

ORAL HISTORY IN TROUBLING TIMES: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

CONFERENCE PROGRAM 2022

THURSDAY 13 OCTOBER – WORKSHOPS

8.45 – 10.40

Jill Cassidy, Introducing oral history

Jill Cassidy is an Honorary Research Associate with the Queen Victoria Museum. She is President of Oral History Tasmania and Vice President of Oral History Australia.

9.00 – 12.00

Alistair Thomson, Interpreting memories

Alistair Thomson is Professor of History at Monash University and President of Oral History Australia.

9.00 – 5.00

Hamish Sewell, Producing mobile-based audio walks from oral histories

Hamish Sewell is a former RN producer and the founder of the Soundtrails application. This masterclass will provide all the necessary tools to produce immersive audio walks, with testing onsite. Workshop participants will need a laptop (sharing is fine; tablets are not suitable) and mobile device.

10.50 – 12.45

Linda Hunt, Interviewing and the art of asking questions

Linda Hunt is a lecturer in media and communication at the University of Tasmania. Before joining UTAS, Linda was a broadcast journalist for ABC News and has reported, produced and presented news on radio and television.

1.30 – 5.30

Greg Appel, Podcasting oral history

Greg Appel is a producer and director of social history documentaries for TV, radio and online. His diverse documentary work includes the ground-breaking series *Long Way to the Top* (ABC TV 2001) about Australian rock music and the popular radio series *Greetings from...the Streets of Australia* for ABC Radio National. He has won awards in Australia and South Africa. Participants will require a laptop or tablet, plus a mobile device or external microphone for recording.

6.00 – 7.30 WELCOME RECEPTION

Professor Rufus Black, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania, will welcome delegates.

FRIDAY 14 OCTOBER

9.00 – 10.30

Welcome to Country

Official conference opening by the Governor of Tasmania, Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC

OPENING PLENARY

Mark Cave, Why did this happen? Making meaningful answers in the aftermath of crisis

Mark will explore the limitations of the media in the aftermath of crisis and argue that oral history has an important role to play alongside journalism in creating explanations that not only help communities move beyond crisis but help them move beyond crisis in ways that make them stronger.

11.00 – 12.30 PARALLEL SESSIONS

Session 1. Working lives

Paul Sendziuk, The end of the line: comparing General Motors Holden's and its workers' perception and experience of employee separation

Elaine Rabbitt, Death of the travelling salesman: COVID-19 strikes the final blow

Dianne Korare, Entwined lives, divided roles: oral histories of Australian women educators in Papua New Guinea, 1974–99

Session 2. Exploring issues and approaches to Indigenous oral histories

PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOP: Kath Apma Travis Penangke & Katherine Ellinghaus, When are troubling times, not troubling times: the ethical conundrums of sharing history that does not silence First Nations voices

HOURLONG PANEL Kate Darian-Smith, Zoe Rimmer & Rebe Taylor, Tasmanian Aboriginal oral histories from the early twentieth century to early twenty-first centuries

Session 3. Oral histories in exhibition and film

Elisabeth Gondwe, Getting equal

Stephanie Boyle, Ink in the Lines: oral histories, tattoos and the military

Dale Blair & Rebecca Fleming, In their own words: the use of oral history in the creation of the Department of Veterans' Affairs educational and commemorative resources

1.30 – 3.00 PARALLEL SESSIONS

Session 1. Queer histories and the HIV/AIDS epidemic

PANEL Shirleene Robinson, HIV/AIDS, trauma and 'Insider' oral history interviewing

Sian Edwards, Oral histories with health care workers during the AIDS epidemic:

'... it caused everything to become so confused and so boundaryless' (JK)

Geraldine Fela, 'You're bound to know people': reticence, confidentiality and the queer rural past

Session 2. Migrants and refugees

Long Yin Ko and Christopher Cheng, Not only in English: oral histories with Cantonese (or other non-English) immigrants in Australia

Jennifer Rose, Music, multiculturalism and cultural rights: the Boîte as a historical case study

Joan Kelly & Leonie Lane, Migration stories: sound design in place

Session 3. Responding to COVID

Lynette Shum, Pivoting to online training: a New Zealand experience

Catherine Cottle, Collecting most vulnerable oral histories during troubling times

Carol McKirdy, The Sutherland TAFE Literacy-Languages section's response to COVID-19 Oral History Project

3.30 – 5.00 PARALLEL SESSIONS

Session 1. Contested memories and histories

Cindy Hanson, The construction and erasure of memory about Indian Residential School abuses in Canada

Skye Krichauff, 'Reconciling with the frontier': juxtaposing oral histories and archival research

Susanne Roff, Rewriting the narrative of British atomic and nuclear tests in Australia using the 1985 Royal Commission transcripts

Session 2. Climate change and oral history

Carla Pascoe Leahy and Anisa Puri, Using oral history in pandemic times: adopting remote interviewing in the Mothering in Crisis project

Louise Whelan, The creeping disaster: drought. photography, oral history and collaborating with the archive to process environmental grief

Session 3. New approaches to oral history

Marion Meischke, Exploring the accuracy of using traditional or current methods

Christopher Chevalier, Riding the 'hybrid mule': making sense of oral history

Sandra Gorter, Navigating the hazards of oral history accounts: what actually happened?

5.00 OHA Awards – Hazel de Berg Award, Media Award, Book Award
OHA Annual General Meeting

SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER

9.00 – 10.15 PLENARY SESSION

Kim Mahood, Mapping place, mapping story

Kim will describe her cross-cultural mapping work which is designed to foster communication and understanding between traditional custodians of country and the non-Indigenous stakeholders with an interest in the same country.

11.00 – 12.00 PARALLEL SESSIONS

Session 1. Queer oral histories

Scott McKinnon, Against the law: gay men's memories of criminality in pre-law reform New South Wales

Dante DeBono, Exploring non-monosexual experiences using oral history

Session 2. Creative writing

Yvette Barry, Reanimating the untold stories of women and children in a Tasmanian mining town during the 1920s

Ashley Barnwell, Cate O'Neill & Kirsten Wright, Writing wrongs right: using creative writing to record traumatic life stories

Session 3. Protest and activism

Lynette Shum presenting on behalf of herself and **Margaret Pack, Jane McDonald, Nergis Narayan and Chris Hannah**, A history of abortion care in Aotearoa New Zealand

David Faber, Writing *Green Light: a Brief Oral Political History of the Australian Greens (SA) 1995–2020* in *Troubling Times*, 2018–2021

12.00 – 12.30 Launch of the 2022 Journal, *Studies in Oral History*

1.30 – 3.00 PARALLEL SESSIONS

Session 1. Indigenous oral histories

Carly Heinrich, 'It's all chat, chat, chat, but no-one's listening': reckoning with colonial pasts to build more just futures

Heather Goodall, Cross purposes: learning from the memories of Indigenous former students at Tranby Adult Education campus, 1980–2000

Doug Racine, Indigenous storyteller and lawyer who represented Canadian Indian Residential Survivors, will contribute as discussant

Session 2. Oral history and family history

Terry Young & Kate Bagnall, Voices and connections: reflections on using oral history in researching a migrant family history

Sophie Couchman, Oral histories as sources for family historians: a challenge for oral historians and the GLAM (galleries, libraries, archives & museums) sector

Linda Hunt, The value of oral history in family history: student perspectives

Session 3. Place, community, memory

Christeen Schoepf, 'A picture of the past in the people's own words'

HOUR-LONG PANEL Maria Daly, Ellen Forsyth, Cathrynne McLean, Fran O'Flynn, Julie-Anne Sykes,
Portable local studies collecting: sharing new stories in NSW public Libraries

3.30 – 5.00 PARALLEL SESSIONS

Session 1. Women's history, men's history

Kate Murphy and Alistair Thomson, Explaining gender inequality in the Australian home:
combining oral history interviews and time use studies

Sianan Healy, 'Happening in a shadow world': privacy and silence in oral histories of
women's infertility

Ruth Melville, 'Beneath The Mask': exploring the story of Agatha Quinlan's admission to a
psychiatric hospital during the Spanish influenza epidemic of 1919.

Session 2. Ethical and legal challenges in oral history

Margaret Leask, What's the brief? On the receiving end of commissions to record oral
history interviews.

Sue Anderson & David Sweet, Whose story? A case of possible litigation

Alice Garner and Mary Leahy, Does it have to be the full story? The ethics of editing audio
for a web-based oral history

Session 3. War stories and oral history

Alexander J. Potocnik, WWI remembrance along the former Soča/Isonzo front

Mia Martin Hobbs, Reading empathy and ideology in oral history transcripts: race, gender
and the US reconstruction in Iraq

7.00 CONFERENCE DINNER

SUNDAY 16 OCTOBER

9.00 – 10.30 PARALLEL SESSIONS

Session 1. Interpreting Memories

Nikki Henningham, 'If I wasn't there already, it would have led me to drink': using oral history narratives to reveal the nature and calculate the cost of women's bravery

Anisa Puri, Using archived interview collections: reflections on conducting secondary analysis

Alexandra Dellios, Reading activist lives in oral history collections: ethnic women and early multiculturalism

Session 2. Recording interviews during the COVID pandemic

Lucy Bracey, Fiona Poulton and Katherine Sheedy, COVID kids: a pandemic oral history project

Heather Kelly, 'I remember when...': one community's journey

Judy Hughes, Is remote oral history interviewing here to stay?

Session 3. Place, community, memory

Hamish Sewell, The emerging opportunities to archive the 'situated listening' experience

Janis Hanley, Milling around: collectively remembering work at the factory

Frances Crawford & Roslyn Budd, Putting an idea into action: how an oral history of 'welfare' in Western Australia 1969–1984 developed

11.00 – 12.30 CLOSING PLENARY

Palawa people of Trouwerner/Loetrouwitter/lutruwita Tasmania: challenges and opportunities

Julie Gough, Theresa Sainty and Zoe Rimmer will talk about the significance of memory and oral history for palawa people, and raise issues for discussion by all oral historians working in Australia and other countries with First Peoples.

POST-CONFERENCE TOURS SUNDAY 16

1.30–5.00

Respected elder Dr Aunty Patsy Cameron AO will lead delegates on an Aboriginal cultural walk in the stunning Cataract Gorge.

1.30–5.30

A bus will take delegates down the picturesque kanamaluka/Tamar River to the historic Beaconsfield Mine and Heritage Centre; includes curator's talk about the Centre's oral history program.