

MAKING PUBLIC HISTORIES SEMINAR SERIES

This seminar series explores issues and approaches in making public histories and is open to anyone interested in historical representation in contemporary society.

Where and when

Thursdays, 5.30-7.00pm, Village Roadshow Theatre, State Library of Victoria. Come to Entry 3, La Trobe St at 5.25pm.

19 March 2009

Recording Everyday Life and 'Writing for History': Mass Observation in Britain and Australia

How have pioneering approaches to recording everyday lives generated innovative and influential public histories?

From the late 1930s until the early 1950s (and since 1981) the social research organisation, 'Mass Observation' <http://www.massobs.org.uk/index.htm> recruited writers from all over the UK to write about themselves and their society and to create an anthropology of everyday life and a unique public history. **Dorothy Sheridan** (MO Archive Development Director and Honorary Professor at Sussex University) will explore the development and use of this public history project and consider some of the issues it now raises in the digital age. **Kate Darian-Smith** (Professor of Australian Studies & History, University of Melbourne) will respond to Dorothy's lecture and reflect on Australian equivalents to MO, including the Prest Social Survey conducted in Melbourne during 1941-3.

30 April 2009

Remembering Australia's 'Great War'

How and why is the history and memory of the Australian experience of the Great War changing?

A panel of expert authors will explore continuity and change in the ways in which we represent and remember the war that created an Anzac legend. Chaired by **Alistair Thomson** (*Anzac Memories*, OUP, 1994), the panel will comprise: **Marina Larsson** (*Shattered Anzacs: Living with the Scars of War*, UNSW Press, 2009); **Bart Ziino** (*A Distant Grief: Australians, War Graves and the Great War*, UWA Press 2007); **Ross McMullin** (biographer of *Pompey Elliot*, Scribe 2002, and *Will Dyson: Australia's radical genius* Scribe 2006)

4 June 2009

Water Histories – Lessons for Australia in a Changing Climate

What can we learn from Australian history that might help us deal with our water crisis and climate change today?

Michael Cathcart (Australia Centre at the University of Melbourne) will draw lessons from his new book, *Water Dreamers: How Water and Silence Made Australia* (Text, 2009). **Paul Sinclair** (Healthy Ecosystems Program Manager at the Australian Conservation Foundation) will draw lessons from his current work and previous research on the Murray River and its people.

23 July 2009

Making Migrant Histories

What are the approaches and issues in making migrant community histories?

Over the past ten years, the Community Gallery at Victoria's Immigration Museum has worked with over 54 groups to record, create and display their community's migration history, whether they came to Victoria 5 years or 150 years ago. **Maria Tence** (Manager, Community Gallery) will talk about approaches adopted and issues encountered when working with diverse communities to develop and present their exhibitions; public historian **Peg Fraser** will discuss some of the challenges she encountered when working with community members to shape stories for exhibition; and representatives of community groups who have presented exhibitions in the Community Gallery (including **Patricia Kintia** from the Mauritian community) will reflect on the value and challenges of their experience working with the Museum.

The Making Public Histories Seminar Series is offered jointly by the Monash University Institute for Public History, History Council of Victoria and the State Library of Victoria.

Admission is free of charge – Bookings required

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Suggestions for future seminars to alistair.thomson@arts.monash.edu.au