

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND AMERICAN STUDIES CONFERENCE

27 – 29 JUNE 2017

HOSTED BY THE NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ARTS
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, NORTH SYDNEY



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Conference Convenors:

Dr Melissa Bellanta

Senior Lecturer in History
Australian Catholic University

Ms Vivien Cinque

Project Officer, Arts
Australian Catholic University

Professor Michael Ondaatje

National Head of Arts
Australian Catholic University

Cover photo:

Lincoln Mural in Lexington, Kentucky

Artist Eduardo Kobra

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CONFERENCE INFORMATION

VENUES

The majority of the conference - registration, keynotes, papers, morning and afternoon tea and lunches - will be held in the **James Carroll Building** at 40 Edward Street, North Sydney. The Postgraduate Afternoon and Welcome Reception will be held at Tenison Woods House, 8-20 Napier Street, North Sydney.

The James Carroll Building is located straight ahead of you when you walk into the main pedestrian entrance of ACU's North Sydney campus on 40 Edward Street and incorporates ACU's library downstairs. Registration and food will be available in the foyer outside the Ryan Auditorium. These can be reached via a set of external stairs to your left as you approach the James Carroll Building from Edward Street.

All of the concurrent sessions will take place on Level 2. These are reached via internal stairs slightly to your left as you enter the James Carroll Building.

AV and INTERNET ACCESS

Each room has a Windows computer with PowerPoint and a projector. Please arrive before your session to load your PowerPoint presentation (if you have one) onto the desktop. If for some reason, the computer is not set up for use, here are the following log-in details:

username guest19

password teyi.113f

You may also use these login details to gain access to wireless internet on your device. Please follow these instructions to do so:

1. Open your device's Wi-Fi settings screen.
2. The 'acuguest' network is hidden, and will not appear among the options of available networks, so you will need to select the 'Other' option.
3. In the name field, type the network name 'acuguest'.
4. Select the 'Security' option.
5. Select the 'WPA2 Enterprise' option.
6. Once selected, select 'Other Network'.
7. Enter the username 'guest19' and password 'teyi.113f'.
8. Select the 'join' option.
9. You will be presented a certificate prompt. Select the 'trust' option to be connected to the Wi-Fi.

Any use of the guest account is governed by **ACU's Acceptable Use of IT Facilities Policy**. Please read the policy at: www.acu.edu.au/policy/34895

SOCIAL EVENTS

Postgraduate session

27 June, 4–6pm

A postgraduate seminar is scheduled on the afternoon of Tuesday 27 June. The session is on the topic of '**Maximising Research Engagement and Impact in the Age of ERA**'. The speakers are Professor Michael Ondaatje (ACU) and Dr Tamson Pietsch, Co-Director for the Australian Centre for Public History at UTS. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion following their talks. The session will take place on level 14 of the Tenison Woods House Building.

Welcome reception

27 June, 6–8pm

The conference begins with a cocktail reception on the evening of Tuesday 27 June (6-8pm). The reception will be held in the Peter Cosgrove Centre on Level 18 of Tenison Woods House at ACU's North Sydney campus.

Conference dinner

28 June, 6.30 for 7pm 'til late

The conference dinner will take place at **Moorish Blue restaurant** (139 Blues Point Rd, McMahons Point, 6.30 for 7pm 'til late). The cost will be \$105 waged/\$85 for postgrads or unwaged. This covers three courses of wonderful North African cuisine and house wines, soft drink and beer. Moorish Blue is a short walk down the hill toward the harbour from ACU North Sydney. There is an outside courtyard downstairs if you want to arrive early and have a few drinks before the conference dinner.

Hopefully, you paid for the dinner at the same time that you registered for the main conference. If you have not done so but would like to attend the dinner, please see Melissa Bellanta melissa.bellanta@acu.edu.au or Vivien Cinque vivien.cinque@acu.edu.au from ACU.

A note on mobility:

If you have restricted mobility and you wish to come to the conference dinner at Moorish Blue, please contact one of the ACU helpers at the registration desk.

WELCOME FROM THE ANZASA PRESIDENT

Dr. Timothy Minchin FAHA

Professor of North American History,
La Trobe University

On behalf of the Australian and New Zealand American Studies Association, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the association's biennial conference, which is being held at Australian Catholic University's attractive North Sydney campus. ANZASA was established in 1964 as an association dedicated to the study of U.S. culture, history, literature, politics, and society. It has operated continuously since that time, serving as the main professional association for scholars of the U.S. who are based in the Asia-Pacific region. Along with its associated journal, the *Australasian Journal of American Studies* (AJAS), ANZASA's conference has always been one of the association's consistent and most significant activities.

This year's program highlights the diverse range of high quality scholarship that is being carried out by scholars, not only in Australia and New Zealand but also in Asia, North America, Europe, and beyond. We extend an especially warm welcome to those who have travelled from overseas to attend our conference, and trust that you will enjoy the collegiality and constructive scholarly environment that has always characterised ANZASA's conferences.

Throughout its history, one of ANZASA's hallmarks has been its support of young scholars. I am pleased to say that this continues this year, as the U.S. Consulate in Australia and ANZASA have been able to fund seven bursaries to enable emerging and early career researchers - most of them postgraduate candidates - to attend the conference from out of state. In order for us to provide vital support of this kind, ANZASA depends heavily on its membership. In this vein, all presenters at the conference should be members of the association. Further details of how to join are contained on the final page of in this program, or you can contact ANZASA's treasurer, Dr. Tim Verhoeven of Monash University.

I would like to thank the U.S. Consulate for their support of the conference. A big debt of thanks is also due to the conference organisers, particularly Professor Michael Ondaatje and Dr. Melissa Bellanta of Australian Catholic University, who have made all this possible.

Welcome to the conference, and thank you for your support of ANZASA.

WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF ACU'S NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ARTS

Professor Michael Ondaatje

National Head of School of Arts
Australian Catholic University

The National School of Arts at ACU is delighted to be hosting the 2017 ANZASA conference at our North Sydney campus. The School has a rapidly rising profile in the humanities and social sciences, with particular strengths in History, Politics and International Relations, and Sociology – all were judged 'world-standard' in ERA 2015. The School's research culture is vibrant and puts a premium on socially engaged research of high quality that has impact and makes a difference. Our commitment to excellence extends to student learning, with award-winning teachers – more than twenty in the past three years – focused on producing world-ready graduates who are guided by social justice principles in their approach to life and work. Spread across Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane and with a presence on ACU's new Rome campus, the National School of Arts is a thriving intellectual community that is poised to grow significantly in 2018.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Day	Time	Event	Venue
Tuesday 27 June 2017	4-6pm	<i>Postgraduate seminar: Maximising Research Engagement and Impact in the Age of ERA</i> Speakers: Prof. Michael Ondaatje (ACU) and Dr Tamson Pietsch (UTS)	Room 17-19, Level 14, Tenison Woods House Bldg , 8–20 Napier St, ACU North Sydney
	6-8pm	Conference Reception (Level 18, Tenison Woods House Building, ACU North Sydney)	Level 18, Tenison Woods House Building

Day	Time	Event	Venue
Wednesday 28 June 2017	8.30-9am	Registration	Foyer outside Ryan Auditorium, James Carroll Building 40 Edward St, Nth Sydney
	9-10.30am	Plenary Panel – US Foreign Policy in the Trump Era: Dr Kumuda Simpson (La Trobe), A/Prof. Brendon O'Connor (US Studies Centre, University of Sydney), Emeritus Prof. Ian Tyrrell (UNSW).	Ryan Auditorium, James Carroll Building
	10.30-11am	Morning tea	Foyer outside Ryan Auditorium
	11am-12.30pm	Concurrent Sessions #1	Level 2, James Carroll Bldg
	12.30-1.30pm	Lunch	Foyer outside Ryan Auditorium
	1.30-2.30pm	Keynote – Prof. Elizabeth Freeman (UC, Davis), 'Care of the Other: Caretaking Work, Queer Kinship, and Mutual Embodiment'	Ryan Auditorium
	2.30-3pm	Afternoon tea	Foyer outside Ryan Auditorium
	3-5pm	Concurrent Sessions #2	Level 2, James Carroll Bldg
	5-5.45pm	ANZASA Annual General Meeting	Rm 20, Level 2, James Carroll Bldg
	6.30 for 7pm	Conference dinner	Moorish Blue, 139 Blues Point Rd, McMahon's Point

Day	Time	Event	Venue
Thursday 29 June 2017	8.30-9am	Registration	Foyer outside Ryan Auditorium
	9-10.30am	Concurrent Sessions #1	Level 2, James Carroll Bldg
	10.30-11am	Morning tea	Foyer outside Ryan Auditorium
	11am-12.30pm	Concurrent Sessions #2	Level 2, James Carroll Bldg
	12.30-1.30pm	Lunch	Foyer outside Ryan Auditorium
	1.30-2.30pm	Keynote – Prof. Shane White (University of Sydney) , 'A Fraudulent History of Black Manhattan: The Hustlers and the Hustled'	Level 2, James Carroll Bldg
	2.30-3pm	Afternoon tea	Foyer outside Ryan Auditorium
	3-4.30pm	Concurrent Sessions #3	Level 2, James Carroll Bldg

Detailed Program – Wednesday 28 June 2017

8.30-9 AM	Registration – Foyer outside Ryan Auditorium, James Carroll Bldg (JCB), 40 Edward St
9-10.30AM	PLENARY PANEL: America and the World: US Foreign Policy in the Trump Era Ian Tyrrell (UNSW), Brendon O'Connor (US Studies Centre), Kumuda Simpson (La Trobe) Chair: Michael Ondaatje (ACU) – Ryan Auditorium
10.30-11AM	Morning tea – Foyer outside Ryan Auditorium
11AM-12.30PM	POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES: US International Relations in History Chair: Kumuda Simpson (La Trobe) – Room 2.20, James Carroll Bldg (JCB)
SESSION#1	Douglas Craig (ANU) 'The Reason for Fighting I Never Did Get: What Happened to the US' Great War? Nicholas Fearn (Monash), "Political, Economic, Social and Educational Advancement": The US in the UN Trusteeship Council, 1945–1965. Melanie Brand (Monash), 'The "Gem of American Intelligence"? The President's Daily Brief and the 1968 Czech Crisis.'
12.30-1.30PM	Lunch – Foyer outside Ryan Auditorium
1.30-2.30PM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS - Elizabeth Freeman (UC Davis) 'Care of the Other: Caretaking Work, Queer Kinship, and Mutual Embodiment'
2.30-3.00PM	Afternoon tea – Foyer outside Ryan Auditorium
3-5PM	ECONOMIC AND MARITIME HISTORIES Chair: Ian Tyrrell (UNSW) – Room 2.28, JCB
SESSION#2	Toby Nash (Melbourne), 'Empire on the Docks: Smuggling, Impression and Waterfront Conflict in British American Port-Cities, 1740-1773.' Benjamin Vine (Sydney), "'The Only Service They Do Us': Debt, Taxes, and the French Navy in Revolutionary Boston, 1780–86.' Marigold Black (Sydney), 'Realising Grotius: American Notions of World Economy in the Late 1800s.'
3-5.45PM	AMERICAN STUDIES: Culture in the Trump Age Chair: Sarah Gleeson-White (Sydney) – Room 2.23, JCB
SESSION#3	Oliver Moore (Sydney), 'Poetry on the Edge: Writing Beyond Binaries.' Adriano Tedde (Griffith), 'America's Undelivered Promise of Happiness. Desolation Poverty and Marginalisation in the works of before Auster, Jarmusch & Waits.'
5-5.45PM	AMERICAN STUDIES: Culture in the Trump Age Chair: Chris Dixon (Macquarie) – Room 2.13, JCB
6.30 FOR 7PM	HISTORIES OF ACTIVISM, GENDER AND INDIGENOUS STUDIES Chair: Michael McDonnell (Sydney) – Room 2.20, JCB
	Joanne Gilmour (ANU)/National Portrait Gallery), "A Gallery Unique and Imperishable": 1830s Portraits of First Peoples in the USA and Australia. Victoria Haskins (Newcastle), 'An Outrageous Plan: Waitressing Under the Native American Outing Program: 1920s and 30s.' Jayne Rantall (La Trobe), "Forgive Everyone Everything": Reconciliation in Midwestern USA. Elizabeth Miller (Monash), 'Almost Remembered: Native Americans and Historical Memory.'
	AMERICAN STUDIES: Culture in the Trump Age Chair: Chris Dixon (Macquarie) – Room 2.13, JCB
	Peter Bastian (ACU), 'If I Had Such a Wife, I Believe I Should Have Shot Myself: Mary Dickinson's Forgotten Roles in Revolutionary America.'
	Kate Rivington (Melbourne), 'Anti-Slavery Conversion in Antebellum South Carolina: Angelina Grimke, Sarah Grimke, and William Henry Brisbane.'
	Samuel Watts (Melbourne), 'Justice and Politics: African-American Police Officers in Charleston and New Orleans during Reconstruction.'
	Hollie Pitch (Sydney), 'Respectable Ladies, Manly Men: Black Memphians and the Courts, 1907-15.'
	ANZASA Annual General Meeting – Room 2.20, JCB
	CONFERENCE DINNER Moorish Blue – 139 Blues Point Road, McMahons Point

Detailed Program – Thursday 29 June 2017

8.30-9 AM	Registration – Foyer outside Ryan Auditorium, James Carroll Bldg (JCB), 40 Edward St		
9-10.30AM	POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES: Coalitions & Collectivities American Studies	TEACHING WORKSHOP: The Challenges of Teaching	AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORIES: Transnational Connections
SESSION#1	Chair: Douglas Craig (ANU) – Room 2.23, JCB Jeremy Pope & Shawn Treier (ANU), 'Founding Coalitions at the Constitutional Convention' Cameron Logan (Sydney), 'Collective Effervescence and Civic Decorum: The American Stadium Crowd in the 20th Century' Chris Simmonds (LaTrobe), 'Division and Unity: The 1980 Party Platforms and National Conventions.'	Chair: Jennifer Frost (Auckland) – Room 2.20, JCB Peter S Field (Canterbury), 'New Trends in Teaching the Civil War and Lincoln.' Harry Melkonian (US Studies Centre, Sydney), 'Making the US Constitution Engaging for Students.' Barbara Ryan (National University, Singapore), 'Over the Rainbow, Glocaly.'	Chair: Michael Onddaatje (ACU) – Room 2.13, JCB David Longley (Monash), 'Internationalism and "Kinship": WWII African American War Correspondents and Non-White Nations.' Sarah Dunstan (Sydney), 'African Americans, Présence Africaine and the Question of Language and Culture.' James Farquharson (ACU), 'Black America Cares: African Americans and the Nigerian Civil War.'
10.30-11AM	Morning tea – Foyer outside Ryan Auditorium		
11AM-12.30PM	POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES: 1960-1980 Chair: Tim Minchin (La Trobe) – Room 2.23, JCB	AMERICAN STUDIES: Settler-Colonial and Transnational Perspectives Chair: Victoria Haskins (Newcastle) – Room 2.20, JCB	FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES Chair: Heather Neilson (UNSW) – Room 2.13, JCB
SESSION#2	Tim Verhoeven (Monash), 'I Am Not a Crackpot. Religion, Schools and Grass-roots Anger in 1960s America.' Dean Kotlowski (Salisbury, Maryland), 'Self-Determination Continued: United States Indian Policy Under Jimmy Carter.' Jack Fahey (La Trobe), '"Oppose US Domination!": Anti-Americanism in Cold War Australia.'	Portia Dilena (La Trobe), 'Transnationalism and Felt Communities in the Syd. Uni. 1965 Freedom Ride.' Clare Corbould (Monash), 'Roots in Australia: How an American Miniseries Changed Settler Colonial History.' Travis Franks (Arizona State), 'Settler Autochthony and the Spirit of Two Texases.'	Anna Lebovic (US Studies Centre, Sydney), 'Reconsidering the Second Wave: The Case of American Vogue.' Marama Whyte (Sydney), 'Women Making Headlines, Discrimination Litigation at the <i>New York Times</i> , 1974-1979.' Ana Stevenson (University of the Free State, South Africa), '100 Years of Campaign Cartoons: Women's Suffrage Postcards & Hilarious Memes.'
12.30-1.30PM	Lunch – Foyer outside Ryan Auditorium		
1.30-2.30PM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Shane White A Fraudulent History of Black Manhattan: The Hustlers and the Hustled. Ryan Auditorium		
2.30-3PM	Afternoon tea – Foyer outside Ryan Auditorium	AMERICAN STUDIES Nathan for You and Late Capitalist Malaise	SOLDIERS AND MEN – Race, Gender, Citizenship
3-4.30PM	SESSION#3	Chair: Alix Beeston (Sydney) – Room 2.13 Lucas Thompson (Sydney), '"Say it Again": <i>Nathan for You</i> and the New Sincerity.' Ned Howells-Whitaker (Sydney), '"My Whole Life Has Just Been a Nightmare": Laughing at Others.'	Chair: Barbara Ryan (Singapore) – Room 2.20, JCB David Goodman (Melbourne), 'From Opinions to Morale in the WWII US Army.' Chris Dixon (Macquarie), 'Behaving Like Men: African American Masculinity and the Pacific War.'
		Dan Dixon (Sydney), 'Nathan for You is the Best Possible Document of Late Capitalism's Conflation of Commerce and Friendship'	Adalia Draghici (Macquarie), 'Truth, Justice, and the Advertising Way: The "Citizen-Soldier" Tradition, Coming to a Theater Near You.'

DETAILED PROGRAM – Wednesday 28 June 2017

All rooms in the James Carroll Building, 40 Edward St, North Sydney

9-10.30am	<p>PLENARY PANEL: America and the World: US Foreign Policy in the Trump Era</p> <p>Ryan Auditorium, James Carroll Building (JCB)</p> <p><i>Chair: Michael Ondaatje (ACU)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brendon O'Connor (US Studies Centre, University of Sydney) • Kumuda Simpson (La Trobe University) • Ian Tyrrell (UNSW)
10.30-11am	Morning tea
11am-12.30pm	<p>CONCURRENT SESSIONS (Four parallel sessions)</p> <p>Session 1: POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES: US International Relations in History</p> <p>Room 2.20, JCB</p> <p><i>Chair: Kumuda Simpson (La Trobe University)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Douglas Craig (ANU) 'The Reason for Fighting I Never Did Get: What Happened to the US' Great War? • Nicholas Ferns (Monash), 'Promoting "Political, Economic, Social, and Educational Advancement": The United States in the UN Trusteeship Council, 1945–1965'. • Melanie Brand (Monash), 'The "Gem of American Intelligence"? The President's Daily Brief and the 1968 Czech Crisis'. <p>Session 2: AMERICAN STUDIES: Cross-Cultural Readings</p> <p>Room 2.28, JCB</p> <p><i>Chair: Paul Giles (University of Sydney)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Tomkins (University of Sydney), 'Representing American Race Relations as an Outsider in John Safran's <i>Murder in Mississippi</i>'. • Muh Arif Rokhman (Gadjah Mada University, Jakarta), 'The "Fall" of Islamic Youngsters in America and Indonesia: Comparing Updike's <i>Terrorist</i> and Lufityanto <i>Bule Celup (Dipped White)</i>'. • Daniel McKay (Doshisha University, Japan), 'Japan and Techno-Orientalism'. <p>Session 3: NETWORKS OF IDEAS AND CULTURE IN THE 1910S AND 1920S</p> <p>Room 2.23, JCB</p> <p><i>Chair: David Goodman (Melbourne)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deirdre O'Connell (University of Sydney), 'The Dada Rag: Harlem Meets Greenwich Village in 1913'. • Andonis Piperoglou (ACU/La Trobe), '"Your problem is our problem": Charles M. Goethe and the Restriction of the "Mediterranean Race"'. • Tamson Pietsch (UTS), 'Universities Flex Their Muscles: Educational Travel and International Expertise in the 1920s'. <p>Session 4: REVISITING THE CIVIL RIGHTS ERA</p> <p>Room 2.13</p> <p><i>Chair: Clare Corbauld (Monash)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John A. Kirk (University of Arkansas, Little Rock), 'The 1957 Little Rock School Crisis at Sixty: Transnational and Interdisciplinary Perspectives'. • Sarah Van Ryn (ACU), 'The King that Time Forgot: Clennon King's 1960 Campaign for the American Presidency'. • Jessica O'Connor (ACU), 'Black Goldwaterites: The Hidden Voters of the 1964 Presidential Election'.
12.30-1.30pm	Lunch
1.30-2.30pm	<p>KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Elizabeth Freeman (UC Davis)</p> <p>'Care of the Other: Caretaking Work, Queer Kinship, and Mutual Embodiment'</p> <p>Ryan Auditorium</p>

DETAILED PROGRAM – Wednesday 28 June 2017

2.30-3pm	Afternoon Tea
3-5pm	<p>CONCURRENT SESSIONS (Four parallel sessions)</p> <p>Session 1: ECONOMIC AND MARITIME HISTORIES</p> <p>Room 2.28</p> <p><i>Chair: Ian Tyrrell (UNSW)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toby Nash (University of Melbourne), 'Empire on the Docks: Smuggling, Impression and Waterfront Conflict in British American Port-Cities, 1740-1773'. • Benjamin Vine (University of Sydney), "The Only Service They Do Us": Debt, Taxes, and the French Navy in Revolutionary Boston, 1780-86'. • Marigold Black (University of Sydney), 'Realising Grotius: American Notions of World Economy in the Late 19th Century'. • Thomas Mackay (University of Adelaide), 'Bonding: How America's Banking "Patriots" Sought to Connect with the People During the First World War'. <p>Session 2: AMERICAN STUDIES: Culture in the Trump Age</p> <p>Room 2.23</p> <p><i>Chair: Sarah Gleeson-White (University of Sydney)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oliver Moore (University of Sydney), 'Poetry on the Edge: Writing Beyond Binaries'. • Adriano Tedde (Griffith), 'America's Undelivered Promise of Happiness. Desolation, Poverty and Marginalisation in the Works of Paul Auster, Jim Jarmusch and Tom Waits'. • Jedidiah Evans (ACU/University of Sydney), "For Goodness' Sake": George Saunders' Hopeful Vision'. • David Potter (University of Sydney), 'The Shadow-Worlds of Nabokov's Poshlost'. <p>Session 3: HISTORIES OF ACTIVISM, GENDER AND RACE</p> <p>Room 2.13</p> <p><i>Chair: Chris Dixon (Macquarie)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Bastian (ACU), 'If I Had Such a Wife, I Believe I Should Have Shot Myself: Mary Dickinson and Her Forgotten Roles in Revolutionary America'. • Kate Rivington (University of Melbourne), 'Anti-Slavery Conversion in Antebellum South Carolina: Angelina Grimke, Sarah Grimke, and William Henry Brisbane'. • Samuel Watts (University of Melbourne), 'Justice and Politics: African American Police Officers in Charleston and New Orleans during Reconstruction'. • Hollie Pich (University of Sydney), 'Respectable Ladies and Manly Men: Black Memphians and the Courts, 1907-1915'. <p>Session 4: INDIGENOUS STUDIES</p> <p>Room 2.20</p> <p><i>Chair: Michael McDonnell (University of Sydney)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joanne Gilmour (ANU/National Portrait Gallery), "A Gallery Unique and Imperishable": 1830s Portraits of First Peoples in the USA and Australia'. • Victoria Haskins (University of Newcastle), 'An Outrageous Plan: Experiments with Waitressing Under the Native American Outing Program in the late 1920s and 1930s'. • Jayne Rantall (La Trobe), "Forgive Everyone Everything": The Pursuit of Reconciliation in Midwestern USA'. • Elizabeth Miller (Monash), 'Almost Remembered: Native Americans and Historical Memory'.
5-5.45pm	ANZASA Annual General Meeting – Room 2.20
6.30 for 7pm	Conference Dinner – Moorish Blue, 139 Blues Point Road, McMahon's Point

DETAILED PROGRAM – Thursday 29 June 2017

All rooms in the James Carroll Building, 40 Edward St, North Sydney

9-10.30am	<p>CONCURRENT SESSIONS (Three parallel sessions)</p> <p>Session 1: POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES: Coalitions & Collectivities</p> <p>Room 2.23</p> <p><i>Chair: Douglas Craig (ANU)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeremy Pope and Shawn Treier (ANU), 'Founding Coalitions at the U.S. Constitutional Convention'. • Cameron Logan (University Sydney), 'Collective Effervescence and Civic Decorum: The American Stadium Crowd in the Twentieth Century'. • Chris Simmonds (La Trobe), 'Division and Unity: The 1980 Party Platforms & National Conventions'.
	<p>Session 2: TEACHING WORKSHOP: The Challenges of Teaching American Studies</p> <p>Room 2.20</p> <p><i>Chair: Jennifer Frost (University of Auckland)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter S. Field (University of Canterbury), 'New Trends in Teaching the Civil War and Lincoln'. • Harry Melkonian (US Studies Centre, University of Sydney), 'Making the US Constitution Engaging for students'. • Barbara Ryan (National University of Singapore), 'Over the Rainbow, Globally'.
	<p>Session 3: AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORIES: Transnational Connections</p> <p>Room 2.13</p> <p><i>Chair: Michael Ondaatje (ANU)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Longley (Monash), 'Internationalism and "Kinship": World War II African American War Correspondents and Non-White Nations'. • Sarah Dunstan (University of Sydney), 'La Langue de nos maîtres: African Americans, Présence Africaine and the Question of Language and Culture'. • James Farquharson (ACU), 'Black America Cares: African Americans and the Nigerian Civil War, 1967–1970'.
10.30-11am	Morning tea, Foyer outside Ryan Auditorium
11am-12.30pm	<p>CONCURRENT SESSIONS (Three parallel sessions)</p> <p>Session 1: POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES: 1960-1980</p> <p>Room 2.23</p> <p><i>Chair: Tim Minchin (La Trobe)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim Verhoeven (Monash), 'I Am Not a Crackpot. Religion, Schools and Grass-roots Anger in 1960s America'. • Dean Kotlowski (Salisbury University, Maryland), 'Self-Determination Continued: United States Indian Policy Under Jimmy Carter'. • Jack Fahey (La Trobe), "Oppose U.S. Domination of Australia!": A History of Anti-Americanism in Cold War Australia'.
	<p>Session 2: AMERICAN STUDIES: Settler-Colonial and Transnational Perspectives</p> <p>Room 2.20</p> <p><i>Chair: Victoria Haskins (University of Newcastle)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portia Dilena (La Trobe), 'Transnationalism and Felt Communities in the Sydney University 1965 Freedom Ride'. • Clare Corbould (Monash), 'Roots in Australia: How an American Miniseries Changed Settler Colonial History'. • Travis Franks (Arizona State University), 'Settler Autochthony and the Spirit of Two Texases'.

DETAILED PROGRAM – Thursday 29 June 2017

11am-12.30pm	<p>Session 3: FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES</p> <p>Room 2.13</p> <p><i>Chair: Heather Neilson (UNSW)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anna Lebovic (US Studies Centre, University of Sydney), 'Reconsidering the Second Wave: The Case of American Vogue'. • Marama Whyte (University of Sydney), 'Women Making Headlines. Discrimination Litigation at the <i>New York Times</i>, 1974-1979'. • Ana Stevenson (University of the Free State, South Africa), '100 Years of Campaign Cartoons: Women's Suffrage Postcards and Hilary Memes'.
12.30-1.30pm	Lunch, Foyer outside Ryan Auditorium
1.30-2.30pm	<p>KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Shane White (University of Sydney)</p> <p>'A Fraudulent History of Black Manhattan: The Hustlers and the Hustled'</p> <p>Ryan Auditorium</p>
2.30-3pm	Afternoon tea, Foyer outside Ryan Auditorium
3-4.30pm	<p>CONCURRENT SESSIONS (Two parallel sessions)</p> <p>Session 1: AMERICAN STUDIES <i>Nathan for You and Late Capitalist Malaise</i></p> <p>Room 2.13</p> <p><i>Chair: Alix Beeston (University of Sydney)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lucas Thompson (University of Sydney), "Say it Again": <i>Nathan for You</i> and the New Sincerity'. • Ned Howells-Whitaker (University of Sydney), "My Whole Life Has Just Been a Nightmare": Laughing at Others'. • Dan Dixon (University of Sydney), '<i>Nathan for You</i> is the Best Possible Document of Late Capitalism's Conflation of Commerce and Friendship'. <p>Session 2: SOLDIERS AND MEN: Race, Gender, Citizenship</p> <p>Room 2.20</p> <p><i>Chair: Barbara Ryan (National University of Singapore)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Goodman, (University of Melbourne), 'From Opinions to Morale in the WWII US Army'. • Chris Dixon (Macquarie), 'Behaving Like Men: African American Masculinity and the Pacific War'. • Adalia Draghici (Macquarie), 'Truth, Justice, and the Advertising Way: The Reconfiguration of the "Citizen-Soldier" Tradition, Coming to a Theater Near You'.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Professor Elizabeth Freeman

University of California, Davis

Care of the Other: Caretaking Work, Queer Kinship, and Mutual Embodiment

Wednesday 28 June 2017

1.30pm – 2.30pm | Ryan Auditorium,
James Carroll Building, 40 Edward St,
North Sydney

This talk explores caretaking as a form of work on the self, but not the moral sort that allows for greater self-knowledge and thus expands the self. Instead, I argue that care work involves allowing the self to be deregulated, bent toward others, feminised and racialised, and in many ways disabled. As a form of un- or undercompensated labour, care work arguably has its roots in slavery as well as in patriarchy: it is the work of white women and people of colour. Yet its capacities to link people into new coalitions and identity-formations bridge heterosexual marriage and queer companionship, male and female, parenting and other forms of kinship, voluntary and coerced labor, racialising taxonomies and processes of racialisation that flout those taxonomies. Framing my talk with a consideration of how the United States government is working to re-privatise care work, I will use Edith Wharton's novella *Ethan Frome* as a case study for the queerness of caretaking itself—its strange temporalities; its production of non-normatively gendered, racialised, sexualised, and dis/abled bodies; the kinds of alternative kinships it enables; its reimagination of labour relations beyond both the classically Marxist story of social reproduction and the liberal story of self-confirmation and self-extension.

Elizabeth Freeman is a Professor of English at UC Davis, specializing in American literature and gender/sexuality/Queer Studies. She has written two books, *The Wedding Complex: Forms of Belonging in Modern American Culture* (Duke UP, 2002), and *Time Binds: Queer Temporalities, Queer Histories* (Duke UP, 2010) along with articles in numerous scholarly journals. She was also the editor of a special issue of *GLQ*, «Queer Temporalities» (2007). She now serves as Editor of *GLQ* with Associate Professor of Feminist Studies, Marcia Ochoa (UC Santa Cruz).

Professor Shane White

University of Sydney

A Fraudulent History of Black Manhattan: The Hustlers and the Hustled

Thursday 29 June 2017

1.30pm – 2.30pm | Ryan Auditorium,
James Carroll Building, 40 Edward St,
North Sydney

New York has always been a city tinged with fraud. From Boss Tweed and Bernie Madoff through to the myriad cons and scams—many small, some not so small—committed everyday on the streets, fraud is more than just part of the fabric of city life, potentially it is a key to understanding its history. The cons that worked, the spiels that convinced New Yorkers and strangers simply to hand over their money, lay bare more of New York's past than any dry telling of the doings of city mayors. My interest here is in the role of fraud and confidence tricks in the life of Black Manhattan, the way New York blacks have hustled and been hustled. My conceit is that such a fraudulent history, as well as being fascinating in its own right, can reveal much that is unknown, and perhaps even true, about New York City itself.

There have been two Golden Ages of the black confidence trick in New York City. The first, following on from the end of slavery in New York State in 1827, lasted for a little more than a decade in the 1830s and 1840s, and the second, fractionally longer and almost a century later, took place in the 1920s and 1930s. Not coincidentally, both were periods of dramatic and abrupt change in African American life, transitional times when new things disrupted older more settled ways. Also not coincidentally, in both periods city streets were alive with African Americans living off their mother wit. Some were hustlers and con artists of the highest order and this talk is about a couple of them.

About Shane White. As student, postgrad, member of staff and eventually the August Challis Professor of History, I have been in the History Department at the University of Sydney since I was seventeen years old.

I write African American history and much of it is about New York City. I have authored or co-authored a number of books including *Stylin'* (1998), *The Sounds of Slavery* (2005) and *Playing the Numbers* (2010). I am also part of the Harlem team that put together the website *Digital Harlem*.

My most recent book, *Prince of Darkness* (2015) has been optioned by Hollywood (though I confidently expect nothing to happen and ain't quitting my day job quite yet). I have been collecting material about black con men and women for three decades – they have long fascinated me.

PLENARY PANELISTS

Plenary Session: AMERICA AND THE WORLD: U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IN THE TRUMP ERA.

Wednesday 28 June
9-10.30am, Ryan Auditorium

PANELISTS:

- **Associate Professor Brendan O'Connor** (United States Studies Centre, University of Sydney)
'WHAT IS TRUMP FOREIGN POLICY IDEOLOGY?'
- **Dr Kumuda Simpson** (La Trobe University)
'AMERICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE TRUMP ERA.'
- **Professor Ian Tyrrell** (UNSW)
'AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM IN THE TIME OF TRUMP.'

Brendon O'Connor is an Associate Professor in American Politics at the University of Sydney's US Studies Centre and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. He was a Fulbright Fellow at Georgetown University in 2006, a Visiting Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington DC in 2008 and 2015, and life member of Clare Hall at University of Cambridge.

Brendon is the editor of seven books on anti-Americanism and has also published articles and books on American welfare policy, presidential politics, US foreign policy, and Australian-American relations. He is a regular commentator in the Australian media on American politics and foreign policy.

Kumuda Simpson is a lecturer in International Relations in the Department of Politics and Philosophy at La Trobe University. She received her PhD from the University of Melbourne in 2012 and has taught at several Australian universities. Her research interests include climate change and security, nuclear proliferation and energy security, arms control, Middle Eastern politics, and American politics. She has published on a range of issues including gun control in America and regional security issues in the Middle East. Her recent book is titled *America's Nuclear Diplomacy with Iran*. She is currently working on a book looking at the security implications of global climate change. She is a regular commentator on ABC Radio and local radio stations, and a regular columnist for *The Conversation*.

Ian Tyrrell is Emeritus Professor of History at UNSW. Many of his books and essays have pioneered transnational approaches to United States history, including 'American Exceptionalism in an Age of International History' (*American Historical Review* 1991); *Woman's World/Woman's Empire*, *True Gardens of the Gods*, *Transnational Nation*, and *Reforming the World*. His latest book is *Crisis of the Wasteful Nation: Empire and Conservation in Theodore Roosevelt's America*.

A former ANZASA President and Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, Ian was awarded a Commonwealth of Australia Centenary Medal in 2003, and has been a visiting professor at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris; and Joyce Appleby (Visiting) Professor of United States History at the University of California, Los Angeles, Fall 2009. He served as the Harold Vyvyan Harmsworth Professor of American History in the University of Oxford for 2010-11; and was appointed a Professorial Fellow of the Queen's College, Oxford.

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TEACHING WORKSHOP

The Challenges of Teaching American Studies

Thursday 29 June 2017

9-10.30am | Chair: Jennifer Frost (University of Auckland)

Presenters:

- **Peter S. Field** (University of Canterbury), 'New Trends in Teaching the Civil War and Lincoln'
- **Harry Melkonian** (US Studies Centre, University of Sydney), 'Making the US Constitution Engaging for Students'
- **Barbara Ryan** (National University of Singapore), 'Over the Rainbow, Glocally'

This workshop explores challenges faced in teaching American Studies. The presenters will identify different challenges they face in their teaching and how they have sought to overcome them. The presentations will be followed by discussion amongst workshop participants, sharing suggestions and strategies. We invite our colleagues to join the conversation about the challenges of teaching our subjects.

Peter S. Field finds that even a topic as compelling as the American Civil War and Abraham Lincoln poses challenges, especially in the wake of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. This presentation offers some strategies for incorporating the latest historiography along trends into our syllabi and classes. Two major trends have emerged. The first, around the nature of the war and its key themes, speaks to the current evisceration of the North-South divide, downplaying the separate experiences of the sections in favour of themes that speak to the national experience. Secondly, historians have warmed to the idea that Lincoln acted the role of abolitionist when given the opportunity to act as chief executive. Nowhere is this notion conveyed more clearly than by Hollywood, as in Spielberg's *Lincoln* (2012) which brings together the president and Thad Stevens in the great month leading up to the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment. This new scholarship and novel pedagogical tools demand reconsideration of how one teaches the American conflict in Australia and New Zealand.

Harry Melkonian finds that, although the US Constitution is foundational to American Studies and essential for understanding contemporary America, it presents challenges from a teaching standpoint. Given that the Constitution is essentially a legal document dependent on a long history of evolving Supreme Court precedents, it is of modest interest to most students. During the past 10 years of experimenting with

various methods, Melkonian has found the most powerful and engaging presentation devotes minimal time to Constitutional formalities and instead focuses on specific 20th-century crisis environments. A case in point is the relationship of the Army-McCarthy Hearings of 1954 and the Watergate Scandal of 1972-1974. Both McCarthyism and the unravelling of the Nixon White House provide compelling political stories and examples of the profound separation-of-powers questions endemic to the US Government. In both situations, Presidents Eisenhower and Nixon claimed Executive Privilege. Yet, the privilege succeeded for Eisenhower and failed for Nixon – why? Contextualised in these incidents, separation of powers comes alive and students attain an appreciation of the subtleties of this central theme of American government.

Barbara Ryan engages with Hilary Emmet's recent article in AJAS about a need to translate certain localisms when teaching US popular culture in Australia. Some forms of popular culture, however, seem to travel the world without explicit interface. One example is the great song, 'Over the Rainbow' (1939). A striking number of Pacific Rim musicians have posted YouTube videos of themselves singing or playing this song. Written for the *The Wizard of Oz* film and sung by Judy Garland with 'a tear in her voice', this song has inspired fan writing such as Salman Rushdie's tribute and Ann Pellegrino's reflection on sexuality, Israel 'Iz' Kamakawiwo'ole's ukulele version, a Witi Ihimaera story, a computer language and a prototyping model, and more. Ryan explores the challenges involved in using 'Over the Rainbow' fan writing and scholarship to guide students toward their original composition of multi-media accounts of local – yet also glocal – lives. The aim is to set up inquiry that assists world citizens in my interdisciplinary Pacific Rim college to think and act in a glocal way that interrogates history and transmission.

PRESENTERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Peter S. Field is Dean of Research and Associate Professor of American History in the College of Arts at the University of Canterbury. In 2015-16 he held the Garwood Visiting Professorship at Princeton University. The author of several books, including *Ralph Waldo Emerson: The Making of a Democratic Intellectual* and *The Crisis of the Standing Order*, he has recently completed a survey of American History entitled *The Promise and Paradox of American Freedom*. He holds a PhD in History from Columbia University.

Harry Melkonian has a PhD in Law from Macquarie University. His other qualifications are: J.D. (cum laude), New York University School of Law; B.A., University of Rochester. Harry has taught US Constitution at the US Studies Centre (Sydney) continuously since 2008. He is admitted to practice law in England, NSW, New York & California. His constitutional litigation includes the first successful challenge to US Military exclusion of Gays.

Barbara Ryan teaches in the University Scholars Programme at the National University of Singapore. At this year's ANZASA conference, she joins a panel on American Studies teaching. Her paper previews an undergraduate course she plans to debut in the upcoming academic year, in which the 1939 film-version of *The Wizard of Oz*, and reactions to it from scholars and artists, will play an important role. Part of Barbara's pedagogical objective is to rouse students' thoughts about global transmission and glocal use. Another part is to support Singapore's 'maker movement' in a classroom setting that folds in communicative performance. In 2016, Barbara published a co-edited volume of essays on the book, stage-show and two film-versions of *Ben-Hur*. This year, she plans to complete work on a study of *Ben-Hur's* reception between 1880 and 1924.

ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHIES

'If I Had Such a Wife, I Believe I Should Have Shot Myself: Mary Dickinson and Her Forgotten Roles in Revolutionary America.'

BASTIAN, Peter (ACU)

Mary Norris Dickinson was an interesting figure - a Quaker who maintained a circle of female correspondents and was interested in poetry, essays and social and political issues, who managed an estate when required to do so and who married under difficult circumstances but clearly held her own as a partner in a marriage with John Dickinson. She was to fret over war and its effects, including the destruction of the home she loved and the partisan attacks upon her husband's reputation, but found solace in post-war simplicity where she could focus upon education and social reforms in the new republic. She certainly deserves to be better remembered than by John Adams biting remark that if he had such a wife as Mary he would have shot himself. This paper tries to explain why she has largely been forgotten or misrepresented by a number of historians.

Biography

Peter Bastian is an honorary professor at Australian Catholic University and a life member of ANZASA. He has served as President of the Association (1990-1994) and for his sins was consigned to two terms as editor of its journal (1986-1990 and 2000-2006). He is the author or co-author of *John F. Kennedy and the Historians*, *Timor-Leste: Transforming Education through Partnership in a Small Post-Conflict State*, *A Century of Celebration: RSL LifeCare, 1911-2011* and *Andrew Fisher: An Underestimated Man* (2009). He has also co-edited the following collections: *The End of the American Century and Through Depression and War: Australia and the United States*.

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'Realising Grotius: American Notions of World Economy in the Late 19th Century.'

BLACK, Marigold (University of Sydney)

According to Grotius, freedom of the seas was the most unimpeachable and self-evident axiom of the Law of Nations. God, he argued, had dispersed resources among the various continents so that mankind, requiring the assistance of each other, would cultivate society. To maintain that peaceful condition, passage on the oceans must be free and unmolested. By the 19th Century, that promise of commercial exchange seemed actualised, to the extent that the term world economy entered the lexicon, and price movements, market aggregates, and statistics replaced the moral sensibility of world commerce articulated by Grotius. This paper suggests however, that when the United States gained a foothold in international politics toward the end of the century, that moral sensibility seemed to resurface. American internationalists in the late 19th Century promoted the Grotian impulse and resolved that a doctrine of free seas befitting contemporary commerce would usher in a reign of peace.

Biography

Marigold Black is a Junior Research Fellow with the Laureate Program in International History at the University of Sydney.

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'The "Gem of American Intelligence"? The President's Daily Brief and the 1968 Czech Crisis.'

BRAND, Melanie (Monash)

For many historians and intelligence specialists, the issue that lies at the core of United States intelligence responses to the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia has been one of warning. Given that the invasion had long been considered an intelligence failure, the question of whether the US intelligence community succeeded in providing prior warning to President Johnson was a central point of contention. Historians anticipated that the recent declassification of the President's Daily Brief (PDB), considered the pinnacle of intelligence community output, and a likely source of warning, would close the debate; however, significant redactions mean that this has not proven to be the case. Nonetheless, close study of the Briefs spanning the Prague Spring yields a substantial contribution to the debate. By considering the PDB within the context of the intelligence community output as a whole, this paper will demonstrate that the PDBs did not provide adequate prior warning of the invasion to Johnson, and rather than representing a 'gem of American intelligence', the PDB instead served as a mirror, reflecting and concentrating the analytic and bureaucratic flaws found within the intelligence community.

Biography

Melanie Brand is a PhD candidate in intelligence history at Monash University. She recently completed her Masters degree at Melbourne University, in which she examined US intelligence responses to the 1968 Prague Spring and Warsaw Pact Invasion of Czechoslovakia. She is currently researching the relationship between intelligence and media during the Cold War.

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'Roots in Australia: How an American Miniseries Changed Settler Colonial History.'

CORBOULD, Clare (Monash)

Roots, the miniseries, broke all records; stories of its production and reception are well-known. Less recognised is the impact the series had worldwide. When it screened in Melbourne, for example, in May 1977, an eight-page liftout adorned the city's broadsheet newspaper, replete with photographs, stories about the stars and the process of transforming book into television, and snippets from local academic historians about why it mattered. *Roots* remains the highest-rating miniseries ever, and it spawned a 'golden age' of Australian television. Some sixty miniseries followed in the next ten years, a great many dealing with historical themes.

Roots' most surprising impact was in the way it permitted white Australians to reclaim their convict heritage. For generations, white Australians had avoided any mention of what they called the 'convict stain'. Now, what had been a shameful past became a point of pride. Miniseries such as *Against the Wind*, a 13-part account of the white settlement of Sydney, took up motifs of slavery and applied them to white settlers. Such cultural productions served to elide the longer and deeper roots of Indigenous Australians. In doing so, they continued two centuries of work to possess the land of Australia and to dispossess native peoples.

This paper examines not only white Australians' responses to *Roots*, but also the way that Aboriginal Australians took it up in stage productions, including *Cake Man*, 'a sort of mini-*Roots*' television series, and bestselling memoirs. It uses all of these examples to reflect on the long interplay between two settler colonial nations, Australia and the United States.

Biography

Clare Corbould's main area of interests are African American history and culture. Her major publication is a monograph titled *Becoming African Americans* (Harvard UP, 2009). She is also the co-editor of *Remembering the Revolution: History, Memory, and Nation Making from Independence to the Civil War* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2013). Clare is an ARC Future Fellow in Monash University's History program, where she is currently working on two projects: first, a book about interviews with ex-slaves conducted in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s; and secondly, with Michael McDonnell, a study of the memory and legacy of the American Revolution among African Americans. Her work on *Roots* has appeared in *Reconsidering Roots*, ed. Erica L. Ball and Kellie Carter Jackson (University of Georgia Press, 2017) and *Transition*.

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'The Reason for Fighting I Never Did Get: What Happened to the US' Great War?'

CRAIG, Douglas (ANU)

'The problem with the American memory of World War I,' Mark Snell wrote in 2008, 'is that there seems to be none.' Nine years later, as Americans mark the centenary of its Great War, little has changed. In popular memory World War I's causes and consequences for the United States remains obscure and largely forgotten.

I am interested in what happened to the Great War in US politics and political culture from the time of the Armistice until 1941. My hypothesis is that the Great War rapidly waned in and then largely disappeared from US political discourse, contests, and forums because from the outset intervention in it had been misleadingly explained and falsely justified. We are familiar with the trope of disillusion in US culture in the 1920s, but as yet we do not have an examination of how the memory and 'lessons' of World War I played out in American political culture after 1918. That is the task that this paper begins.

Biography

Douglas Craig is a Reader in History at the ANU. He is the author of three books, including *Progressives at War: William G. McAdoo and Newton D. Baker, 1863-1941* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013). He is currently working on a project on the politics of the (American) Great War between 1918 and 1941.

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'Transnationalism and Felt Communities in the Sydney University 1965 Freedom Ride.'

DILENA, Portia (La Trobe)

The 1965 Australian freedom ride, run by Student Action For Aboriginals from Sydney University, encapsulates the role that felt communities have played in social movements, especially on a transnational basis. In 1964 Sydney University students, inspired by the direct action of U.S. student activists, such as SNCC, started to identify and align themselves with their perceived U.S. equivalents. By identifying similar emotions and aspirations as their counter-parts in the U.S., they created a felt community, transcending borders and importing protest methods, climaxing in the 1965 freedom ride through rural New South Wales.

While current literature, such as Ann Curthoys' auto-biography *Freedom Ride: A Freedom Rider Remembers*, has focused on the transnational aspect of social movements, I aim to uncover the role emotions played in connecting disparate students into a collective with shared emotions, methods and aspirations. This theory is drawn from Sara Ahmed's paper *The Politics of Bad Feeling*, in which emotions form a crucial part in creating and maintaining communities. Through this I aim to add another dimension to understanding social movements and their formations in an increasingly global and borderless world.

Biography

Portia Dilena is a PhD candidate at La Trobe University, focusing on the role of emotions in Australian student protest. Her honours thesis, completed in 2016, was entitled 'A Rude Awakening: Exploring the Role of Emotions in the 1965 Australian Freedom Ride.'

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'Behaving Like Men: African American Masculinity and the Pacific War.'

DIXON, Chris (Macquarie)

Writing in 1944, the black historian and educationalist Lawrence Reddick emphasised that the African American characters of the film *Bataan*, released the previous year, 'behave like men'. For African Americans serving in the Pacific Theater during World War Two the 'right to fight' raised issues of deep political and cultural significance. Viewing service on the field of battle as a quintessentially masculine endeavor, that powerfully exemplified the relationship between warrior and nation, African Americans hoped their demonstrations of valor under fire would both repudiate their critics who insisted blacks could not withstand the rigors of combat, and enhance their claims for equal rights of citizenship. Acutely conscious of those racial and patriotic imperatives, white military commanders sought to defend their own cultural and political authority by denying black men the opportunity to prove their manhood in combat.

Biography

Chris Dixon is Professor of History at Macquarie University. He is currently completing *African Americans and the Pacific War: Race, Nationality, and the Fight for Freedom*, under contract to Cambridge University Press.

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ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHIES

'Nathan for You' is the Best Possible Document of Late Capitalism's Conflation of Commerce and Friendship.

DIXON, Dan (University of Sydney)

The premise of the Comedy Central program *Nathan for You* is that Canadian comedian Nathan Fielder – playing a more socially awkward and oblivious self-confident version of himself – visits Californian businesses and provides advice as to how they might succeed. The advice is neither necessarily good nor bad but is always absurd. For instance, he suggests that a coffee shop find more customers by becoming a parody of *Starbucks: Dumb Starbucks*; or an antique store with a you-break-it-you-buy-it policy increase turnover by creating extremely narrow display corridors and attracting drunk people late at night who are more likely to break items.

This paper argues that, ultimately, this is a show about how neoliberal capitalism creates a system of relations that resemble friendships but, under neoliberal logic, cannot actually become friendships. Using affect theory developed by scholars such as Rita Felski and Sianne Ngai, and philosopher Alexander Nehamas' writing on friendship, I propose that the show's comedic and emotional heart lies in its parody of neoliberal logic, manifested in the minor and often generous interactions that emerge when unsuspecting business owners find themselves reluctantly agreeing to go along with Nathan's schemes.

Biography

Dan Dixon is completing a PhD at the University of Sydney's English Department. His thesis examines why we do not think it is sane to describe the interaction between the author of an essay and the reader of that essay as a social relation. He works primarily on Janet Malcolm, Joan Didion, David Foster Wallace, Ben Lerner, and Maggie Nelson.

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'Truth, Justice, and the Advertising Way: The Reconfiguration of the "Citizen-Soldier" Tradition, Coming to a Theater Near You.'

DRAGHICI, Adalia (Macquarie)

Zach Snyder's re-boot of the celebrated Superman franchise – *Man of Steel* – was released in cinemas in 2013. It signaled a new level of corporate and military collusion. In congruence with the release of the film, the National Guard used the franchise as a platform to launch their recruitment campaign – *Soldiers of Steel* – connecting the narrative of the iconic character with the concept of the 'citizen-soldier'. The *Soldiers of Steel* campaign carries serious implications for how and why Americans choose to serve in their nation's military forces. This paper will investigate how the historical figure of the 'citizen-soldier' has been reproduced and reconfigured for the twenty-first century – reflecting the changing nature of America's military involvement in conflict abroad. Furthermore, this paper seeks to explore how the rhetorical potency of the 'citizen-soldier' ideal underpins some of the most fundamental questions that inform identity and citizenship in the United States.

Biography

Adalia Draghici is undertaking a PhD in history at Macquarie University, working on a historical analysis of cultural experiences of war in the United States. Her research interests include popular culture, Presidential histories, national myth making, and civil-military relations.

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'La Langue de nos maîtres: African Americans, Présence Africaine and the Question of Language and Culture.'

DUNSTAN, Sarah (University of Sydney)

'Nous pouvons parler la même langue que François Mauriac, utiliser les mêmes vocables qu'Hemingway. Mais nous n'avons plus le même langage qu'eux. La vérité est que nous parlons malgache, arabe, wolof, bantou dans la langue de nos maîtres.'

'We may speak the same tongue as François Mauriac, use the same vocabulary as Hemingway. But we no longer speak the same language as them. The truth is that we speak Malagasy, Arabic, Wolof, Bantu in the tongue of our masters.'

Jacques Rabemananjara, Malagasy poet, journalist and politician, is best known for his contributions to the *négritude* movement and for his political career in the turbulent politics of French colonial Madagascar. These meditations on the link between language and racial identity, however, point to his broader participation in the African diaspora. More specifically, they gesture to the dialogue that occurred between francophone black intellectuals and their counterparts in the United States over the linguistic problematics posed by the project of decolonisation. In two Congresses held in Paris in 1956 and in Rome in 1959 and organized by the committee behind the publishing house and journal *Présence Africaine*, the question of language and its imperial dimensions became a hotly contested subject. In this paper I will chart the ways that these different black intellectuals understood their use of the French language vis-à-vis the de-colonising project and the fight for black civil rights in the United States.

Biography

Sarah Dunstan is a doctoral candidate at the University of Sydney on an Australian Postgraduate Award, working on a thesis entitled 'A Tale of Two Republics: Black Configurations of Rights and Citizenship Between French Empire and American Exceptionalism, 1919-1963.' She was a Postgraduate Fulbright Scholar at Columbia University, New York in 2014 to 2015 and a Visiting Postgraduate Scholar at Reid Hall Columbia Global Center in Paris in semester one 2016. As of February 2017 she is a Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Postgraduate Teaching Fellow at the University of Sydney. She is also an editor at the *Journal of the History of Ideas* website. Her publications and reviews have appeared in *Callaloo: A Journal of African Diaspora Arts and Letters* and the *Australian Journal of American Studies*.

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“For Goodness’ Sake”: George Saunders’ Hopeful Vision’

EVANS, Jedidiah (ACU/University of Sydney)

In early 2016, the New Yorker magazine sent writer George Saunders on the Trump campaign trail, believing that a satirist whose work is replete with the kinds of struggling people whom Trump appealed to was their perfect interpreter. Saunders left for the trail fresh off completing his debut novel, *Lincoln in the Bardo*: a novel that attests to art’s capacity for cultivating and producing empathy, and which draws on a gamut of historical texts that interweave epigraphically with the narrative’s multiple voices. This paper argues that as Saunders reinscribes historical sources as literary voices—and fills his graveyard with the plaintive and unassuaged ghosts of the unwilling deceased—he invents a mode of writing that literalises the experience of becoming a multitude in the act of reading. Saunders’ appeal to art as an empathetic and generous act offers us a corrective to what he calls the ‘aggressive banality’ of the Trump era, and suggests the possibility of art as resistance.

Biography

Jedidiah Evans is a sessional lecturer in English and Communications at Australian Catholic University. His doctoral dissertation, ‘Look Overseas, Angel: Concentric Circles of Sehnsucht in the Work of Thomas Wolfe’, reimagined Wolfe’s career-long preoccupation with longing within a broader transatlantic exchange of ideas, and is presently under review as a revised manuscript with LSU Press for the Southern Literary Studies series. He has been published in *The Thomas Wolfe Review*, *Inklings Forever*, and the *Australasian Journal of American Studies*, and has a forthcoming chapter in *The Prosaic Imaginary: Novels and the Everyday*. Jedidiah is presently working with Dr Hannah Forsyth at ACU on a project titled ‘Authentic Assessment in History’, which seeks to understand authentic assessments from the perspectives of those whom the university hopes to shape through them.

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‘Black America Cares: African Americans and the Nigerian Civil War, 1967–1970’

FARQUHARSON, James (ACU)

The Nigerian Civil War (1967-1970), has been acknowledged by historians to have had a crucial transnational dimension. However, the response of African-Americans to the war and the subsequent humanitarian catastrophe in Nigeria has been neglected. This paper will argue that African-Americans were politically, socially and intellectually active in addressing the war in Nigeria. From the beginning of the conflict, civil rights leaders including Martin Luther King Jr. and A. Phillip Randolph worked to bring the Nigerian government and the Biafran leadership together to avoid bloodshed. Groups such as the Joint Afro Committee on Biafra used rallies, conferences and press coverage to advocate for an independent Biafra as a source of renewed ‘black power’ on the continent. In the pages of the major black newspapers such as the *Afro-American* and the *New York Amsterdam News*, foreign correspondents provided in-depth commentary and editorial pages overflowed with debates concerning the war. Using a variety of untapped primary sources, this paper will demonstrate that the war in Nigeria forced African-Americans to think deeply

about questions of self-determination, the viability of Pan-Africanism, sovereignty and the protection of human rights and the impact of neocolonialism, even while continuing to fight for racial equality at home.

Biography

James Farquharson is a PhD candidate on an Australian Postgraduate Award at ACU. His thesis is a biography of the American diplomat Marshall Green and his impact on U.S. foreign policy in the Asia-Pacific during the Cold War. He holds a Master’s degree in American diplomatic history from the University of Sydney. He has a chapter forthcoming on the response of African-Americans to the Nigerian Civil War in *Postcolonial Conflict and the Question of Genocide: The Nigeria-Biafra War, 1967-1970* (Routledge).

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“Oppose U.S. Domination of Australia!”: A History of Anti-Americanism in Cold War Australia’

FAHEY, Jack (La Trobe)

In 1972, Richard Nixon described Australia as ‘one of the most faithful of America’s allies’. Indeed, Australia was a most faithful ally, welcoming with open arms American cultural, economic, military and political presence, often with substantial public support. However, public sympathy was not universal. At different times the U.S. has been the subject of scorn, derision, protest and even violence. ‘Anti-Americanism’, a diverse and contested phenomenon, has attracted substantial scholarly inquiry. However, the Australian variant has attracted relatively little attention, with detailed historical analysis almost entirely absent in a field dominated by theorists and political scientists. Part of an emerging PhD thesis, my approach better encapsulates the complexities of the past, tracking the shifts, nature and expression of anti-American attitudes in Australia between 1945-1973. I aim to demonstrate it is a fluid, complex and varying phenomenon that is directly related to the specific historical context. Therefore, this paper aims to provide a deeper contextual understanding of global perceptions of American power, demonstrating that hostile reactions have emerged in a variety of contexts, even from a most faithful ally.

Biography

Jack Fahey is in the first year of a PhD in history at La Trobe University. He is examining the history of anti-American attitudes in modern Australia. This is a continuation of his honours thesis focusing on the emergence of anti-American sentiment in Australia during the initial decades of the Cold War.

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ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHIES

'Promoting "Political, Economic, Social, and Educational Advancement": The United States in the UN Trusteeship Council, 1945–1965.'

FERNS, Nicholas (Monash)

After the end of the Second World War, the newly established United Nations (UN) was given the task of overseeing the administration of former League of Nations Mandated Territories. The UN Trusteeship Council, established by Chapter XIII of the UN Charter, served as the central authority over the former mandates. The post-war notion of development was central to the system of trusteeship, as trustee powers were expected to 'promote the political, economic, social, and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the trust territories.' It was expected that the promotion of development would ready the trust territories for eventual self-government. The United States was granted control over the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

This paper examines American involvement in the UN Trusteeship Council through the historical lens of development. It will demonstrate that developmental imperatives combined with political objectives to guide the position of the United States on trusteeship matters. Within the Council, American officials had to grapple with the complex intersection of developmental ideas, Cold War disagreements and anti-colonial pressures. By examining American involvement in the UN Trusteeship Council, we gain a clearer understanding of the connection between the post-war phenomenon of development and American attitudes towards decolonisation.

Biography

Nicholas Ferns recently submitted his doctoral thesis, which examines the place of international ideas of development in Australian colonial and foreign aid policy between 1945 and 1975. He has also published journal articles on the flow of American ideas of 'Manifest Destiny' in Australia as well as on the diplomacy of the Wilson Administration.

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'New Trends in Teaching the Civil War and Lincoln'

FIELD, Peter (University of Canterbury)

For details about Associate Professor Field and an abstract of his paper, see the separate listing for *The Challenges of Teaching American Studies* workshop. This appears after the Keynote Speakers/Plenary Panels section in this brochure.

'Settler Autochthony and the Spirit of Two Texases'

FRANKS, Travis (Arizona State University)

This paper discusses a similar sense of belonging amongst settler populations in two Texases, that of the United States and the less-known rural community of the same name in Queensland, Australia. Bringing together cultural texts of both locations, I analyse country and western songs and civic monuments that articulate an imagined 'spirit' that connects citizens to the place they know as 'Texas.' Situating my critique within a settler colonial framework, I also discuss how these claims to belonging erase Indigenous presence in the US and Australia. Particularly, I discuss how settler polities use *autochthony*, a classical Greek concept literally meaning 'born from the land itself,' as a means of attempted indigenisation in lands of conquest.

Biography

Travis Franks is a PhD candidate in the Department of English at Arizona State University, studying literatures of settler colonialism in the US and Australia. He is currently completing a Fulbright fellowship at the University of Queensland.

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"A Gallery Unique and Imperishable": 1830s Portraits of First Peoples in the USA and Australia'

GILMOUR, Joanna (ANU/National Portrait Gallery)

The American painter George Catlin (1796–1872) is largely remembered for his numerous portraits of Native Americans, the result of a personal mission to create a 'full pictorial history of these interesting but dying people ... and set them up in a Gallery unique and imperishable' for posterity. While Catlin's project came about from deeply held convictions about the consequences of imperial expansion, it also underlines portraiture's uneasy association with notions about the triumph of 'civilization' over 'savagery,' which often underpinned the appeal of new world 'others' to the provincial-style of artist. Through a discussion of Catlin and his Tasmanian contemporary Benjamin Duterrau (1767–1851), this paper will explore the intersections of commerce, colonialism and ethnography characterising the output of those operating at the fringes – geographical and functional – of artistic production, while also illuminating a largely unexplored thread connecting America's and Australia's experiences as settler societies.

Biography

Joanna Gilmour is Curator at the National Portrait Gallery and a PhD candidate with the Centre for Art History and Art Theory at the ANU, her research focusing primarily on portraiture in Australia and the USA during the first half of the nineteenth century.

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'From Opinions to Morale in the WWII US Army'.

GOODMAN, David (University of Melbourne)

Samuel Stouffer's US Army Research Branch had by the end of the war anonymously interviewed over half a million soldiers and recorded their views; it was one of the largest social surveys to that date. Harvard psychologist Gordon Allport wrote in 1942 that 'high national morale' meant both 'the healthful state of the convictions and values in the individual citizen' and 'his decisive, self-disciplined effort to achieve specific objectives that derive from his personal convictions and values'. That set the bar very high and shows how far US thinking had come about what a modern democratic nation's army needed – not just the unthinking following of commands, but a voluntary, subjective commitment, a desire to defend democracy and the nation. This was the context in which the Research Branch found, perhaps not surprisingly, that a quarter to a half of the men in the US army 'lack any strong motivation to fight'. This paper considers the work of the Research Branch in relation to our other sources of knowledge about the opinions of the men recruited into the US army for WWII.

Biography

David Goodman has a PhD from the University of Chicago and teaches American history at the University of Melbourne. He is the author of *Radio's Civic Ambition: American Broadcasting and Democracy in the 1930s* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011) and is completing a book on the local, grassroots debate about US entry into World War 2.

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'An Outrageous Plan: Experiments with Waitressing Under the Native American Outing Program in the late 1920s and 1930s'.

HASKINS, Victoria (University of Newcastle)

In early 1928, the manager of a tourist lodge in South Dakota approached the Commissioner for Indian Affairs with her proposal to employ six young Indian women in the dining room of the hotel. Writing 'I don't know whether my plan is so outrageous', Myra Peters explained that she had had no response from the enquiries she had been making to the superintendents of various Indian boarding schools. Commissioner Burke, however, responded warmly to her suggestion, and in summer 1928 eight girls from Haskell Institute went to work at Sylvan Lake Lodge under the aegis of the BIA 'Outing program', the system by which Indian students were placed out to work from the boarding schools. Such was the Commissioner's enthusiasm, in fact, that he then exhorted supervisors and superintendents at other schools and reservations, to look for similar placements for older returned students as well as summer vacation students, reporting back to him with the outline of their plans to do so.

The correspondence that came back, however, reveal the distinct ambivalences that surrounded the placement of Indian girls and young women in such public employment, with some officials making their concerns very clear. Despite a clear demand, the employment of Indian women in tourism and hospitality never really took off. Instead, the Outing program would remain largely confined to private domestic service. In this paper, I examine the anxieties about Indian girls working in hospitality and what we can discern about the attitudes of the Indian girls themselves to this kind of work. The controversial

nature of such employment highlights the inherent tensions in the assimilationist aims of the Outing programs, and point, also, to the underlying impulse and effect of government intervention, to contain and conceal Indian women.

Biography

Professor Victoria Haskins is a historian at the University of Newcastle. She is interested in the histories of cross-cultural relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous women. She also works on the history of domestic labour, race relations and colonialism more generally. She is the author of *Matrons and Maids* (2012) and *One Bright Spot* (2005), and has co-edited *Colonisation and Domestic Service: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives* (2015) and *Uncommon Ground: White Women in Aboriginal History* (2005). She has appeared as a historical consultant on the television programs, *Who Do You Think You Are?* and Tony Robinson's *Tour of Duty*.

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"My Whole Life Has Just Been a Nightmare": Laughing at Others'.

HOWELLS-WHITAKER, Ned (University of Sydney)

Much of the discomfort and no small part of the joy of *Nathan for You* comes from laughing at others. The luckiest of Nathan's victims face nothing worse than his weaponised awkwardness; those more trusting, or more desperate, are subjected to deception, humiliation, exploitation, and occasionally the risk of genuine trauma. When we watch Nathan convince a child that he should abandon his dreams of becoming an astronaut, or persuade a couple that they have contracted a terminal disease, and laugh, to what extent are we complicit in his morally dubious behaviour? How ought we to justify his actions, and if we cannot, how should we defend our enjoyment of them?

In this paper, I begin by arguing that *Nathan for You* does indeed present substantial moral problems which can't be exculpated – and are in fact exacerbated – by the fact that the show is intended to entertain. Watching and enjoying the show involves the viewer in the same problems: laughing at the televised misfortune of hapless Californians may well be immoral, and at least invites moral analysis. However, the dominant, systematic modes of ethical reasoning — consequentialism, deontology, and contractualism — aren't much help clarifying the issues at stake. Following Cora Diamond and Iris Murdoch, I suggest that attending to the specific moral concepts involved in watching *Nathan for You* might be more illuminating. In asking why we laugh at the shame of others, and what that laughter says about our own shame, we can get a clearer sense of our moral standing as viewers. I conclude by offering a somewhat redemptive interpretation of the series in this light.

Biography

Ned Howells-Whitaker is a graduate student in philosophy at the University of Sydney. His recent work focuses on Iris Murdoch's idea that 'true vision occasions right conduct', on how we come to achieve such a vision, and on the relationship between art and morality.

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ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHIES

'The 1957 Little Rock School Crisis at Sixty: Transnational and Interdisciplinary Perspectives'.

KIRK, John, A. (University of Arkansas at Little Rock)

Sixty years after the dramatic events surrounding the 1957 desegregation of Little Rock's Central High School, which led to President Dwight D. Eisenhower deploying federal troops to ensure the safety of nine black students, this paper offers an analysis of how historical and popular culture representations of events in Little Rock have located the school crisis within the context of the broader civil rights movement. Firstly, the paper examines how historians have framed events from a local, state, regional, national, and transnational perspective that has produced different understandings about the meaning of the episode. Secondly, the paper examines how popular culture representations of the school crisis have influenced and shaped intellectual debate in a wide variety of media including theatre, film, essays, poetry and music. Finally, the paper examines how these historical and popular culture representations of the school crisis shape our contemporary understanding of events.

Biography

John A. Kirk is the George W. Donaghey Distinguished Professor of History and director of the Anderson Institute on Race and Ethnicity at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. His research focuses on the history of the civil rights movement and he has published eight books on the subject.

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'Self-Determination Continued: United States Indian Policy Under Jimmy Carter'.

KOTLowski, Dean (Salisbury University, Maryland)

Between 1970 and 1989, United States Indian policy underwent a revolutionary change. Beginning in 1970, the federal government ceased its effort to 'terminate' tribes and to assimilate Indians into mainstream society. Instead, under the banner of 'self-determination without termination', it would respect, even enhance, tribal authority and Indian distinctiveness. The result was dramatic. Writing in 1988, the historian Lawrence C. Kelly observed that federal Indian policy had evolved over a century from 'virtual denial of tribal sovereignty to almost full recognition'. In 1976, Jimmy Carter embraced Richard Nixon's policy of tribal self-determination and continued it as president. This paper surveys Carter's record in Indian affairs, using material from the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and from the Papers of Cecil Andrus, secretary of the interior between 1977 and 1981. In so doing, it considers the concept of group rights in the oldest racial minority to maintain a unique identity outside of the American mainstream.

Biography

Dean J. Kotlowski is Professor of History at Salisbury University (Maryland). He is the author of *Nixon's Civil Rights: Politics, Principle, and Policy* (Harvard University Press, 2001) and *Paul V. McNutt and the Age of FDR* (Indiana University Press, 2015) and the editor of *The European Union: From Jean Monnet to the Euro* (Ohio University Press, 2000).

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'Reconsidering the Second Wave: The Case of American *Vogue*'.

LEBOVIC, Anna (US Studies Centre, University of Sydney)

In recent times, scholarship on American periodicals has flourished. Dozens of books and academic articles have analysed the content and cultural significance of landmark magazines, including *Life*, *Reader's Digest*, *The New Yorker*, *Playboy*, *Esquire*, and *Cosmopolitan*. But as yet, there is no comprehensive academic history of *Vogue*, America's pre-eminent fashion magazine.

This paper demonstrates how correcting this omission considerably nuances our understanding of America's gendered past. For a case study of *American Vogue* makes plain the complex interrelationship that existed between second wave feminism and the new 'Consumer's Republic' that emerged during the postwar period.

A close examination of issues of *American Vogue* throughout the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s highlights the paradoxical nature of this intersectionality, whereby sometimes this nexus ignited and helped to harness feminist thinking, whilst at other times actively hindered and suppressed it.

Through the prism of *American Vogue*, this paper reconsiders the history and evolution of second wave feminism within the United States. In so doing, it also demonstrates the broader utility of fashion periodicals for scholars investigating American culture.

Biography

Anna Lebovic is a Research Associate and Lecturer at the United States Studies Centre. Her research is highly interdisciplinary, combining U.S. cultural history, gender and women's history, media studies, and fashion history. Anna received her PhD in U.S. history from the University of Sydney, and currently teaches undergraduate and postgraduate subjects at the United States Studies Centre.

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'Collective Effervescence and Civic Decorum: The American Stadium Crowd in the Twentieth Century.'

LOGAN, Cameron (University of Sydney)

The recent U.S. election season highlighted the energies, volatilities and potential violence of large crowds. Opposition to Trump administration policies has also revitalised mass protest. It is timely, therefore, to reconsider how U.S. cities and towns have historically encouraged, constrained and managed large gatherings. How do the creation of public open spaces and the design of public venues give form to the crowd? What separates a riotous disorder from other large public gatherings? And what role have planners, designers and city governments played in defining the orderly crowd? This paper will explore these questions by reference to the planning and design of stadiums. In particular the paper will analyse the stadium discourse in the 1920s and 1930s, before stadiums were narrowly conceptualised as venues for one or other of the major sports.

Biography

Cameron Logan is an urban and architectural historian and the author of *Historic Capital: Preservation, Race and Real Estate in Washington DC* (University of Minnesota Press, 2017). He teaches in the School of Architecture Design and Planning at the University of Sydney where he convenes the postgraduate program in heritage conservation.

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'Internationalism and "Kinship": World War II African American War Correspondents and Non-White Nations.'

LONGLEY, David (Monash)

Scholarship of civil rights activism of the mid twentieth century has argued that African American intellectuals and leaders used the language of universal human rights, and supported the establishment of human rights organisations, to ground and justify their own domestic activism. The articles penned by correspondents for the 'black press' of World War II further support these arguments, suggesting an internationalist outlook that associated domestic civil rights with global anti-imperialist struggles. However, the correspondents' articles also offer a warning to those who would read too much into the idea of internationalist 'kinship' between non-white peoples. Throughout their travels, the correspondents distanced themselves from the peoples of the non-white world, their attitudes ranging from ambivalence, through paternal arrogance, to outright contempt. Within these attitudes was an assumption of the primacy of western, American culture, of which the correspondents believed themselves to be an essential element. In this paper, I examine such evidence to test the scholarship above.

Biography

David Longley is a PhD candidate at Monash University. His thesis examines the activism of African American war correspondents during World War II, with a focus on the intersection of race, nationality, and culture. In 2016 he published an article on race and culture in the Black American press during World War II in *AJAS*.

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'Japan and Techno-Orientalism.'

McKAY, Daniel (Doshisha University)

During the years of Japan's 'bubble' economy, writers and artists in the United States became increasingly susceptible to 'Japan-bashing,' a discourse that objectified Japanese for their trade practices, overseas purchases, and tourist presence. In this paper, I draw upon a range of cultural texts, from Truman Capote's novella *Breakfast at Tiffany's* to Michael Crichton's novel *Rising Sun*, in order to investigate how the trope of the camera-toting Japanese expatriate encapsulated the fears of the era. I then move to explore the ways in which Japanese Americans negotiated these tropes in their writings, paying particular attention to Ruth Ozeki's novel *My Year of Meats*. I hypothesize that Japanese Americans remained aware of the phenomenon of 'Japan-bashing' throughout the era, yet did not confront it in a sustained fashion. Instead, tropes were either dismissed out of hand or, as in Ozeki's case, incorporated into a narrative before undergoing a process of gradual dismantlement.

Biography

Daniel McKay is Associate Professor of American Studies (literature focus) at Doshisha University, Japan. His articles have appeared in *Comparative American Studies*, *MELUS*, and *Safundi: The Journal of South African & American Studies*, among others.

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'Bonding: How America's Banking "Patriots" Sought to Connect with the People During the First World War.'

MACKAY, Thomas (University of Adelaide)

America's bankers fought on the financial frontline during the First World War. To finance America's participation in the conflict, the Treasury sold securities to the public in the form of Liberty Bonds and War Savings Stamps. The nation's deposit banks, commercial and savings, played a large part in buying and retailing these securities to the public. Their efforts were celebrated following the war – they had helped make the world 'safe for democracy'.

The War, this paper argues, provided bankers with an opportunity to develop such an impression, to acquaint many Americans with banks, and to fully appreciate the power of advertising and propaganda. Through their participation, they could demonstrate their utility and worth, including to many people that had never utilised banking facilities. In many ways, they succeeded. Thus, by exploring this history, we can observe how businesses can capitalise, literally and figuratively, on moments of national unity and zeal.

Biography

Thomas A. Mackay is a Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Adelaide. His PhD thesis explored the representation of popular confidence issues in American banking during the Gilded Age and Progressive Era. He is interested in the history of American capitalism, social and cultural histories, and twentieth century Australian history.

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ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHIES

'Making the US Constitution Engaging for Students'

MELKONIAN, Harry (US Studies Centre, University of Sydney)

For details about Dr Melkonian and an abstract of his paper, see the separate listing for *The Challenges of Teaching American Studies: A Workshop*. This appears after the Keynote Speakers/Plenary Panels section in this brochure.

'Almost Remembered: Native Americans and Historical Memory'

MILLER, Elizabeth (Monash)

On February 22, 1913 President William Howard Taft and thirty-two Chiefs from North American tribes gathered at Fort Wadsworth on Staten Island to break ground on a 165 foot monument dedicated to the memory of the 'vanishing Indian'. To conjure the image of the New York Harbour as it stands today with a statue of a Native American that towers over Lady Liberty is jarring. Why, in 1913, were the plans not followed through to fruition? In January 2017, I met Margie and Robert Boldeagle, a Native American couple living on Staten Island. They want the statue built. And fast. My paper investigates Native American representation in monuments that depict America's storied past. Investigating the Boldeagle's efforts to revive Wanamaker's proposal along side that of the Northwestern Shoshone in Preston, Idaho and the work of the late Kiowa photographer Horace Poolaw, my paper examines the plight of Native Americans' efforts represent themselves in America History.

Biography

Elizabeth Miller is Masters Candidate at Monash University. After successfully completing her Honours thesis in 2016 on the Bear River Massacre's public memory, she is currently researching the representation of Native American peoples in American public history since the turn of the 20th Century.

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'Poetry on the Edge: Writing Beyond Binaries'

MOORE, Oliver (University of Sydney)

Following the 'transgender tipping point,' as described by *Time* magazine, transgender, non-binary, and gender variant people have had an increased and increasing presence in the global consciousness. However, in lock step with this has come attacks on the rights of such people to exist. In the form of legislation, social exclusion, and acts of violence, people who fall outside of the cisgender norm face high levels of discrimination. Taking the United States as a point of study, this paper will consider how poetry written by and for trans, non-binary, and gender variant people provides a mode of access to political activism.

Much has been written on and theorised about the production and performance of gender in a number of fields, however very little work has emerged dealing with the material produced by gender variant writers and artists. Looking at work by C.A. Conrad, and pieces appearing in the first three issues of the trans-autonomous poetry journal, *Vetch*, this paper examines how writing from and beyond the peripheries of gender can provide a fruitful opportunity to re-imagine a politically engaged canon.

Biography

Oliver Moore is a PhD candidate in English Literature at the University of Sydney. Their work looks at contemporary queer American political poetry, and using poetry as an activist tool more broadly.

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'Empire on the Docks: Smuggling, Impression and Waterfront Conflict in British American Port-Cities, 1740-1773'

NASH, Toby (University of Melbourne)

The docks hosted many significant conflicts in British American port-cities. As a funnel for movements of goods and people, waterfront space required effective management and regulation of trade and labour flows; however, this often proved difficult. Imperial authorities, attempting to curtail influxes of smuggled goods entering port-cities through customs excises and vessel seizures, brewed clashes on the docks. Similarly, the Royal Navy's attempts to secure its labour supply through impressment, spurred a competition at the shoreline for manpower. Relating these events to the waterfront space in which they occurred illuminates the perceived necessity of control of the docks to both local and imperial forces. Utilising examples of smuggling and impressment incidents in key Anglo-American port-cities, I argue that the problematic governance of the colonial waterfront offers insights into the difficulties of securing Empire in the early modern era.

Biography

Toby Nash is a postgraduate student in the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies at the University of Melbourne, undertaking a Master of Arts in History. His thesis investigates waterfront governance in colonial American port-cities. His research interests include: maritime trade, imperialism, black markets and piracy in early America.

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'The Dada Rag: Harlem Meets Greenwich Village in 1913'

O'CONNELL, Deirdre (University of Sydney)

1913 was the year the French Cubist artist, Francois Picabia visited New York and painted 'Negro Songs' after hearing ragtime for the first time. It was the year the city's mayor passed an ordinance to shut down the Turkey Trot dance craze. The year a guild of black musicians known as the Clef Club added brass to their string orchestrations. Common to all these events was phenomena of the 'Negro Orchestra', an anonymous generic title applied a network of African Americans musician who in 1913, were the latest, must-have, exotic accessories for fashionable Manhattan whites.

This paper will explore the connections between these three events and chronicle the links between Harlem musicians and Greenwich Village artists to foster a more complete understanding of the cross-racial networks that shaped modernism.

Biography

Deirdre O'Connell is a PhD Candidate at the University of Sydney with a focus on biography, microhistory and cultural history. Her work explores race relations in popular entertainment in the late 19th and early 20th century, particularly the transnational lives of African American travelling entertainers.

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'Black Goldwaterites: The Hidden Voters of the 1964 Presidential Election'.

O'CONNOR, Jessica (ACU)

In 1964, with the ink still drying on the Civil Rights Act, Barry Goldwater ran for the presidency of the United States on a platform of state's rights and repeal of the landmark Act. A mass desertion of blacks from Republican ranks immediately followed, with an unprecedented ninety-five percent voting for the Democratic Party's candidate, Lyndon B. Johnson. But what of the remaining five percent? Forgotten by historians until now, this curious few offer a vital window into the complexity of black politics.

Biography

A current Doctoral Candidate at the Australian Catholic University in North Sydney, Jessica is undertaking research on black conservatives during the Reagan Administration and their engagement with foreign policy debates, particularly the U.S. relationship with apartheid South Africa.

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'Respectable Ladies and Manly Men: Black Memphians and the Courts, 1907–1915'.

PICH, Hollie (University of Sydney)

During the construction of the colour line that demarcated the United States (and especially the American South) in early twentieth century, blacks flocked to court. Courtrooms were public spaces in which African-Americans could disrupt dominant racial scripts; by performing gender—self-identifying as 'respectable ladies' and 'manly men'—they were able to improve their individual chances of success within the legal system. While historians have examined the experiences of African-Americans within the American legal system, this scholarship has focused on how blacks sought to overturn racial segregation. However black Memphians strategised not to overturn the system of racial segregation, but rather improve their lot within it, seeking the enforcement of the edict 'separate but equal'. This paper will reveal that reading legal sources through the lens of gender and race makes it possible to perceive how African-Americans utilised the legal system to eke out space for themselves.

Biography

Hollie Pich is a doctoral candidate in history at the University of Sydney. Her dissertation 'Policing Jim Crow: Black Memphis and the Color Line, 1879 – 1940' examines how African American men, women and children navigated life in a southern city during an era of intense racial violence and repression.

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'Universities Flex Their Muscles: Educational Travel and International Expertise in the 1920s'.

PIETSCH, Tamson (UTS)

In 1926 New York University's Professor of Psychology, James Edwin Lough, led 500 American university students on a voyage around the world. Calling his venture 'The Floating University', Lough believed that through direct sensory experience, students might come to know the world. But if these ideas were compatible with the rapidly expanding transatlantic 'educational travel' market they stood in stark contrast to developments within American universities, which at this same moment were busy founding new courses in international relations, formal programmes of exchange and establishing themselves as repositories of expertise. If Lough's ship emphasised direct personal experience, the Universities increasingly saw the specialised abstract knowledge they credentialised as the best way students might gain knowledge of the world. This paper discusses the rise of international expertise within American universities and colleges in the 1920s and its relationships to the expanding networks of diplomacy, capital and conquest.

Biography

Tamson Pietsch is Senior Lecturer and Co-Director of the Australian Centre for Public History at UTS. Her research focuses on the history of empire and the global politics of knowledge in the 19th and 20th centuries. Tamson is the author of *Empire of Scholars: universities, networks and the British Academic world, 1850–1939* (Manchester, 2013) and co-editor of *The Transnational Politics of Higher Education* (Routledge, 2016).

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"Your problem is our problem": Charles M. Goethe and the Restriction of the "Mediterranean Race".

PIPEROGLOU, Andonis (ACU/La Trobe)

This paper will focus on the transmission of white racial politics between the United States and Australia during the 1920s. It will investigate the articulations made by Charles M. Goethe, who, in his capacity as President of the Immigration Study Commission of America, wrote a series of Australian press articles and letters-to-the-editor. Having a personal connection to Australia, Goethe attempted to proselytise Australian public opinion to support an immigration policy that would mirror US immigration measures. His articulations reveal a reorientation of white racial politics, which labelled people from the Mediterranean region as racially inferior to people from northern Europe. Exactly how Goethe's concerns were interpreted is difficult to discern. It is probable, however, that his writings influenced Australian policy makers, who, in 1925, restricted certain nationalities from southern Europe from entry. To conclude, this paper will suggest that a global reorientation of white racial politics took place during the 1920s.

Biography

Andonis Piperoglou recently completed his doctorate at La Trobe University. His dissertation, 'Greek Settlers: Race, Labour, and the Making of White Australia, 1890s–1920', explored the racialized making of a Greek-Australian identity. He is currently working on a monograph which focuses on Settler Colonial Hellenism in Australia, Canada, and the United States.

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ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHIES

'Founding Coalitions at the U.S. Constitutional Convention'

POPE, Jeremy C. (Brigham Young University) and TREIER, Shawn (ANU)

One ongoing debate focuses on the critical divisions at the Convention. Various arguments identify two definitive coalitions divided along specific economic lines (Beard), a much larger number of relevant divisions (McDonald), or shifting coalitions at various points of the Convention (Jillson and others). James Madison even weighs in, arguing that divisions over slavery were more important than state size.

Our analysis of recorded state votes and identifiable positions of individual delegates recover three general ideological divisions: proportional vs. equal representation, national vs. state powers, and the balance of power between executive and legislature. From this characterisation, we identify three major coalitions while also uncovering some differences within states. We conclude that while a pro-Reformist group directs the course of the Convention, the Deep South and Small States intermittently force certain adjustments, due to the Deep South's strong preference for legislative supremacy and key support for a stronger executive by the Small States.

Biographies

Jeremy Pope is an associate professor of political science at Brigham Young University and Co-Director of the Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy. He holds a Doctoral degree in Political Science from Stanford. He teaches the university's core general education class on the American founding, an interdisciplinary approach to the subject drawing on economics, history and political science.

Shawn Treier (*Attending author*) is a lecturer of political science and international relations at Australian National University and a visiting scholar at the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney. He holds a Doctoral degree in Political Science and a Masters of Arts degree in Economics from Stanford University. He currently teaches U.S. Politics and PPE associated courses.

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'The Shadow-Worlds of Nabokov's *Poshlost'*

POTTER, David (University of Sydney)

At the centre of Nabokov's poetics is the notion of *poshlost'*. This notoriously hard-to-translate word picks out a peculiarly Russian aesthetic that Nabokov, for whom it is an *idée fixe*, glosses as 'a kind of shadow world' that peddles a malicious mimicry of 'the very highest level of art and emotion'. *Poshlost'* infuses every level of Nabokov's fictional worlds, filling them with the anxieties and temper of the kind of totalitarian state he twice fled in his early life. Indeed, he claims that propaganda in all its forms – from political jingoism to print and A/V advertising – 'could not exist without a generous supply of and demand for' *poshlost'*. This paper will explore the importance of *poshlost'* in Nabokov, and its enduring prescience for a turbulent socio-political climate in which Donald Trump is president, and Oxford Dictionaries can name 'post-truth' their Word of The Year.

Biography

David Potter is working towards an MPhil in English at the University of Sydney, exploring authorship and artifice in several of Nabokov's English-language works. He has previously presented some of his original research at the Vladimir Nabokov Museum in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

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"Forgive Everyone Everything": The Pursuit of Reconciliation in Midwestern USA'

RANTALL, Jayne (La Trobe)

'Indigenous Reconciliation' – the process of rebuilding relationships between settler society and indigenous peoples – is most commonly associated with nations such as Canada and Australia. However, the US has had its own brush with reconciliation, one that has largely been situated at state levels in the mid-west. Native American groups (predominantly from the Lakota and Dakota nations), have worked with state and county politicians in South Dakota and Minnesota since 1987 to promote reconciliation with the primary goal of improving race relations. Yet, these efforts have not been without controversy. Narratives of 'forgiveness' and 'shared history' – equating settler and indigenous conduct as the same – have been chosen as official themes, and dominate educational initiatives. In comparison, efforts by people such as Dakota scholar Waziyatawin Angela Wilson, to introduce different historical narratives – such as the role settlers played in the oppression of indigenous peoples – have been met with resistance by many of the dominant, mostly white, audiences. This paper explores the ways in which people have pursued reconciliation in the US, and the impact, or lack thereof, the movement has had on race relations in South Dakota and Minnesota.

Biography

Jayne Rantall is a PhD student at La Trobe University, Melbourne. This paper is drawn from her thesis study, 'Peace through Unity? Memorialising Reconciliation Between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Peoples in Australia and the United States'.

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'One of Their Own: A Comparative Study of Anti-Slavery Conversion in Antebellum South Carolina.'

RIVINGTON, Kate (University of Melbourne)

Angelina Grimke, Sarah Grimke, and William Henry Brisbane were all born into wealthy slaveholding families in antebellum South Carolina. All three of them abandoned the pro-slavery Charleston community to take up careers as abolitionists. The Grimke sisters moved to Philadelphia, while Brisbane abandoned his plantation and relocated his family to Cincinnati. Although they shared some similarities, their reasons for converting to the anti-slavery cause were very different. This paper explores these differences. Though many Southern anti-slavery figures have been subject to historical scholarship, a glaring omission in the existing literature is the little attention paid to why these people converted to anti-slavery, with the literature instead focusing on their activities post-conversion. By investigating and comparing the anti-slavery conversions of Angelina Grimke, Sarah Grimke, and William Henry Brisbane, this paper seeks to begin to remedy this omission.

Biography

Kate Rivington is a masters by research student at the University of Melbourne. For her thesis she is completing a survey of anti-slavery conversion in the pre-Civil War South. Research interests include slavery, abolitionism, race relations, and the antebellum South.

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'The "Fall" of Islamic Youngsters in America and Indonesia: Comparing Updike's *Terrorist* and Lufityanto's *Bule Celup (Dipped White)*'

ROKHMAN, Muh Arif (Gadjah Mada University)

This paper identifies and compares the concept of the Fall of Adam in two different works: John Updike's *Terrorist* and Galang Lufityanto's *Bule Celup (Dipped White)*. The idea of the Fall of Adam (and Eve) originally comes from Biblical story relating to how Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan to eat the forbidden fruit which then made them evicted from Heaven. I intend to analyse the way this concept works in Updike's and Lufityanto's novels. My paper will conclude that the concept of Fall of Adam operates differently in both works due to their different young Muslim characters and settings.

Biography

Arif Rokhman is the Head of Doctoral Program in American Studies (2016-2020) at Gadjah Mada University Indonesia. He earned his PhD from the University of London. He also teaches English Literature in the English Program at the Gadjah Mada University. His major interest is in Comparative Literature and he has published nationally.

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'Over the Rainbow, Glocally'

RYAN, Barbara (National University of Singapore)

For details about Associate Professor Ryan and an abstract of her paper, see the separate listing for *The Challenges of Teaching American Studies: A Workshop* in this brochure.

'Division and Unity: The 1980 Party Platforms and National Conventions.'

SIMMONDS, Chris (La Trobe)

The 1980 United States presidential election between Democratic incumbent President Jimmy Carter, and Republican Ronald Reagan has been described as a key turning point in United States political history. Reagan's election campaign is often described as the beginning of the neoliberal economic program, as well as the 'New Right' political movement, both of which are now at the forefront of modern American political discourse. The paper I will present will focus upon both the Democratic and Republican National Conventions of 1980 through the use of extensive archival research and theoretical analysis, in order to provide a detailed description of a marquee event during an election that has major significance in our own time. The importance in covering the national conventions lies in analysing the ability of the nominated candidates to negotiate with competing factions of their respective political party. The paper will demonstrate that it was Reagan's ability to negotiate with differing ideological viewpoints within the Republican Party, and Carter's lack of interest in legitimate grievances within his own voting base during the conventions that set the scene for an eventual Reagan landslide victory in November.

Biography

Chris Simmonds is a PhD candidate at La Trobe University, writing his thesis on the United States 1980 general election and the rise of modern conservative politics. Although his current research focus is in United States twentieth-century history, he has an interest in the history of political philosophy and ideology during the twentieth century, and completed his honours thesis on 'Western interpretations of U.S.S.R totalitarianism'.

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ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHIES

'100 Years of Campaign Cartoons: Women's Suffrage Postcards and Hilary Clinton Memes.'

STEVENSON, Ana (University of the Free State, South Africa)

Postcards, a vastly popular mode of communication at the turn of the twentieth century, foreshadowed the ephemerality of internet memes. In 1910, publisher J.E. Hale circulated a postcard featuring suffragist Susan B. Anthony, featuring what has been described as her talismanic phrase, 'Failure is Impossible.' Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign – similarly perceiving failure to be impossible – positioned her candidacy in anticipation of the 100th anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment in 2020. The women's suffrage postcards of the 1910s and Clinton memes from the 2010s therefore offer the opportunity to analyse strategies of campaign cartooning in the United States across 100 years. Using digital archives such as *The Suffrage Postcard Project* and *Texts from Hillary*, this paper analyses the benefits and pitfalls of certain kinds of mass culture political ephemera in woman-centered political campaigns. In particular, it examines the limitations of invoking the women's suffrage movement for the Clinton campaign.

Biography

Ana Stevenson is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the International Studies Group at the University of the Free State, South Africa. Together with Kristin Allukian (University of South Florida), she co-founded *The Suffrage Postcard Project* (est. 2015), a digital humanities archive of pro- and anti-women's suffrage postcards from the United States and Britain.

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'America's Undelivered Promise of Happiness, Desolation, Poverty and Marginalisation in the Works of Paul Auster, Jim Jarmusch and Tom Waits.'

TEDDE, Adriano (Griffith)

Novelist Paul Auster, filmmaker Jim Jarmusch and musician Tom Waits are three American contemporaries whose works share strong similarities. Each man in his preferred medium focuses on the same themes: coincidence, decay, incommunicability, solitude, and necessity. Lost and directionless, their characters appear very much alike. Their stories are mostly set in a vast anonymous urban space. Their style is predominantly bare and minimalistic. All these similarities culminate in a political message and social critique that depicts America as a country of outcasts, impoverishment and disillusionment, in stark contrast with the positive image of wealth and success portrayed under the term 'American Dream'.

This paper is based on a chapter draft from my thesis that focuses on the recurring themes of poverty, necessity and dispossession in these three authors. It examines how poverty, a constant feature in American history, society and arts, is shaped in the authors' account of an 'alternative' America that does not embrace conventional middle-class values and goals of success, money and social upward mobility.

Biography

Adriano Tedde is a PhD candidate at Griffith University with a research project for a thesis called *Another America in the works of Paul Auster, Jim Jarmusch and Tom Waits*. He will spend the second half of 2017 as a visiting fellow at the Center for American Studies of Columbia University.

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"Say it Again": *Nathan for You* and the New Sincerity'

THOMPSON, Lucas (University of Sydney)

In 1993, film historian Jim Collins argued that a certain strain of contemporary cinema was engaged in an aesthetic project he termed 'the New Sincerity.' Such films, he proposed, 'purposely evade the media-saturated terrain of the present in pursuit of an almost forgotten authenticity, attainable only through a sincerity that avoids any sort of irony or eclecticism.' In the years since, this term has proved a productive mode of analysis in numerous other disciplines, including literary studies and media studies. Numerous critics have cited the films of Wes Anderson, Lars Von Trier, and Michel Gondry as examples of this aesthetic, while the TV series *Girls* and *The Bachelorette* have also been categorised in this way.

My paper argues that Comedy Central's cult-classic *Nathan for You* is a paragon of the New Sincerity, albeit one that takes an entirely counter-intuitive path to sincerity. What Fielder's project ultimately reveals is that the most exaggerated and grotesque forms of reality-television manipulation can paradoxically open up spaces of sincere communication and affect. In other words, by pushing late-capitalist forms of manipulation and hyper-performativity to extreme ends, one eventually loops back around to more genuine forms of communication. The show's true genius lies in the often touching, sincere, and surprisingly intimate moments in which the contrivances and limitations of the genre are mysteriously transcended. By situating *Nathan for You* as a unique approach to the same questions surrounding sincerity that many other contemporary texts (literary, filmic, televisual, etc.) are engaged with, the paper reveals the series as an invaluable barometer of contemporary cultural sensibilities.

Biography

Lucas Thompson is a Research Fellow at the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, Australia. His first book, *Global Wallace: David Foster Wallace and World Literature*, was published by Bloomsbury USA in December, 2016. He has published articles in *Texas Studies in Literature and Language*, *Journal of American Studies*, *The Cormac McCarthy Journal*, and *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction*. Forthcoming book chapters appear in *The Cambridge Companion to David Foster Wallace*, *MLA Approaches to Teaching: David Foster Wallace*, and *MLA Approaches to Teaching: Jewish American Fiction*. He has also written for *US Studies Online*, *The European Legacy*, *Philament* and *The LA Review of Books*.

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'Representing American Race Relations as an Outsider in John Safran's *Murder in Mississippi*'.

TOMKINS, Sara (University of Sydney)

This paper looks at *Murder in Mississippi*, a 2013 true crime book written by the Australian documentarian and comedian John Safran. The book covers the murder of a white supremacist by a young African American man. In *Murder in Mississippi*, Safran functions as one of book's central characters through his narration and thus his identity as a white Jewish Australian man structures the story as a whole. This paper draws out these multiple subject positions to consider how Safran deploys his racial, ethnic, and national identity to make sense of the murder and more broadly, the people and culture of the American South. I am particularly interested in how Safran uses his Jewishness in the narrative as an intermediary between the white victim and black murderer. Additionally, this paper considers the ways in which *Murder in Mississippi* reveals the benefits and limitations of a transnational approach to American race relations.

Biography

Sara Tomkins recently completed her PhD in the Department of Gender and Cultural Studies at the University of Sydney. Her thesis analyses the ways in which the cultural and political connections between Jewish Americans and African Americans are articulated in contemporary comedy.

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'The King that Time Forgot: Clennon King's 1960 Campaign for the American Presidency'.

VAN RYN, Sarah (ACU)

In 1960, at the height of the Civil Rights Movement, an African American ran for the presidency of the United States. Clennon King, a Georgian native residing in Alabama, captured only 1,485 votes and failed to scale the great heights of subsequent black presidential hopefuls, yet his fascinating candidacy and life, hitherto overlooked by historians, raise important questions about black politics during a critical period in African American history.

Biography

A current Doctoral Candidate at the Australian Catholic University in North Sydney, Sarah is undertaking research on the war-time activism of the African American press, particularly as it pertained to the deployment of African American servicemen to Allied nations during World War II.

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'I Am Not a Crackpot. Religion, Schools and Grass-Roots Anger in 1960s America'.

VERHOEVEN, Tim (Monash)

This paper examines popular reactions to two of the Supreme Court's most controversial rulings. In the early 1960's, the Court banned religion from the nation's public schools. Legal scholars have examined and debated these decisions (*Engel v Vitale* and *Abington v Schempp*) at length. But though both decisions unleashed a fierce public debate, we know relatively little about this grass-roots reaction.

There is, however, a rich resource for a bottom-up assessment. In the wake of the Supreme Court decisions, Congressman Frank Becker proposed an amendment to the national Constitution which would protect the practice of Bible-reading in schools. Becker's effort failed. However, during committee hearings on the 'Becker Amendment', thousands of letters poured into Congress from Americans on all sides of the question. In my paper, I analyse hundreds of these letters. I seek to understand their ideological orientation, the organisational networks that sustained them, and the emotion they conveyed. Together, these letters provide a fascinating snapshot of public attitudes towards a complex issue, the relationship between religion and state, as well as the surge of popular anger that would electrify the conservative movement in the years that followed.

Biography

Tim Verhoeven is Senior Lecturer in the School of Historical, Philosophical and International Studies at Monash University. He was the recipient of an Australia Research Council Early Career Fellowship for a history of secularism in nineteenth-century America.

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"The Only Service They Do Us": Debt, Taxes, and the French Navy in Revolutionary Boston, 1780–86'.

VINE, Ben (University of Sydney)

Many historians have argued that the heavy taxes the Massachusetts state legislature laid in the 1780s were the cause of the great unrest in western Massachusetts that culminated in Shays' Rebellion in 1786-7. Yet in spite of the large role Boston's objection to 'oppressive' taxes played in the early years of the Revolution, historians have not considered how the town's political and economic situation affected what was Massachusetts' major political controversy of the 1780s. This paper will argue that the economic advantages the French navy gave Boston in the final years of the Revolutionary War allowed Massachusetts' commercial elite to pursue their conservative financial agenda without restraint, setting off the unrest in the western parts of the state that had ramifications for the entirety of the United States.

Biography

Ben Vine is a PhD student in the Department of History at the University of Sydney. His thesis looks at Boston's political and economic conflicts in the American Revolution following the evacuation of the British in 1776, through to the debates over the Federal Constitution in 1787.

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ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHIES

'Justice and Politics: African American Police Officers in Charleston and New Orleans during Reconstruction'.

WATTS, Samuel (University of Melbourne)

The negative interactions between African Americans and the criminal justice system during the period of Reconstruction (1865-1877), have been well documented. Yet, historians have largely overlooked an important part of this story. Seizing the opportunities granted by Reconstruction, former slaves and 'free persons of color' (African Americans who were free before the Civil War), joined nascent police organisations in cities across the South and were active in enforcing the law, symbolising a revolutionary change in social and judicial structures that were formerly organised around the principle of white supremacy. In this paper, I focus on the cities of Charleston (S.C.) and New Orleans (L.A.) and, drawing on the analytic concepts of space and mobility, I examine the roles and experiences of African American police officers. In response to constant racial violence, African American police officers applied distinctly different forms of justice in these two cities, highlighting a struggle over ideas of race, politics and justice in the Reconstruction era.

Biography

Samuel Watts is a PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne in the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies. His dissertation is on the history of African Americans in Charleston and New Orleans during Reconstruction and the connections between space, mobility, race and gender in these two cities. His research interests include Southern history, memory and the Civil War/Reconstruction periods generally.

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'Women Making Headlines. Discrimination Litigation at the New York Times, 1974-1979'.

WHYTE, Marama (University of Sydney)

In the 1970s, after protest and petitions had failed, U.S. women journalists turned to the legal system to address the institutional gender inequality they faced in the workplace. Using the Title VII provision of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which forbade discrimination on the basis of sex, newspaperwomen across the country filed suit against their employers. These cases made national headlines in 1974 when women at *The New York Times* filed the class-action suit *Elizabeth Boylan et al. v. The New York Times* on behalf of all women at the venerated publication. This paper will use the *Boylan v. The New York Times* case to explore this particular historical moment, when women were experimenting with a variety of tactics to both seek parity in the workplace, as well as broader changes in gender relations across the country.

Biography

Marama Whyte is a PhD candidate in history at the University of Sydney. Her doctoral project examines the use of feminist and labour activism by women in the media in the United States during the 1960s-1980s.

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