasing attention being given to the impacts of war and disaster, not only on heritage, but also on the continuity of human experiences in relation to both natural and cultural environments. This concern has been triggered by a series of major disasters which seemingly have increased around the world and a series of human conflicts that have targeted architectural heritage that is symbolic of identity in active attempts to undermine the identity and morale of combatants. In addition, people also engage in acts of commemoration of war and disaster using existing or new architectural monuments and places to help them commemorate and remember these events. Banda Aceh, an 800 years old city, is chosen as a case study to explore the use of heritage in the context of disaster and war. This city has experienced long conflict and a tremendous disaster with the 2004 tsunami. The way in which conflict and disaster has contributed to the production of Acehnese cultural heritage, and the relationship and emotional attachments of people with place will be explored. Ideas and methods developed in Architectural anthropology will be drawn on to explore these issues.

Police Museums: How Police Work and Crime are represented in Museum Settings around the World
★Laura Parker★

While Police Museums exist in various cities around the world they have rarely been discussed in the scholarly discourse of museum studies. When discussed Police Museums are generally dismissed as odd curiosities, however, the reasons behind the establishment and continued support of Police Museums are complex, highly varied and worthy of scholarly consideration. By using a number of in-depth case studies this thesis will explore why these police museums were established, who funds them, and their level of political support as a way of explaining the types of narratives that are allowed to emerge, visitor demographics, levels of community engagement, staffing choices and whether the museum is locally or nationally focused. In so doing, this thesis will demonstrate how Police Museums adhere to the traditional museums perceived role as a mechanism for civilization and education, but how they do this not through the didacticism of perfect and idealized objects, but through capitalizing on the shock associated with death and atrocity to ‘teach’ the visitor how to
Art, agency and education in the east Kimberley
★ Cate Massola ★

This research project examines the role of and relationship between art, education and agency for Aboriginal people from the east Kimberley region of Western Australia. The sites examined include: the Warmun Community Collection and its use; the new media project Gelengu du Gelenguwurru and everyday practices. In considering these activities, the examination will endeavour to highlight their purpose, value, function and outcomes.

Shared Management of Cultural and Natural Landscapes
★ Keven Francis ★

The project’s aim is to investigate the governance of cultural and natural landscapes, when perceived as a single integrated environment. The principle aspect of the research is the symbiotic relationship of intangible and tangible heritage and how its recognition, within management structures and process, can contribute to cultural diversity, sustainable development and conservation.

Social Emotional Wellbeing of the Stolen Generations; does Reconciliation Help?
★ Stewart Sutherland ★

There are many models of Reconciliation that have been adopted throughout the world. All have the term forgiveness. Is forgiveness enough to improve the Social Emotional Wellbeing of people who were forcibly removed from their families, culture and land? Placed in the care of the State and in most case forced to work as domestic labor once at an age to do so. This research project will look at the interplay between Reconciliation and the Social Emotional Wellbeing of these people.