



EDITORIAL

This eNewsletter is one of the GERMAN ASSOCIATION FOR AUSTRALIAN STUDIES | GESELLSCHAFT FÜR AUSTRALIENSTUDIEN's platforms to inform members about academic and professional activities in their fields of study and research.

The newsletter presents the diversity of recent Australian Studies and public relations work. Together with the CENTRE FOR AUSTRALIAN STUDIES at the University of Cologne, the GERMAN ASSOCIATION FOR AUSTRALIAN STUDIES | GESELLSCHAFT FÜR AUSTRALIENSTUDIEN provides professional advice for scholars and students. This close collaboration remains the most important network for German-speaking Australianists in Europe.

You can find **information** on the GERMAN ASSOCIATION FOR AUSTRALIAN STUDIES' on
on the *website*
on *Twitter*
on *Facebook* and
on *YouTube*.

The newsletter reflects the interdisciplinary character of German-Australian studies and activities. We all will appreciate new contacts in order to build networks and partnerships in our fields of interest: in Germany, Europe and overseas.

If you are chiefly engaged in teaching, research, study or public activities relevant to Australia, or your interest supports such work, make sure to *become a member* of the GERMAN ASSOCIATION FOR AUSTRALIAN STUDIES | GESELLSCHAFT FÜR AUSTRALIENSTUDIEN!

The newsletter will accept relevant information on conferences, publications, lectures, scholarships, awards, research projects, institutions, internet tutorials, and web links to Australian resources. *The editors* welcome contributions which will help build a vital network in the field of Australian Studies, including essays, news, critiques, e-lectures, videos, podcasts and constructive commentary on specific subjects of research. We encourage a liberal and creative approach to the topic – and urge every reader to help launch this professional news forum to reflect the spirit of Australian Studies in timely information, memorable dialogue, and innovative ideas.

Send your articles and contributions (in English or German) to
newsletter@australienstudien.org
Deadline of submission for Newsletter N° 28: **28 Februar 2023**



CONTENTS

Reports

Receiving a Special Gift	3
<i>David Kern & Friederike Zahn</i>	
Journals and Books	5
<i>Victoria Herche</i>	
Healing Climate	6
<i>Friederike Schmidt</i>	
Additions to the Online Archive	8
<i>Stefanie Affeldt</i>	
Message from the FID AAC	9

Book Announcement

Elisabeth Bähr, Lindsay Frost: Erzählte Welt	10
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Conferences & Workshops

Whom Do We Remember? Narratives of War and Migration	11
Emerging Research in Australian Studies	16
Postcolonial Matters of Life and Death	18
InASA 2022: 'It's Time ... Again'	20
Conferences Overview	21

Call for Papers

Special Issue of the ASJ ZfA 'Mudrooroo', Oct 2024	22
European Association for the Studies of Australia (EASA)	24
New Zealand Studies Association (NZSA)	26

*We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and
look forward to receiving your suggestions
and feedback.*

*Wir wünschen Ihnen viel Spaß bei der Lektüre
und freuen uns auf Ihre Anregungen und
Rückmeldungen.*

STEFANIE AFFELDT & FRIEDERIKE SCHMIDT



REPORTS

RECEIVING A SPECIAL GIFT

120 BOOKS DONATED TO THE GERMAN ASSOCIATION FOR AUSTRALIAN STUDIES

David Kern & Friederike Zahn

When we met Henry Schürmann earlier this year (30 March 2022) at the University of Cologne, the meeting had been roughly two years in the making.

Schürmann had contacted the GERMAN ASSOCIATION FOR AUSTRALIAN STUDIES through Beate Neumeier to inquire if the association would like to take care of his substantial interdisciplinary archive of books related to the field Australian studies. He was relocating to Cologne from Berlin and, he said, transitioning into retirement, he wondered if the association would be able to find a second home for his library. Two years of intermittent lockdowns later, Friederike and I were finally fortunate to meet Henry who, together with more than 120 volumes (among them many rare copies and a wealth of first editions!), shared stories of a long, eventful, and prolific career in foreign aid and human rights work – all of which began with a PhD dissertation on Indigenous Australian writing.

When Henry Schürmann completed his PhD under the supervision of Horst Prießnitz in Wuppertal, he had no idea that his meticulous systematization of Indigenous Australian literatures at the time would earn him a call from Amnesty International, and a job offer at their London Headquarters. During his many years at Amnesty and through his various postings to Australia, Henry became actively engaged in the early Land Rights and Native Title movement, building close and personal relationships with many of its central figures. It was during these years that Henry collected a vast portion of his archive and, accordingly, every single one carries a wealth of stories and memories. Listening to Henry it seemed that there was not a single book that, when picked up, did not raise a fond memory of a personal encounter or a politically momentous event.



Relishing the stories Henry generously shared with us over coffees, sorting through his library, we couldn't help but marvel at the immense career opportunity a degree in Australian Studies had afforded him but, most of all, wonder why he would want to give his books away. Upon retiring from his post at Amnesty, and upon retiring foreign aid altogether (he had last worked for Misereor), Henry strongly felt that the books would



serve a much better purpose where they could be accessed by people studying in the field of Australian studies. No point keeping them from a new generation of Australian studies scholars, established and aspiring.

Further, he hoped that his collection had a better chance of surviving the coming years where students and researchers appreciate their value. Of that, we said, we could gladly reassure him!

The books are scheduled for library inventory and will soon be catalogued for public access through the English Department's library at the University of Cologne.



JOURNALS AND BOOKS

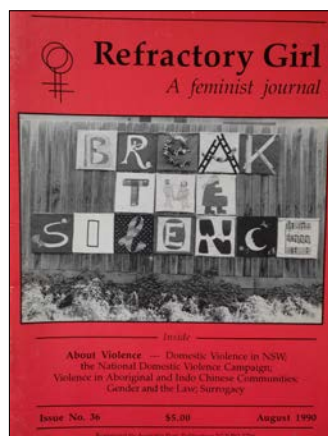
ON AUSTRALIAN LAW AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Victoria Herche

On 10th of June 2022, I met with Jenny Earle in her home in London's West End. Jenny Earle had contacted the *Centre for Australian Studies, Cologne*, and has offered to donate parts of her archive for research.

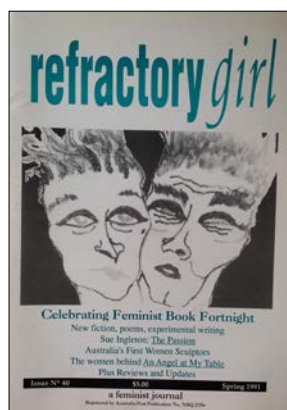
Jenny Earle has spent her lifetime working on and campaigning for women's rights and has led on equality and justice issues in both

government and community organisations in the UK and Australia, where early in her career she served on a Women in Prison Taskforce. She has been a senior research officer in the Women's Equality Unit, Cabinet Office, and director of the Work and Family Unit in the Australian Government's Department of Employment and Workplace Relations. Until recently, Jenny was the Director of the Prison Reform Trust's Programme to Reduce Women's Imprisonment, and has worked as Senior Lawyer at the Equality and Human Rights Commission, UK.



The donated archive includes:

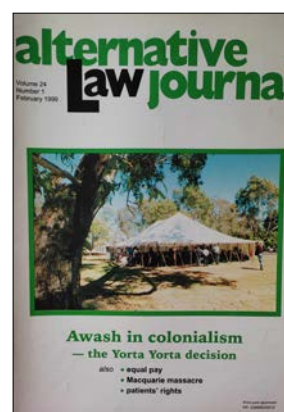
- 12 issues of Refractory Girl Magazine (No. 27, May 1984 – No. 42, Autumn 1992),
- 10 issues of the Alternative Law Journal (between Vol. 21, No. 5, 1996 – Vol. 24, No. 6, 1999),
- 3 issues of Scarlet Woman: A Socialist Feminist Magazine (1983, 1986, 1990),
- as well as several text books, exhibition catalogues and other journals and magazines.



The texts can be of interest for anyone researching Australia's legal and women's history, labour laws, women's and LGBT rights in Australia, policies for (gender) equality and human rights, intersectional movements and Indigeneity.

Students and researchers interested in working with the material, please contact

victoria.herche@uni-koeln.de.





HEALING CLIMATE

INDIGENOUS SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS / INDIGENE NACHHALTIGKEITSPROJEKTE

Friederike Schmidt

More and more, the hashtags *#healpeople* and *#healcountry* are joined by *#healclimate*. Europe suffered greatly from the latest signs of climate change during the last hot summer. Droughts, record low levels of rivers, lakes and groundwater, and the accompanying environmental damage and dangers to humans and animals make climate change palpable. Around the world, initiatives are committed to achieving the 1.5 degree target of the Paris Climate Agreement, and Indigenous communities in Australia in particular are contributing to a more climate-friendly society in many ways.

Most experts agree that indigenous peoples are among the populations most affected by the projected impacts of climate change. When it comes to sustainable energy generation, more and more Indigenous communities in Australia are taking matters into their own hands: in September 2022, the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Cooperation (*DJAARA*) installed an *extensive solar system*. The project name Nyuawi Mutjeka ('to keep the sun') refers to the indigenous expression "healing country, healing people" and now also to "healing climate".

What a forward thinking initiative!

Immer häufiger findet sich neben den bekannten Hashtags *#healpeople* und *#healcountry* auch *#healclimate*. Unter den jüngsten Anzeichen des Klimawandels hatte Europa im vergangenen Hitzesommer stark zu leiden. Dürren, Rekordniedrigstände von Flüssen, Seen und Grundwasser und damit einhergehende Umweltschäden und Gefahren für Mensch und Tier machen den Klimawandel spürbar. Weltweit gibt es Initiativen um das 1,5 Grad Ziel des Pariser Klimaabkommens einzuhalten und insbesondere indigene Gemeinden in Australien leisten ihren Beitrag zu mehr Klimafreundlichkeit.

Die meisten Experten sind sich einig, dass indigene Völker zu den Bevölkerungsgruppen gehören, die am stärksten von den prognostizierten Auswirkungen des Klimawandels betroffen sind. Beim Thema nachhaltige Energiegewinnung nehmen daher immer häufiger die indigenen Gemeinden in Australien die Sache selbst in die Hand: Im September 2022 installierte die Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Cooperation (*DJAARA*) ein umfangreiches *Solarsystem*. Der Projektname Nyuawi Mutjeka ('to keep the sun') verweist auf den indigenen Ausdruck „healing country, healing people“ und nun auch auf „healing climate“.

Eine zukunftsweisende Initiative für uns alle!



LINKS:

NIT 29 Sep 2022 ('Dja Dja Wurrung clans lay out ground rules for renewable energy sector operating on Djandak'), <https://www.nit.com.au/dja-dja-wurrung-clans-lay-out-ground-rules-for-renewable-energy-sector-operating-on-djandak/>

Premier of Victoria: Traditional Owner Solar Project Launches, <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/traditional-owner-solar-project-launches>



ADDITIONS TO THE ONLINE ARCHIVE

AUSTRALIAN STUDIES JOURNAL | ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR AUSTRALIENSTUDIEN

Stefanie Affeldt

In an endeavour to make publicly accessible the entirety of papers disseminated in the past and present publications of the GERMAN ASSOCIATION FOR AUSTRALIAN STUDIES | GESELLSCHAFT FÜR AUSTRALIENSTUDIEN, the digitalization and web integration of the 'AUSTRALIAN STUDIES JOURNAL | ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR AUSTRALIENSTUDIEN' are progressing.

The Journal's developed from the 'Newsletter of the Working Group Australia' (1/1986 – 4/1989), edited by Horst Prießnitz, which was succeeded by the 'Newsletter of the Association' (5/1991 – 19/2005), initially edited by Horst Prießnitz, who was succeeded by Gerhard Leitner in 2001 and followed by a editors Britta Kühlenbeck, Adi Wimmer, Xavier Pons, until Henriette von Holleuffer and Oliver Haag took over in 2012. With *issue 36/2022*, editorship passes into the hands of *Managing Editors* Stefanie Affeldt, Katrin Althans, and Christina Ringel; they are supported by *General Editors* Dany Adone, Eva Bischoff, Patricia Plummer, and Carsten Wergin.

The issues 8/1994 to 20/2006 were kindly provided by Henriette von Holleuffer for digitalization – a big thanks to her! Our digital archive now holds academic papers from old GAST publications starting with issue 8/1994.

Missing are, besides the very first issue, the issues 5/1991 and 6/1992 which will be provided in the near future by the library of the RWTH Aachen. The issues 2/1987 – 4/1989 and 7/1993 have been received from the state library Göttingen and await their imminent online publishing on our website and their partial archiving in '*The Stacks*'.

The archive of the JOURNAL | ZEITSCHRIFT can be accessed via the *website of the GAST* as 'Past Issues'.

German Association for Australian Studies			
Gesellschaft für Australienstudien			
Home About Us Australian Studies Journal Other Publications Conferences News			
NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR AUSTRALIAN STUDIES			
The Australian Studies Journal developed from the Newsletter of the Association, which in turn succeeded the Newsletter of the Working Group Australia, (1/1986–4/1989), and continues its volume count.			
17/2003	18/2004	19/2005	
13/1999	14/2000	15/2001	16/2002
9/1995	10/1996	11/1997	12/1998
5/1991	6/1992	7/1993	8/1994
1/1986	2/1987	3/1988	4/1989



MESSAGE FROM THE FID AAC

The **Fachinformationsdienst Anglo-American Culture and History (FID AAC)** has published its *Newsletter No. 4 (August 2022) – Database Special Issue* – and invites you to read about current events and general developments: <https://s.gwdg.de/zEab0H>



We understand our newsletter as a source of information and as a way to foster direct communication with our research communities. If you'd like to stay connected & up to date and learn about our ongoing services, such as the subject repository 'The Stacks', please **subscribe** to our newsletter: <https://libaac.de/about/newsletter/>

The Fachinformationsdienst Anglo-American Culture can be accessed via its website libaac.de or followed on Twitter as Library of Anglo-American Culture & History [@LibraryAAC](https://twitter.com/LibraryAAC)

The Fachrepositorium 'The Stacks' can be found at thestacks.libaac.de



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BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

ELISABETH BÄHR, LINDSAY FROST

ERZÄHLTE WELT. ZEITGENÖSSISCHE INDIGENE AUSTRALISCHE KUNST

Dieses Buch, geschrieben von Elisabeth Bähr und Lindsay Frost, ist das erste seit 1993 in deutscher Sprache, das einen Überblick über die indigene Kunst, ihre verschiedenen Richtungen, ihre Entstehungs- und Anerkennungsgeschichte gibt sowie eine Reihe von Bildern analysiert. Das Buch richtet sich sowohl an ein kunstinteressiertes Publikum als auch an Kunsthistoriker und Museumsdirektoren. Es hat 496 Seiten und enthält 146 große sowie weitere 120 kleinere Abbildungen.

Die zeitgenössische Kunst der australischen First Nations Künstler*innen ist vielfältig, dynamisch, vielschichtig und inspiriert von Tausenden in Deutschland unbekannten Narrativen sowie von zwei Jahrhunderten Diskriminierung. Dieses Buch nimmt zahlreiche Kunstwerke als spezifische Beispiele, um die Verbindungen zwischen Land, Kosmos, den Regeln des sozialen Zusammenlebens, nichtlinearen Vorstellungen von Zeit, Transformationen des Seins, die indigene Auffassung von Wahrheit und der lebendigen sozio-politischen Kultur aufzuzeigen, die die Kunst der australischen First Nations einzigartig machen. Die Künstler*innen auf einem Kontinent, so groß wie Europa, haben ihre kulturelle Integrität unnachgiebig verteidigt und gleichzeitig Dutzende von Kunstrichtungen erfunden, um ihre Vision von der Welt zu zeigen. Von den Vororten Sydneys bis zum 3.800 km entfernten Arnhemland haben die Künstler*innen um ihr Recht gekämpft, dass ihre Kunst als zeitgenössische anerkannt wird ... und sie haben gewonnen. Jedes größere Kunstmuseum in Australien sammelt seit Jahrzehnten ihre Werke, und viele Ausstellungen haben internationales Aufsehen erregt. Noch ist diese moderne Kunst selten in deutschen Kunstmuseen zu finden, aber sie lässt sich nicht mehr ausblenden.



CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

WHOM DO WE REMEMBER? NARRATIVES OF WAR AND MIGRATION AN INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOP

6 July 2022 | University of Cologne

On Wednesday, 6 July 2022, the *Centre for Australian Studies (CAS)* hosted an interdisciplinary workshop on 'Whom Do We Remember? Narratives of War and Migration'.

Next to the workshop organizers Dr. Victoria Herche and David Kern (both Cologne) and Prof. Noah Riseman (ACU Melbourne), there were presentations by Dr. Stefanie Affeldt (Heidelberg) and Dr. Katrin Athans (Duisberg-Essen). Due to COVID, the co-organizer Dr. Meggie Hutchison (ACU Brisbane) was not able to attend in person.



Workshop's topic:

War and migration are central to how places such as Australia and European countries see their national identities. Historians, politicians, public intellectuals, columnists and academics are constantly debating both of these issues in scholarly texts and the media.



This workshop explored the growing and timely interest in global connections in the process of understanding the close links between migration and memories of conflict.

Since at least the 2010 publication of Marilyn Lake and Henry Reynolds' text 'What's wrong with Anzac?', to mention an Australian case in point which has, however, global implications, historians have challenged the ways that the Anzac mythology has come to dominate Australian history – what critics call “the militarisation of Australian historians”. Some historians attack the mythology head on, while others have focused on more diverse narratives of war – whether that be Indigenous, LGBTIQ+ or immigrant experiences – to subvert the mythology.

Moreover, especially since the 2001 Tampa incident, the Syrian Civil War, and most recently in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, academics, politicians, members of the public and cultural producers grapple with the question of who are the 'right' types of immigrants.

By referring to various geographical and historical contexts, this interdisciplinary workshop explored on the one hand how war and conflict is remembered through narratives and artefacts, and how such narratives have the power to include/exclude certain groups. It draws on the work of history, cultural studies, memory studies, art history, cinema and an array of other fields. Presentations linked the process of memory-making to contemporary migrant movements where popular discourse excludes the role of war. Indeed, the exclusion of war from contemporary discussions about migration arguably represents a form of “strategic forgetting”.

Abstracts:

Prof. Dr. NOAH RISEMAN (ACU Melbourne)

New Representations of Gay Military Service in Australia during the First World War

The centenary of the First World War led to a boom in Australian television, cinema, theatre, art and literature about the war. Many centenary commemorations aimed to be inclusive of diverse groups including women and Indigenous Australians, but mostly absent was one particular group (or, more accurately, groups): lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) people.



The only gay male soldiers appeared in gay fiction and the ABC television series *Glitch* (2015-19). This paper explores the portrayals of homosexuality in the First World War through Charlie in *Glitch* and Damien in *The Major and the Miner*. These creative outputs represent two very different texts: one a mainstream television production, the other niche gay fiction. Yet, both texts highlight the ways that the war itself was an intense, transformative moment where the protagonists

fell in love with other men. This notion of war as site of sexual awakening represents a new, hitherto unexplored representation of gay Australian servicemen.

Dr. STEFANIE AFFELDT (Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg)

A Tale of Two Australian Industries. Sugar, Pearls, and Shades of Whiteness

This paper discusses the differences between the labourers in the Queensland sugar cane industry and the Broome pearling industry. Both at odds with the 'White Australia' policy, the demographic 'whitening' allowed the sugar cane industry to become the nation's 'flagship' industry, while the remoteness of the main pearling centre facilitated exemptions to the Immigration Restriction Act.

Though both South Sea Islanders and Japanese were discriminated against, the latter worker came from a nation with a strong colonial and imperial background that found expression in its own racist ideology, while the former labourers remained an ostracized and depoliticized group, reduced to their economical usability. Differing cultures of remembrance further underline the differences (made) between the protagonists of the two industries: for instance, while the South Sea Islanders disappeared from public memory soon after their forced repatriation until the mid-1990s, and their graves remained unmarked until the 2010s, the Japanese pearl divers were honoured with individual gravestones since the establishment of a Japanese cemetery at the turn of the nineteenth century.



Dr. KATRIN ALTHANS (University of Duisburg-Essen)

Narrating Refugees. The Narrative History of the Refugee Convention in Law and Literature

The text of the 1951 Refugee Convention and the definition of who is a refugee given in Art. 1(a)(2) is the result of a centuries-old narrative. It continues a narrative which started in 16th-century Europe and which privileges a male refugee fleeing religious and/or political persecution. The narrative origins of the Refugee Convention are just one example of the Eurocentrism of international law and how this is constructed through narratives. As such, the text of the Convention exerts a narrative authority over contemporary refugees and their stories.



This paper traces the narrative history of the Refugee Convention and how it is a product of a narrative created by European experiences, (legal) histories, and worldview and show that statutory refugees are created along the very same lines. To give an example of how literature critically engages with this, in a second part, I subject the short story "A Refugee's Story" by Tim Finch (2016) to a close reading. I show how in this story narrative techniques are used to question the narrative authority exerted over refugees' stories in, e.g., asylum determination processes.



Dr. VICTORIA HERCHE (University of Cologne)

Beyond Victimology. Writing War and Refugee Memory in the Short Fiction Form

This paper looked at the literary ethics of storytelling in the context of war. The experience of traumatic violent events can leave traces in the narratives of and about the following generations engaging with their lack of first-hand knowledge and the question of how to negotiate their legacy in the present. In 2008, Vietnamese-born Australian author Nam Le published *The Boat*, a collection of seven short stories set around the world, to great critical acclaim throughout the Anglophone world. Nam Le's stories pointedly engage with the potential danger that narrating migrant lives in the name of international solidarity can easily be oversimplified, commodified and compartmentalized as 'ethnic literature'. By referring to the story most closely linked to Le's own biography, "Love and Honor and Pity and Pride and Compassion and Sacrifice", this paper engaged with Le's self-referential and critical response to 'ethnic literature', its economy, and ethics. The story presents a metafiction about a young writer who chooses to write about his Vietnamese father's wartime experience and thereby navigates and reflects on questions such as who owns a story, who remembers stories, and what are the limits of sharing others' stories, in this case in the context of the Vietnam war and resultant Vietnamese diaspora.



DAVID KERN (University of Cologne)

Remembering the Syrian Civil War in Marwan Hisham's 'Brothers of the Gun'

Marwan Hisham's 2018 *'Brothers of the Gun, A Memoir of the Syrian Civil War'*, illustrated in pen and ink by Molly Crabapple, takes readers to the streets of Ar-Raqqa as it moves from protest fueled by hopes for a political transformation into IS occupation, chronicling a gruesome transition from domestic- to international war zone. This narrative



about physical, emotional, and spiritual survival is an intermedial meditation on the promises of a revolution, and on hopes for liberation betrayed by shifting alliances and the opacities of geopolitical empire. This paper argues that writing through the violence of occupation, Hisham's text documents the Syrian civil war in an almost lovingly, uniquely intimate portrait of its participants which resists the mental and intellectual factionism that is at the heart of the conflict itself. It traces the contours of Hisham's intellectual and narrative resistance to both IS invasion *and* Euro-Western simplifications of the Syrian conflict as an essentially moral-ideological battlefield. 'Brothers of the

Gun' offers a rigorous, multi-perspectival engagement with conflict which refuses generic

demonization even to the extent of daring a close, humanizing look at the conflict's most hated perpetrators.

Which possibilities for remembrance, which frames of commemoration emerge from a radical literary practice of breaching expectations? If the power of storytelling is "to make reader, as well as writer, enter pathways they had never, in their wildest dreams, intended to tread" as Jacqueline Rose suggests, which strategies of memorialization come into reach if we accept that narrative is always "at once dilemma and opportunity"? It is with these questions in mind that I read Hisham's narrative as commemorative practice "[t]rying to understand, past the point of endurance...pressing enemies close," which, again in Rose's words, is not to silently condone unspeakable violence, but instead marks a rigorous "attempt to grasp what, under intolerable...circumstances, each and everyone of us might be capable of".



The hybrid workshop was well-attended and had the vibe of a reunion, since for many it was the first post-pandemic in-person event since 2019.

After a good day of presentations and discussions, the day closed with cheese and wine.



EMERGING RESEARCH IN AUSTRALIAN STUDIES

INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOP FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS IN AUSTRALIAN STUDIES

16-17 September 2022 | online

The first of what will hopefully turn into a series of workshops for early career academics in Australian Studies took place (via Zoom) on Friday 16th and Saturday 17th September



ERAS 2022 Workshop Programme

Emerging Research in Australian Studies - Interdisciplinary Workshop for Early Career Researchers

University of Cologne, Centre for Australian Studies
Friday 16 – Saturday 17 September 2022



Organised by Thomas Batchelor, Leonie John,
David Kern, Christina Ringel, Friederike Zahn

Kindly supported by the German Association for Australian Studies

Workshop Programme | International Emerging Research in Australian Studies Conference 3

2022. Scheduled as a GERMAN ASSOCIATION FOR AUSTRALIAN STUDIES interim event between biennial conferences, this workshop brought together emerging scholars from a wide array of disciplines, attesting to the association's interdisciplinary tradition. Featuring presentations in literary and cultural studies, linguistics, geography and cultural anthropology, the two workshop days gave national and international participants the chance to engage with each other's work, to catch up on new and exciting projects, and to extend their professional network. The organizers are indebted to Prof. Dr. Dany Adone (Co-Director Centre for Australian Studies) and PD Dr. Carsten Wergin (Vice President of GAST) for their opening speeches and words of welcome, and for dedicating their time to this short but very successful event.

Explicitly intended as a forum for emerging researchers to share work among peers, the workshop was particularly successful in featuring the entire range of the diverse "emerging researchers" spectrum: from Bettina Burger's keynote presentation on representations of queerness in Australian speculative fiction (they just recently defended their PhD dissertation at HHU Düsseldorf), to presentations sketching the early and late stages of innovative PhD projects. The second keynote presentation by postdoctoral researcher Stef Spronck on language maintenance and the role of academics in this process highlighted the importance of scholarship that is engaged and impactful beyond the infamous academic ivory tower. There is no doubt that this was, in many ways, a recurring theme of the two workshop days and a shared concern among all participants – be this in the form of critical engagements with research methodologies and language change (Brandon Wilthsire and



Maria Vollmer), a thorough consideration of circular economies to avoid food waste (Franziska Czernik), or critiques of cultural appropriation practices and interrogations of Australia's past immigration policies (Friederike Schmidt and Louise Thatcher). How does a study of Australian horror fiction contribute to a nuanced understanding of the diversity of contemporary Australian cultural production, Lucas Mattila asked, and how have Indigenous writers recently grappled with decolonization through the novel as a space of political practice (Peri Sipahi). Connor Brown and Ellison Luk elaborated on different structural aspects of Australia's Indigenous languages, focussing on tense in Australian Kriol and an impressive overview of the multifunctionality of converbs in several Australian languages respectively. The final presentation by Haoyi Li again showcased the merits of interdisciplinary research within Australian Studies. Drawing from her background in art history and linguistics, she invited participants to think about the expressive range of visual grammars.

In addition to these fascinating presentations, five other early career researchers contributed pre-recorded papers that were made available to all workshop participants beforehand and that confirmed the interdisciplinary range of the event. Hazal Kışlak demonstrated the intertwining of aesthetics and politics in Kim Scott's work; Walker Cole and Daniel Rothenburg offered historical perspectives on Australia (colonial transgender histories complemented and an environmental history of the Murray-Darling Basin); and Alexandra Chudar's take on diminutive forms in Southern Hemisphere Englishes spoke well to Katharina Frödrich's study of 'uptalk' in Australian English.

Two days of intense discussion and scholarly exchange were brought to a conclusion with Eugen Bacon's writer's talk and subsequent Q&A session. Eugen (an African Australian writer and editor of speculative fiction, a public speaker, academic and literary critic) read from her recent work and generously commented on her own writing, sharing aspects of her creative practice with the audience, with whom she also engaged in extensive conversations.

The organisers' many thanks go out to the GERMAN ASSOCIATION FOR AUSTRALIAN STUDIES for sponsoring this event, to the two keynote speakers (Bettina Burger, Stef Spronck) and to Eugen Bacon for their input and inspiration, to all the presenters who shared their work in live or pre-recorded presentations, to more than twenty additional workshop participants who dedicated their time to listening, discussing and giving feedback, and to everyone who helped facilitate this stimulating event.



POSTCOLONIAL MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH

20-22 October 2022 | Bonn

The last decades have brutally shown that not all lives and bodies are equally grievable. War, increased migratory movements, the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the climate crisis demonstrate that hierarchies of life and death continue to be dominated by colonial and racialized criteria as well as political and social power structures.

In her much-referenced work 'Precarious Life: The Powers of Mourning and Violence' (2004), Judith Butler asserts that "[s]ome lives are grievable, and others are not; the differential allocation of grievability [...] operates to produce and maintain certain exclusionary conceptions of who is normatively human: what counts as a liveable life and a grievable death?" (XIV-XV). Her assessment raises further questions about the conception and boundaries of 'the human' and who controls them. Since the European Enlightenment the predominant understanding of 'the human' has been shaped by a universalizing focus on individualism and rationality. These humanist notions do not only foreground an immaterial understanding of human essence, neglecting any question of the material existence of the body, but more so indicate a sharp distinction between subject and object, self and other.

Recent posthumanist scholarship seeks to expose these binaries and tries to negotiate new understandings of 'the human'. Examining marginalised lives and deaths through

Postgraduate Forum **Postcolonial** **Narrations**

a focus on black, female, queer, or non-human agents, critical posthumanism investigates who counts as 'human'. This endeavour is especially relevant in a postcolonial context, where existing ideas of the human mind and body are continuously

reconsidered, and the imagining of alternative ways of life is a central concern. Emerging from this framework, we hope to explore postcolonial matters of life and death in next year's Postcolonial Narrations Forum.

The controlling and policing of life and death, which dominate our screens again and again in the form of racially motivated police shootings, the discoveries of mass graves of Indigenous children, and the violence at Europe's borders, have long been central to colonialism and its continuous aftermath. Consequently, the institutionalised regulation



of human life and bodies has attracted notice as a major focus in literary and cultural studies, postcolonial studies, medical and environmental humanities, and other fields.

Concepts such as biopolitics (Foucault), bare life (Agamben), necropolitics (Mbembe), and slow death (Berlant) are only a few among the many tools which are useful to examine the above-mentioned issues. Literary genres as diverse as life-writing, memoir, dystopia, and SF as well as other media have not only voiced criticism in this regard, but have narrated forms of resistance, resilience, and survival.

These cultural trends reflect political discourses surrounding, for instance, the Black Lives Matter movement, the reclaiming of bodies through mourning rituals, and #RefugeesWelcome.

For further information, consult the *conference website*.



INASA 2022: 'IT'S TIME ... AGAIN'

30 November – 2 December 2022 | ANU and Old Parliament House, Canberra

The theme of the conference draws its inspiration from the 50 year anniversary of the Whitlam government's election in 1972 – an event seen by many as not merely a political turning point, but also a social and cultural awakening from a long post-war torpor.

The conference theme can be interpreted as broadly as the field of Australian Studies itself.

Elected on December 2 – a date which coincides with the last day of our 3-day program – Gough Whitlam's reforming Labor government ended 23 straight years of Coalition rule. Fittingly, conference participants will enjoy a keynote address in the historic House of Representatives chamber at Old Parliament House – one of Australia's most cherished buildings and the stage for the dramatic conclusion to that tumultuous chapter in Australian history.

The conference drinks and dinner will follow the keynote address in the elegant King's Hall, between the two chambers.



InASA
International Australian
Studies Association

For further information and the programme, go to the *InASA website*



CONFERENCES OVERVIEW

	Title	Date	Place	Link
ICPPPT	17. International Conference on Postcolonialism and Postcolonial Political Theory	13-14 April 2023	Cape Town, South Africa	https://waset.org/postcolonialism-and-postcolonial-political-theory-conference-in-april-2023-in-cape-town
Association for the Study of Australian Literature	ASAL mini-conference	20-21 April 2023	UNSW Sydney	https://www.asal.org.au/cfp/asal-mini-conference/
Native American and Indigenous Studies Association	NAISA Conference 2023	11-13 May 2023	Tkaronto (Toronto), Canada	https://naisa.org/regional-gatherings/2023-toronto-conference/
Lowitja Institute	3 rd International Indigenous Health & Wellbeing Conference	14-16 June 2023	Cairns, Queensland	https://www.lowitja.org.au/page/news-and-events/3rd-international-health-and-well-being-conference-2023
New Zealand Studies Association	Between Nations / Across Seas: The Transnational and Transcultural Pacific	26-30 June 2023	Stockholm, Sweden; Turku, Finland	http://www.nzsa.co.uk/conferences.htm
Australian Historical Association	AHA Conference 2023: 'Milestones'	3-6 July 2023	Melbourne, Australia	https://theaha.org.au/aha-conference-2023-milestones/
European Association for Studies of Australia	Australia from the Heart: Envisioning Affective, Environmental, and Material Reparations	6-8 Sep 2023	University of the Balearic Islands (Palma, Spain)	http://www.australianstudies.eu/?page_id=44



CALL FOR PAPERS

SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE AUSTRALIAN STUDIES JOURNAL | ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR AUSTRALIENSTUDIEN

'MUDROOROO' – OCTOBER 2024 – GUEST EDITOR: GERHARD FISCHER

The editors of the AUSTRALIAN STUDIES JOURNAL | ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR AUSTRALIENSTUDIEN are inviting contributions to a Special Issue on Black Australian author **Mudrooroo** (1938–2019), to be published **October 2024**. It will be **guest-edited by Gerhard Fischer**, UNSW Sydney.

Nearly 30 years after Mudrooroo's publicly rejected claim to Indigenous ancestry, and five years after the author's death in Brisbane (20 January 2019) following a decade of exile in India and Nepal, the proposed Special Issue will provide a first opportunity to re-appraise the complete oeuvre of one of Australia's most prolific, innovative and internationally renowned writers.

At the height of his career, with several novels and award-winning volumes of poetry to his credit, Mudrooroo published the first comprehensive critical study of Aboriginal literature in Australia, 'Writing from the Fringe' (1990). The "landmark study" (Shoemaker), a "masterwork [that] sought to define Aboriginal literature and set criteria for judging its authenticity and worth" (Spickard), firmly established his credentials as a literary and cultural theorist. Acknowledged for many years as "the voice of Indigenous Australia" (Clark), he "had risen to the status of an icon" (Spickard). His work attracted growing attention among scholars of English literature and postcolonial studies in Australia as well as overseas.

Mudrooroo's career came to an abrupt break in the wake of the controversy surrounding his allegedly 'mis-taken' Aboriginal identity. Shunned by his publishers and the literary establishment, he stopped writing and, in 2001, overwhelmed by the continuing hostility he encountered, withdrew into a self-imposed exile. He re-married, and his Nepalese wife, Sangya Magar, gave birth to their son Saman Nyoongar Magar in 2003. The family returned to Australia in 2011 to seek treatment for Mudrooroo's terminal illness. Living anonymously in a Brisbane suburb, he started writing again. A collection of Alterslyrik, 'Old Fellow Poems', was published in 2017, followed by an autobiographical novel, 'Balga Boy Jackson' (2017). His last completed work, 'Tripping with Jenny', part of a projected multi-volume autobiography, was published posthumously in 2019.



Topics to be addressed in the Special Issue may include an evaluation of Mudrooroo's work within the corpus of Australian and, specifically, Aboriginal literature; his contributions to literary and postcolonial theory; the international reception of his work (Asia, Europe, Canada and USA); analyses of the voluminous Nachlass (literary estate), notably the comprehensive diaries included in the collection at the National Library of Australia; interpretations of the most recent works published after the author's return to Australia.

While the facts of Mudrooroo's paternal ancestry have been widely discussed and accepted, the complete family genealogy is still largely unexplored. In addition, questions regarding the author's public persona within the contested field of Aboriginal identity politics, performance and recognition are equally unresolved. Mudrooroo's claim to Aboriginal 'belonging' on the basis of his life experiences and his work may be of secondary importance to a consideration of the impact of his writing, yet it does constitute the decisive caesura in his life-long odyssey. New evidence or arguments to advance the discussion on this topic are welcome.

Enquiries and expressions of interest are to be directed to Gerhard Fischer (g.fischer@unsw.edu.au).

Please make sure to check the [ASJ | ZfA style-sheet](#) for information on the formalities.



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDIES OF AUSTRALIA (EASA)

AUSTRALIA FROM THE HEART

ENVISIONING AFFECTIVE, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND MATERIAL REPARATIONS

University of the Balearic Islands (Palma, Spain)
6 – 8 September 2023

On 27 May 2017, the Uluru Statement from the Heart issued by Australia's First Nations Peoples invited non-Indigenous Australians to participate in a journey towards reparation and greater empowerment. The Statement called for a First Nations Voice – a representative body – to be enshrined in the constitution and for the establishment of a Makarrata Commission for the purpose of treaty-making and truth-telling. The Uluru Statement asserts First People's pride and determination, invokes their love of their ancestors and children, and, in the spirit of Makarrata – "the coming together after a struggle" – expresses their hopeful plea for a better future. In his speech at the Garma Festival in July 2022, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced his government's plans to implement the Uluru Statement in full and open up discussions about a national referendum, conducive to the amendment of the constitution and the establishment of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Voice in Parliament. Albanese argued that now is the right time to ask fellow Australians "a question from the heart" and assured his audience that he would work in this project with "humility and hope".

In the light of these recent heartfelt pronouncements, with their appeal to individual and collective notions of hope, pride, sorrow, anger and love, we are interested in exploring the social and public impact of emotions (Ahmed 2004) in historical or contemporary processes of nation or identity-building and ongoing struggles for reparation in Australia. How have hate, fear, disgust or anxiety conditioned historical articulations of race, national or cultural identity and their ensuing political and social exclusionary practices? How do "emotional communities" and their "systems of feeling" (Rosenwein 2002) intervene in endorsing or undermining specific national and cultural narratives? What is the role of pride, love, empathy or hope in negotiating new emotional regimes and envisioning reparative formulae to Australian's local and global challenges? Building on the critical work ensuing from the "affective turn" in the humanities and social sciences, we encourage participants to explore the connections between the intimate and the public, the individual and the collective, as well as "the epistemic decolonizing potential in turning to affect as a basis of exploring injustice, conflict, trauma and reparation" (Antwi et al. 2013, 3). EASA favours an inter- and multidisciplinary approach to studies on Australia and can host presentations from a wide range of disciplines and subject areas such as Anthropology, Cultural Studies, Ethnic Studies, Environmental Studies,



Gender Studies, History, Linguistics, Literature, Media and Film Studies, Political Science, Sociology, Visual and Performing Arts, etc.

Suggested topics include, but are not limited to:

- Affective and effective decolonization in post-apology Australia
- Reparative memorialisation and historical revision
- Collective remembering and re-storying as affective practices
- Emotions in historical perspective and genealogies of emotions
- Narratives of regret, grief, loss, sorrow, trauma and mourning
- Narratives of empathy, solidarity and identification
- Loving Australia, Loving in Australia
- The struggle for affective rights and affective citizenship
- Affective ecologies and environmental forms of reparation
- Diasporic communities and affective dis/connections
- E/motional engagements across the Tasman and in the Asia-Pacific region
- Etc.

Please, submit a 250-word abstract and a brief bio note (indicating name, position and institutional affiliation) and using the subject heading “EASA 2023” Dr. Astrid Schwegler (astrid.schwegler@uib.es) before 1st March 2023.

Decisions on proposals will be communicated by 1st April 2023.

The event will be held in a hybrid format.

Conference organizers: Astrid Schwegler Castañer & Paloma Fresno-Calleja

Full Call-for-Papers



NEW ZEALAND STUDIES ASSOCIATION (NZSA) **BETWEEN NATIONS / ACROSS SEAS** **THE TRANSNATIONAL AND TRANSCULTURAL PACIFIC**

Stockholm University & University of Turku | 26-30 June 2023

The 27th annual conference of the New Zealand Studies Association (NZSA), together with Stockholm University and the University of Turku

A special 5-day international conference

Includes an additional half-day free symposium for graduates & ECRs

Conference plan:

26 & 27 June - Stockholm; 28 June – ferry crossing; 29 & 30 June - Turku

Conference fee includes coach transfers, ferry crossing and conference dinner

Keynotes: TBC

Proposals for 20 minute papers to be sent by 29 January to Ian Conrich (ian@ianconrich.co.uk) or Mikko Myllyntausta (miymy@utu.fi).

Abstracts need to be between 200 and 250 words with a bio added of 100-150 words. Interpretations of the theme are broad and papers can address a range of topics related to the Pacific and New Zealand.

Full Call-for-Papers