Editorial

Good news, everyone: the ‘Australian Studies Journal | Zeitschrift für Australienstudien’ has taken a profound step towards modernization with a redesigned cover and a restyled interior.

In addition to the reformed design, a new collective of editors has taken over the journal. Our team covers a diverse spectrum of research areas. It consists of the Managing Editors Dr Stefanie Affeldt (Heidelberg), Dr Katrin Althans (Duisburg-Essen), and Christina Ringel (Dortmund) and the General Editors Prof Dr Dany Adone (Cologne), PD Dr Eva Bischoff (Trier), Prof Dr Patricia Plummer (Duisburg-Essen), and PD Dr Carsten Wergin (Heidelberg).

We are deeply grateful to Henriette von Holleuffer and Oliver Haag for their many years of service to the journal. Their meticulous work and wealth of imagination have benefited the Australian Studies Journal | Zeitschrift für Australienstudien from issue 26/2012 to 35/2021! We will try our best to follow in their professional footsteps.

The issue at hand – ASJ | ZfA 36/2022, ‘Music, Country, and Migration’ – bridges a broad spectrum of topics in its contributions.

Christina Ringel addresses the interconnections of self-determination, formal education, and traditional country. With a case study on the endangered language Miriwoong she demonstrates that both traditional educational practices and several current revitalisation projects undertaken by the Miriwoong people rely on access to traditional Country.

Ian D. Clark, Rolf Schlagloth, Fred Cahir, and Gabrielle McGinnis flesh out the biography of Kurrburra, a member of the Yawan djirra clan and a prominent persona amongst Victoria’s Boonwurrung people. They argue how, in the European view, he was seen as a ‘bard’ and ‘native doctor’ based on his medicinal and spiritual skills and retrace the narrations surrounding him.

Joevan de Mattos Caitano follows the archival tracks of Alphons Silbermann and the reception of Australian music at the summer courses of the international music institute in Darmstadt. Talking about German-Jewish migration after the Second World War and New Music, he discusses the musical exchange between Australia and Germany.

The reviews support and expand the selection of topics.

Andrew Hugill reads ‘Distant Dreams’ by Teresa Balough and Kay Dreyfus as a highly informative case study of inter-disciplinarity that has a more general and contemporary relevance.

Benjamin T. Jones deems Victoria Herche’s ‘The Adolescent Nation’ both an important contribution to our knowledge of Australian film and the coming of age narrative and as a required reading for scholars of film history.
In her close reading of Dorothee Klein’s ‘Poetics and Politics of Relationality in Contemporary Australian Aboriginal Fiction’, Katrin Althans finds a very well-researched discussion which posits contemporary Australian Aboriginal literature within the broader framework of relationality by drawing our attention to its relation to land and Country.

Read long and prosper…

The Editors