



The Australian Anthropological Society Newsletter

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AAS 2002 conference

The AAS annual conference will be held at the Australian National University from 3-5 October. The theme this year is "Anthropology and Diversity".

A number of concurrent sessions will be running through the conference; these are briefly described below. Details of the conference can be found at <http://www.aas.asn.au>.

Articulating culture: understanding engagements between indigenous and non-indigenous lifeworlds

Convenors: Melinda Hinkson (Centre for Cross-Cultural Research, ANU), Benjamin Smith and David Martin (Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, ANU)

This session will explore anthropological approaches to understanding interactions between indigenous and non-indigenous life-worlds and to re-theorising their production.

A range of presentations are drawn together in this session, including ones from Julie Finlayson (Anthropos Consulting); Sally Babidge (Anthropology, Archaeology & Sociology, James Cook University); Alan Rumsey (ANU); Gary Robinson (Centre for North Australian and Asian Research, Northern Territory University); Sarah Holcombe (CAEPR, ANU); Ben Smith (ANU); Gaynor Macdonald

(Department of Anthropology, University of Sydney); Francesca Merlan (School of Archaeology & Anthropology, ANU); Bruce White (Native Title Research Practitioner); Howard Morphy (Centre for Cross-Cultural Research, ANU); Philip Batty (Melbourne Museum); Christine Adams (School of Archaeology and Anthropology, ANU); Françoise Dussart (University of Connecticut); Nic Peterson (ANU); Rosemary O'Donnell (ISCCI, Faculty of Arts, University of Wollongong); John Taylor (ANU); and Caroline Holmstrom Hoban (University of Newcastle).

Ethnonationalism, terror and violence in Melanesia

Convenors: Jaap Timmer and Sinclair Dinnen (RSPAS, ANNU)

This session focuses on ethno-nationalist movements, forms of terror and the dynamics of violence in Melanesia with particular regional emphasis on Papua / Irian Jaya, Fiji, Bougainville, the Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea. By bringing together a number of scholars presenting in-depth studies of the background and dynamics of wars in Melanesia, the session aims to explore the ways in which ethno-nationalist movements, terror, memories of violence, and fears for the future, have wormed their way into the vulnerable fibre of the public psyche and worked to change the shape of communities.

The speakers in this session include James Tanis (Bougainville); Thera Sawor (Papua); Yan Chris Warinussy (Papua); Sombuk Musa Yosep (Papua); George Gray (Solomon Islands); Chris Ballard (ANU); and will include general discussion convened by Agus Sumule (Papua), Sinclair Dinnen and Jaap Timmer.

The tradition of radical thought and anthropology: psychoanalysis, phenomenology, and the state

Convenor: Ute Eickelkamp, Independent Scholar

This session will discuss anthropology as explanatory science; phenomenological psychoanalysis and fundamental ontology from an ethnographic perspective; and anthropology and the state.

The speakers in this session are Gary Robinson (Centre for North Australian and Asian Research, Northern Territory University); Jadran Mimica (Department of Anthropology, The University of Sydney); and Rohan Bastin (School of Anthropology, Archaeology and Sociology, James Cook University). Respondents are John von Sturmer (Independent Scholar, Sydney) or Annette Hamilton (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of New South Wales); James Weiner (ANU); Franca Tamisari (School of Social Science, The University of Queensland); Peter Sutton (Independent Scholar, Adelaide); and Tom Ernst (ARC Research Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics, CAPPE). Other panel discussants are Ute Eickelkamp, Richard Sutcliffe, and Taran Ramrakha.

Changing cultural contexts: representations of the Hmong

Convenors: Nick Tapp and Gary Lee (Anthropology, ANU)

The Hmong are trans-border peoples of northern Indochina and south China who have become globally fragmented since the ending of the Vietnam wars. This session aims to bring together researchers from this region who have worked on various aspects of Hmong cultural production and social adaptation to their new transnational contexts.

The presenters in this session include Cathy Falk (Music, Melbourne), Nerida Jarkey (Japanese Studies, Sydney), Linda Pranee Rice (Public Health, La Trobe), Valerie Kirk (ANU Arts), Roberta Julian (Sociology, Tasmania), Andrew Walker (RMAP, ANU); and Maria Friend (Anthropology, James Cook).

Governmentality and subjectivity in Australia and Melanesia

Convenor: Andrew Lattas

This session proposes to examine how people remake and re-imagine government and the state. It would also look at the remaking of pastoral practices for producing a new Melanesian subject and subjectivity.

The speakers in this session are Richard Eves (Gender Relations Centre), Tess Lea (University of Sydney), and Andrew Lattas (University of Newcastle). There will also be a preview of a film on the Pomio Kivung, presented by Andrea Simon, Gary Kildea and Andrew Lattas.

Kinship or 'cultures of relatedness'? 21st century paradigms and practice

Convenor: Mary Patterson, Anthropology, SAGES, University of Melbourne

This session addresses the issue of the much vaunted demise of kinship and its alleged revival in the context of the expulsion of the subject from the curricula of many anthropology programs.

The speakers in this session are Laurent Dousset (University of Western Australia); Ian Keen (ANU); Allon Uhlmann (University of Queensland); Violeta Schubert (The University of Melbourne); Jack Taylor (ANU); Mary Patterson (University of Melbourne); Dundi Mitchell (James Cook University); and Mark Mosko (ANU).

Pacific Anthropology / Pacific Diversity

Convenor: Grant McCall (Centre for South Pacific Studies, University of NSW)

This session is to have a regional focus on Oceania, the islands of the Pacific. Papers in this session will explore the diversity of the Pacific Islands and the diversity of anthropology in those places, both in research and practice.

Post-Socialist Anthropology

Convenor: Andrew Kipnis, Anthropology (RSPAS, ANU)

The papers of this panel will attempt to emulate the successes of post-colonial theory in anthropology by both studying post-socialist societies wherever they exist and by considering what a critique of assumptions made in processes of socialist governance can contribute to anthropological theory more generally.

The speakers in this session are Andrew Kipnis; Mandy Thomas (Centre for Cross

Cultural Research, ANU); Philip Taylor (Department of Anthropology, RSPAS, ANU); Tamara Jacka (Gender Relations Centre, RSPAS, ANU); and Kalpana Ram (Anthropology, Macquarie University). Debjani Ganguly (Centre for Cross Cultural Research, ANU) will serve as discussant and chair.

Gender, Sexuality and Culture

Convenor: Nurul Ilmi Idrus (Department of Anthropology, RSPAS, ANU)

This session will discuss gender, sexuality and culture, focusing on cultural specificities and how the notion of gender and sexuality is constructed in different cultures.

The speakers in this session are Margaret Jolly (Gender Relations Centre, ANU); Sharon Chalmers (Institute of Cultural Research, UWS); Nurul Ilmi Idrus; and Catherine Earl (Victoria University).

AAS Newsletter Editorial Policy

Members will be aware that over the past year, some quite forceful debate has been occasioned with regard to articles submitted for publication in the AAS Newsletter. At its meeting of 7th May, the AAS Executive was concerned to ensure that assistance be provided to the editor in coming to decisions about whether or not to publish submitted materials. Accordingly, the following resolution was passed:

1. The Editor may, at his or her discretion, refer an article submitted for publication, to an ad hoc Editorial Committee.
2. The Editorial Committee shall comprise three members of the Executive, one of whom will provide secretarial assistance. The AAS Executive may also provide administrative assistance if required.
3. The Editorial Committee may consider the matter by meeting together directly, talking by telephone or by video conference, or by exchange of emails.
4. The Editorial Committee shall provide its advice in relation to whether the article referred to it should be published. The

Committee may, at its discretion, seek legal opinion in relation to the proposed article, should it have grounds for considering that the article may be actionable in law.

5. The Editorial Committee shall provide its recommendation to the Editor.
6. Sole discretion whether to publish the article or not remains with the Editor, except if one or more members of the Editorial Committee are of the view that the matter should be referred to the AAS Executive for a decision. In this case, the decision as to whether or not to publish shall rest with the Executive.
7. The Editor shall give priority to Members of the AAS in deciding upon articles to be published in the AAS newsletter.

Conferences and calls for papers

ARCLING II
The Second Conference on the
Archaeology and
Linguistics of Australia

National Museum of Australia
and
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Studies

Canberra, 1-4 October 2002

The last decade has advanced our knowledge of Australian indigenous languages and the archaeological record, and has also seen an upsurge in hypotheses and controversies in prehistory, including linguistic prehistory. The time is ripe to assess the discoveries and theories, and to provide a forum for cross-fertilisation between Australian and world prehistory; and between the different disciplines which contribute to our overall understanding of prehistory. ARCLING II has been planned for 2002 to bring together archaeologists, linguists and others to record progress made and map out the challenges we now face.

The first ARCLING conference was held in Darwin in 1991, bringing together leading archaeologists, linguists and anthropologists from Australia and overseas to share ideas and build foundations for an interdisciplinary approach to the prehistory of Australia,

drawing on international work of a similar kind. This resulted in the publication of *Archaeology and Linguistics: Aboriginal Australia in Global Perspective* edited by Patrick McConvell and Nicholas Evans, published by Oxford University Press.

Contact: Dr. Patrick McConvell, Convener, Planning Committee
Email: patrick.mcconvell@aiatsis.gov.au
phone: +61-2-62461116; fax +61-2-62497714

For more information:

<http://crlc.anu.edu.au/arcling2>

Registration Forms:

<http://crlc.anu.edu.au/arcling2/ARCLINGreg.htm>

SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND (SAHANZ) CONFERENCE

Brisbane, 4-7 October 2002

ARCHITECTURE & TRADITIONS SESSION (one of 17 sessions)

Conference Website:

<http://www.sahanz.net>

Chairperson: Assoc Prof Paul Memmott, Aboriginal Environments Research Centre, School of Geography Planning and Architecture, University of Queensland

Co-Chair: Assoc Prof Roxana Waterson, Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore

The general theme of this session will be the relevance of the Western concept of 'architecture' to non-Western and Indigenous building traditions. The session is particularly oriented to all scholars of Asian,

Pacific and Aboriginal cultures and their building traditions, and will encourage debate on the human values of these traditions and what they represent in relation to the Western concept of architecture. A central question here is whether there is a need for a construct of 'architecture' that is grounded in a cross-cultural epistemology and not dominated by Western canons, periodic aesthetics or popular philosophies.

The following types of questions are likely to be discussed. Firstly, does group building activity and design by community

consensus (as opposed to design by an individual) constitute architecture? Does so-called 'vernacular architecture' have architects who make design decisions? Secondly, can architecture comprise a set of arranged articulated spaces and selected natural attributes with minimal building? The time properties of non-Western and Indigenous buildings may also contrast with those of Western concepts of architecture. How does the choice to rebuild annually, rather than maintain a building, effect its value as architecture? How is vernacular architecture subject to processes of cultural change? Another related issue is addressing the question of what is successful 'bi-cultural' architecture? All contributors will present 'ethno-architectural' case study materials which will in turn comment on some of the above issues.

1. Values, traditions and architectural constructs – cross-cultural perspectives

- Mike Austin
NITEC School of Architecture, Auckland, New Zealand
"Pacific Building: the Construction of Tradition"
- Martin Fowler
Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, The University of Melbourne, Australia
"Five types of Melanesian traditional architecture of New Guinea"
- James Davidson
Aboriginal Environments Research Centre, School of Geography, Planning and Architecture, University of Queensland, Australia
"Western 'Architectural' Ideology and its Impact on the Traditional Building Practices of the Maya Peoples of Guatemala and Southern Mexico"

2. Cultural change, transmission and acculturation in architectural traditions

- Albert Refiti
School of Art and Design, Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand
"Uneven boundaries that do not flatten easily"
- Deidre Brown

School of Fine Arts, The University of Canterbury, New Zealand

"The Whare on Exhibition"

- Bill McKay

School of Design, UNITEC Institute of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand

"Looking at Maori Architecture"

3. Transformations and Maintenance of Architectural Traditions

- Lesley MacFayden

SCARAB Research Centre, University of Wales College Newport, Caerleon Campus, Newport, Wales, United Kingdom

"Bodybuilding" [the exploration of 'what is architecture and architectural activity?' from the archaeological evidence on earlier neolithic 'long cairns' of south-west Britain]

- Stephen Long

Aboriginal Environments Research Centre, School of Geography, Planning and Architecture, University of Queensland, Australia

"Between the Georgina and the Great Western Railway: the Transformation and Maintenance of Aboriginal Architecture in North-West Queensland"

- Timothy O'Rourke

Aboriginal Environments Research Centre, School of Geography, Planning and Architecture, University of Queensland, Australia

"Dyirbalgan dwellings: Ethno-architecture in the rainforests of northeastern Queensland"

4. Religious Beliefs and Values as Generators of Architecture

- Shaneen Fantin

Aboriginal Environments Research Centre, School of Geography, Planning and Architecture, University of Queensland, Australia

"Recognising Aboriginal architecture from northeast Arnhem Land: The 'ancestral aesthetic' in Yolngu dwellings and ceremonial structures"

- Qinghua Guo

Lecturer in Asian Architecture and Planning, Faculty of Architecture,

Building and Planning, University of Melbourne, Australia

"Tomb Architecture of Dynastic China: Old and New Questions"

- Ellen Anderson

Private Scholar, New Zealand

"Pukekaraka - Architecture and Whakapapa"

Fusion

Coordinated by The National Institute of the Arts in association with the Centre for Cross-Cultural Research at the Australian National University, Canberra.

In collaboration with the National Institute of the Humanities, the National Institute for Asia and the Pacific, and the ANU Institute for Indigenous Australia.

a year of activities exploring the merging of artistic practices, cultural productions, and intellectual currents across disciplines

In 2003 the National Institute of the Arts (NITA) and the Centre for Cross-Cultural Research (CCR) will coordinate a series of events which will interrogate the concept of fusion. This concept has been used in various intellectual movements and disciplines and has widespread multidisciplinary implications from music to physics. Fusion is a very productive concept, but it is also one which has not been well problematized or widely discussed in many disciplines. While fusion involves combining elements of different traditions, disciplines and worldviews, the actual processes of recontextualising components from one sphere into another are not well understood. The blending and mixing of different artistic traditions, musical styles, literary genres, and cultural traditions is routinely expressed in all forms of cultural production. However, there is a contradictory impulse to imagine that there are pure forms of cultural expression, or to maintain the boundaries between spheres of practice or theory. During Fusion, cultural producers and theorists will discuss and analyse the practice of intermixture through firsthand experiences of artistic fusion in practice - through literature, music, dance, art, film, and

performance. At the same time, both cultural producers and academic researchers will be involved in reflecting on the ramifications of fusion for both artistic practices and theoretical understandings of their work.

Themes & Questions

- Cross-cultural fusions in the arts
- Innovation versus appropriation
- Authenticity and cultural borrowing
- Variable accommodation of fusion across art forms
- Fusion as threat or enhancement to genres and styles
- Crossing domains: music and art as science? Creativity and scientific discovery? Political science informed by literary theory?
- How does fusion differ from hybridity, pastiche and creolisation?
- Art forms inhabiting the same space: competition or co-operation? Dialogue or rivalry?
- Globalisation and fusions in the arts and academic disciplines - new modes of cross-disciplinary fertilisation?
- The impact of new technologies on the development of new forms of arts practice or the reconfiguring of traditional forms
- How do we theorise fusion as a useful and productive interdisciplinary concept?

The Events

Information about the program will be progressively updated on the CCR website.

To register your interest in attending Fusion and to join our mailing list, go to:

<http://www.anu.edu.au/culture/activities/fusion.htm>

Exhibition 1: *Synergies*, 27 March - 27 April

Symposium 1: *Fusions across the Arts*, 10 - 12 April

Exhibition 2: *Art on a String*, 5 June - 6 July

Additional Exhibition: *The Rugs of War*, 2 - 15 June

Symposium 2: *Valuing Indigenous Crafts*, 13 - 15 June

Exhibition 3: *Abstractions*, 2 - 9 October

Symposium 3: *Dif/fusions*, 9 - 11

October

Exhibition 1: *Synergies*, 27 March - 27 April

Will provide a focus for viewers, and participants in the *Fusions across the Arts* symposium, to interrogate and seek to problematise the theme of fusion. The exhibition will include artists whose work is explicitly influenced by cross-cultural engagements and circumstances, and demonstrates collaborative or convergent practices, which derive from, challenge, engage with, or displace cultural paradigms.

Symposium 1: *Fusions across the Arts*, 10 - 12 April

Examines the implications for fusion in the creative and performing arts, especially music and visual art. Central to the symposium will be musical performances and art exhibitions; the artists and composers will explore the theme of fusion and what it means in their art. Those attending the symposium will engage with the artworks and performances themselves which will be the focal point for wide-ranging discussions bringing artists and academics together. Invited speakers, artists and performers include Imants Tillers, Corrie Kratz, Lyndal Brown, Charles Green, Kuan-Hsing Chen, Jacqueline Lo, Tony Mitchell, Ivan Karp, Larry Sitsky, and Mark Carroll (see the CCR website for updates on further participants).

Exhibition 2: *Art on a String*, 5 June - 6 July

Art on a String: Threaded Objects from the Central Desert and Arnhem Land is the first exhibition ever to be devoted entirely to the intricately coloured and patterned strings made into necklaces, bracelets, wall hangings, mats and fly curtains. Louise Hamby and Diana Young curated this exhibition with the desire to draw attention to this outstanding contemporary work which has previously been largely unrecognised.

Additional Exhibition: *The Rugs of War*, 2 - 15 June

An exhibition of contemporary Afghani knotted rugs, curated by Nigel Lendon and Tim Bonyhady. The exhibition will comprise twenty major narrative carpets created in the past two decades by expatriate Afghani communities resident in Iran and Pakistan. The carpets have their origins in the mid-

eighties, in response to the Soviet occupation. Subsequent conflicts are now creating a new generation of imagery.

Symposium 2: Valuing Indigenous Crafts, 13 - 15 June

This symposium complements the exhibition *Art on a String*. It will combine practical workshops, presentation of papers and theoretical and critical debate. The exhibition will provide a catalyst for exploration of a range of complex issues, including questions relating to the categorisation of indigenous art (fine art/art/craft/tourist art/souvenir); issues of equivalence and overlaps with non-Indigenous practices; cultural/economic values; environmental considerations, and relationships to other forms of Indigenous art.

Exhibition 3: Abstractions, 2 - 9 October

Abstractions will draw together artists, musicians, and performance artists for whom abstraction has evolved as a

distinctive non-modernist practice. *Abstractions* is also conceived in the plural, drawing on cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural practices which are abstract by nature of their process - non-iconic, synthetic, responsive to context and new cultural conditions.

Symposium 3: Dif/Fusions, 9 - 11 October

The third and final symposium will examine the implications of fusion more broadly in the humanities, social sciences and the arts as well as the experimental and natural sciences. This symposium will seek to identify and discuss common interdisciplinary ground and shared issues of concern. A range of invited speakers will discuss the modalities through which fusions have occurred cross-culturally, across disciplines, in intellectual movements or as a result of an intensification of globalising processes. Several one-day workshops on such issues as academic knowledge formation, film theory, and interpreting 'World Music', are planned.

The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology

Volume 3 (1) of The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology (TAPJA) has just been published. This volume features Donald Tuzin's 2001 Anthony Forge Memorial Lecture, and articles by Tom Boellstorff, Bill Maurer, Anton Ploeg, Andrea Whittaker and Anna Pains, along with a wide array of book reviews.

TAPJA (formerly *Canberra Anthropology*) is published jointly at The Australian National University by the Department of Anthropology in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, and the School of Archaeology and Anthropology in the Faculty of Arts. TAPJA provides a forum for the publication of research in social and cultural anthropology, publishing articles concerned with contemporary debates in anthropology, as well as ethnographic papers.

Visit our web site @ <http://rspas.anu.edu.au/anthropology/tapja> where you will find the contents of the previous 10 issues listed; details on purchasing subscriptions and single issues of TAPJA; and information on contributing to the journal. Alternatively, please contact the editorial assistant direct with any enquiries on

☎ +61 0(2) 6125 2195

✉ TAPJA@Coombs.anu.edu.au

🖥 <http://rspas.anu.edu.au/anthropology/tapja>

✉ The Editorial Assistant

The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology
Department of Anthropology
Research School of Pacific and Asian
Studies
The Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200
AUSTRALIA

The Australian Journal of Anthropology

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Edited by Michael Allen, Book Review Editor Jeremy Beckett

The Australian Journal of Anthropology (TAJA) publishes scholarly papers and book reviews in anthropology and related disciplines. Though wide ranging in its areas of interest, the journal especially welcomes theoretically focused analyses and ethnographic reports based on fieldwork carried out in Australia and neighbouring countries in the Pacific and Asian regions. Papers that explore the relations between anthropology and cognate disciplines are also welcome. It appears three times a year (April, August and December) and at least one issue per annum is devoted to a specific topic under the direction of a guest editor.

Some Recent and forthcoming articles:

Marilyn Strathern Prefigured Features: A View from the New Guinea Highlands

Jonathan Friedman Indigenous Struggles and the Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie

Bruce Kapferer Star Wars: About Anthropology, Culture and Globalisation

Nigel Rapport Random Mind: Towards an Appreciation of Openness in Individual, Society and Anthropology

James Weiner Religion, Belief and Action: The Case of Ngarrindjeri 'Women's Business' on Hindmarsh Island

George E. Marcus Beyond Malinowski and After *Writing Culture*

Jeremy Beckett Some Aspects of Continuity and Change Among Anthropologists in Australia

Diane Austin-Broos Globalisation and the Genesis of Values

Peter Mewett Discourses of Deception: Cheating in Professional Running

Some Recent and Forthcoming Special Issues

Special Issue 11 Anthropology at Home in Australia. December 1999

Special Issue 12 The Politics of Dance. December 2000

Special Issue 13 Beyond Syncretism: Indigenous Expressions of World Religions. December 2001

Special Issue 14 The Anthropology of Sport. December 2002

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Mail orders to: *TAJA* c/o Dept. of Anthropology, University of Sydney, NSW, 2006, Australia.

Email: aas.taja@anthropology.usyd.edu.au

tel/fax (61) + (0)2 + 9351-5489