

Conference program

Oral History in Troubling Times: Opportunities and Challenges

As at June 2021

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Thursday 14 October

WORKSHOPS

8.45 – 10.40

Jill Cassidy, Introducing oral history

Jill Cassidy is an Honorary Research Associate with the Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery. 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

Michael Green, Podcasting oral history

Michael Green writes and produces audio documentaries and multimedia stories for outlets including ABC RN, BBC World Service, The Guardian, SBS and The Monthly. He is the producer and host of the Walkley Award-winning podcast, [The Messenger](#) and a coordinator of [Behind the Wire](#), an award-winning oral history project about Australian immigration detention. Workshop participants will need a laptop or tablet.

6.00 – 7.30 WELCOME RECEPTION

Friday 15 October

9.00 – 10.30

Welcome to Country

Official conference opening

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.

Mark is the Past President of the International Oral History Association, Senior Curator at the Historic New Orleans Collection, and co-editor of *Listening on the Edge: Oral History in the Aftermath of Crisis* (2014).

Mark will be pre-recording his presentation but will be available virtually for a Q&A session.

11.00 – 12.30 PARALLEL SESSIONS

Session 1: Oral history and the AIDS epidemic: care, confidentiality and candour (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: Indigenous oral histories

Rhonda Povey, Interrogating troubling times: Aboriginal responses to Western Education at Moola Bulla, 1910–1955

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

Jane McCabe, Flesh or bones? Exploring the relationships between archival and oral history in a cross-cultural study of rural land inheritance in Aotearoa New Zealand

Session 3: Migrants and refugees

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

Themistocles Kritikakos, Memory and cooperation: genocide recognition efforts among Armenians, Greeks and Assyrians in twenty-first century Australia

Denise Phillips, ‘It wasn’t a beautiful day’: facing the abyss of traumatic loss with a Hazara asylum seeker

1.30 – 3.00 PARALLEL SESSIONS

Session 4: Recording interviews during the COVID pandemic

Katherine Sheedy, Fiona Poulton & Sarah Rood, COVID kids: a pandemic oral history project

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

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

Session 5: Working lives

Cate Pattison, A job at the Imps: the State Implement and Engineering Works at North Fremantle (1913–1986)

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

3.30 – 5.00 PARALLEL SESSIONS

Session 6: Interpreting memories

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

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 7: Creative writing and performance

Yvette Barry, Reviving the untold stories of Tasmania's Briseis dam disaster through archival research, family history interviews and historical fiction

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

Rebecca Louise Clarke, *Sounding the Maternal in Digital Space*: oral histories in the 'museum of mothering' (performance)

Session 8: Place, community, memory

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

Nikki Henningham, 'We aren't pillagers and rapists, you know': the closure of an Australian commercial fishery and the impact on a seaside community

Sean Brady, Maria Daly, Ellen Forsyth, Cathrynne McLean, Fran O'Flynn, Julie-Anne Sykes, Vanita Wahl, Portable local studies collecting: sharing new stories in NSW public libraries

5.00 OHA Awards – Hazel de Berg Award, Media Award, Book Award

OHA Annual General Meeting

Saturday 16 October

9.00 – 10.30 PARALLEL SESSIONS

Session 9: Exploring issues and approaches to Indigenous oral histories

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 (**participatory workshop**)

Kate Darian-Smith, Zoe Rimmer & Rebe Taylor, Tasmanian Aboriginal oral histories from the early twentieth century to early twenty-first centuries (**panel**)

Session 10: Protest and activism

Lynette Shum, Margaret Pack, Jane McDonald, Nergis Narayan & Chris Hannah, A history of abortion care in Aotearoa New Zealand

Vashti Fox, 'Helping the Nazis move out': antifascist action in Melbourne in the 1970s

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

Session 11: 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

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

11.00 – 12.30 PARALLEL SESSIONS

Session 12: Migrants, refugees and ethnic community histories

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

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

Kirstie Ross & Grace Williams, Home: here and now migrants, refugees and ethnic community histories

Session 13: Queer oral histories

Keely Jobe, Lesbian histories and the trouble of time

Morgan Archinal, Queering the end of the world: conducting a queer oral history project during the pandemic

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

Session 14: Ethical and legal challenges in oral history

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

Carla Pascoe Leahy, The afterlife of interviews: explicit ethics and subtle ethics in sensitive research

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

1.30 – 3.00 PARALLEL SESSIONS

Session 15: Women's history, men's history, gender 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

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

Session 16: 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, Teaching family oral history: opportunities and challenges

Session 17: Troubling oral histories

Jill Barnard, 'He didn't hit her much, but he hit her sometimes...': remembering family violence and its role in the break-up of Australian families in the mid-twentieth century

Alice Garner & Mary Leahy, Shifting gears: when 'now' impinges on 'then' in oral history interviews

Bruce Burrow, War stories that heal

3:30-5:00 CLOSING PLENARY

palawa people of lutruwita Tasmania: challenges and opportunities

Julie Gough, Theresa Sainty and Adam Thompson 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.

7.00 CONFERENCE DINNER

Sunday 17 October

POST CONFERENCE TOURS

9.30 – 12.00

Dr Aunty Patsy Cameron will lead an Aboriginal cultural walk in the stunning Cataract Gorge.

12.00 – 1.00

Lunch will be at the Basin Café in the Gorge.

1.00 – 5.30

A bus will take delegates down the picturesque kanamaluka/Tamar River to the historic Beaconsfield Mine and Heritage Centre.

Note: the morning and afternoon sessions plus lunch will be ticketed separately, so delegates can choose one, two or all three.