

THE PROJECT

HISTORY EXTENSION
SEMINAR 2017

ANNUAL EVENT FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

Thursday 9 November 2017, 8.30am–3.30pm

Presented by Sydney Living Museums and the State Library of New South Wales

PROGRAM

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

DR TANYA EVANS

Historian, author, Senior Lecturer and Director of the Centre for Applied History at Macquarie University

Swimming at The Spit

I specialise in the history of the family, motherhood and poverty, as well as public history. I am passionate about researching ordinary people and places in the past and co-creating historical knowledge with diverse communities. This talk will focus on my work on a local and community history of The Spit Amateur Swimming Club, which began on Sydney's Lower North Shore in 1917.

My book *Swimming with The Spit* was written to encourage readers, young and old, to think about ambles down to the beach, refreshing dips on sultry summer afternoons or invigorating swims on crisp winter mornings, with an eye on history. Our present passion for a sport need not overshadow its fascinating past. Nor need familiarity blind us to what is unique in our communities, or how local experience has reflected wider events and trends.

I used oral histories from The Spit's female swimming champions to trace ways in which swimming and its historical meanings changed for Australian women during the 20th century. This research revealed a lack of cultural scripts available for local female swimming stars to call upon to narrate their life stories and sporting success, the different ways in which they want their lives remembered, and how historians might approach the construction of such complex history. My talk will address some of the tensions involved in writing and presenting oral, community and public histories, and the ways in which shared authority can be negotiated between historians, individuals and community members.

DR HANNAH FORSYTH

Historian, author and lecturer at the Australian Catholic University, Sydney

Making history matter

Many of my students tell me that we do history to learn from past mistakes and build a better society. But looking around, I don't see that researching and writing history has had that effect. We historians tend to write alone for just a handful of readers while the rest of the world carries on.

What would it take to make history matter? We can think about this in several ways. What if history was indeed matter – tangible, real and connected to things we can touch and taste? What if history was not done alone, but was connected to communities and issues in ways that matter to groups of people? And when we research and write history, what would it take to make it matter to big questions about politics, meaning and creating a better world? These questions have started to change the way that I do history.

In this talk I will ask you to think about how the world is now, and how that might shape the ways we do history. I'll discuss some of the history projects I've worked on with these questions in mind: my book on Australian universities; the work my students and I have been doing as historians in communities – including the Aboriginal (Barkindji) community of Wilcannia, in outback NSW; and my new big project, which seeks to understand the underlying causes of inequality in Australia.

With all that's happening in politics, democracy, human rights and the environment, this seems like a particularly important time to make history matter.

PRESENTERS

DR TANYA EVANS

Historian, author, Senior Lecturer and Director of the Centre for Applied History at Macquarie University

Dr Tanya Evans teaches Australian history and public history at Macquarie University. She has published several books on the history of the family, including the prize-winning *Fractured families: life on the margins in colonial New South Wales* (2015). Her latest book, *Swimming with The Spit: 100 years of The Spit Amateur Swimming Club* (2017), is a community history of The Spit Swimming Club at Balmoral Beach. Tanya is currently writing a history of motherhood in Australia from the Dreamtime to the present while continuing to research the different ways in which family history is practised in Australia, the UK and Canada.

DR HANNAH FORSYTH

Historian, author, Lecturer in History at the Australian Catholic University, Sydney

Dr Hannah Forsyth is interested in history that tells us about inequalities in society. She focused on education, work, gender and race in her book *A history of the modern Australian university* (2014) – quoted in federal Parliament in a speech opposing the deregulation of higher education. More recently, Hannah has researched the history of work, race and capitalism in outback NSW. In her latest project, funded by a Discovery Early Career Researcher Award, she is exploring the economic underpinnings of class distinctions in the 20th century, and how class intersects with race and gender.

JONATHON DALLIMORE

Teacher, winner of the 2016 Premier's History Scholarship, history research candidate at the University of New South Wales, author

The History Extension Project as a creative process

Choosing an engaging topic, finding relevant and enlightening sources and writing up the results of your efforts all require initiative and creativity. This session aims to provide some practical tips to help you develop a project that is enjoyable to research, rich in ideas and engaging for the reader.

Jonathon Dallimore has been teaching history for over ten years and is a regular contributor to HSC History Extension workshops in NSW. He is a board member of the History Teachers' Association of NSW and has contributed to recent books on Modern and Extension History, including the association's *History Extension resource book* (2017).

TONI HURLEY

Teacher, author, President of the NSW History Teachers' Association

Panel discussion: Historians on the writing of history

You've chosen your topic. You've completed your research. Now you just need to turn your ideas and data into a great essay.

Toni Hurley will chair a panel discussion driven by questions from the student audience about what it takes to produce an effective piece of writing based on historical research. Practising historians Dr Craig Barker, Dr Bruce Dennett, Dr Tanya Evans and Dr Scott Ethan Hill have all published widely and will share their insights and recommendations on getting from initial plan to final proofread. Get tips on how to increase your efficiency, reduce your stress and experience the satisfaction of crafting an essay that not only gives good history, but is also a good read.

Toni Hurley is President of the NSW History Teachers' Association (HTA). She taught history in secondary schools for many years, has taught history education at UTS and currently teaches in the University of Sydney's teacher education program. She is co-author of the senior Ancient History texts *Antiquity 1* and *Antiquity 2*. Toni has conducted seminars and workshops for student study days and teacher professional development at the universities of Western Sydney, Macquarie and Sydney and at a number of regional teacher conferences conducted by NSW HTA.

Dr Scott Ethan Hill is a curator with Sydney Living Museums (SLM), caring for Elizabeth Farm, Rouse Hill House & Farm and Meroogal. He co-writes the award-winning blog 'The Cook and the Curator', investigating SLM sites through the lens of food and dining. His doctoral thesis focused on colonist John Macarthur's interest in architecture and design.

HISTORIOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS WITH SYDNEY LIVING MUSEUMS

- Each participant will be allocated to ONE of these workshops. All three workshops are skills-based and focus on the processes of historical inquiry, identifying and using sources, and thinking critically and reflectively.
- Workshop numbers are strictly limited. The State Library of New South Wales will allocate places according to preferences expressed at the time of registration and order of receipt, and advise you of your workshop allocation when your booking is confirmed.
- Some school groups may need to be split between different workshops. Staff from the Sydney Living Museums Learning Team will supervise the movement of students between locations.

The ancient world through modern eyes | *The Mint*

Dr Craig Barker | Classical archaeologist and Manager, Education and Public Programs, Sydney University Museums

Since the 19th century, investigators have used material culture to attempt to understand the ancient world. European powers filled their museums with artefacts acquired from their expanding empires; the British even modelled their empire on that of the Romans. For colonial Australians, an understanding of the classical past was part of how they defined themselves as transplanted Britons and Europeans. Students will handle and investigate genuine Mediterranean artefacts, and learn about the development of archaeological investigation from antiquarianism through to the modern scientific inquiry practised today.

Dr Craig Barker is a classical archaeologist at the University of Sydney and Manager, Education and Public Programs for Sydney University Museums, including the Nicholson Museum. Craig co-directs the university's excavations of the ancient theatre of Nea Paphos in Cyprus, and has worked on many archaeological projects in Australia, Greece, Turkey and Cyprus.

Museums and curators as producers of history | *The Mint*

Dr Bruce Dennett | Historian, author, former Supervisor of Marking for History Extension

Museums occupy a prominent place in public history and public memory. As major repositories and presenters of historical evidence they are respected, trusted and even treasured. But should we automatically accept this status and implied authority? In this workshop we will review how museums and their curators construct and represent the past by conserving, recording, displaying and interpreting aspects of past reality. Can the resultant exhibits ever be neutral? Students will interrogate specific examples by viewing them through the lens of historical thinking.

Dr Bruce Dennett taught Secondary History for over 45 years and has written or co-written 12 history textbooks. He is one of the authors of the current Modern History syllabus, has marked Modern History, Ancient History and History Extension for the HSC, and for six years was Supervisor of Marking for History Extension. He won the NSW Premier's History Award in both 2000 and 2005. Bruce has taught courses in Modern History, Indigenous Studies and Education at Macquarie University. In 2017 he received an Excellence in Education Award from the Australian College of Educators. He currently lectures at the University of Notre Dame Australia.

More than just an object: physical evidence and historical narrative

Hyde Park Barracks Museum

Dr Fiona Starr | Curator, Sydney Living Museums

What stories do artefacts reveal? They can connect you to major historical events, pose challenges, lead into dead ends or perhaps uncover facets of the complex and fascinating lives of people long forgotten by history.

When displayed alongside supporting evidence within the context of an exhibition, artefacts offer powerful and physical links to the past. When viewed individually, they can also captivate, inspire and intrigue. During this workshop at the Hyde Park Barracks Museum, students will work in small groups with the curator to analyse primary sources and begin the process of teasing out some of the stories behind a selection of fascinating objects. They will also visit a new museum display to see the role of artefacts in explaining a little-known period of Australian history.

Staff will supervise the movement of students between The Mint and the Hyde Park Barracks Museum.

WORKSHOPS AT THE STATE LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Walk away with a suite of new tools, advice and the confidence to embark on your major project. All attendees will participate in BOTH workshops.

Workshop 1: Speed date the experts

This is your opportunity to ask all your burning questions about the project. Talk with teachers, markers, librarians, and those for whom the experience is very fresh: 2016 History Extension students. Bring along all your ideas and test them out on a receptive audience.

Workshop 2: Rich resources from the State Library of New South Wales

Discover the remarkable research resources on the State Library website. State Library staff will provide a valuable insight into the hidden web, assisting students to find primary sources, academic articles and abstracts to use in their History Project. Sign up for a library card so you can access resources wherever you are. BYO device to participate in this interactive workshop.

CLOSING ADDRESS

Life after History Extension

REGISTRATION

VENUES

Each participant will spend a half-day at each venue. Please refer to your booking confirmation for the location of your morning session.

State Library of New South Wales

Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

The Mint

10 Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

COST

Teachers and students: \$25 plus Eventbrite booking fee
This includes admission and morning tea. Lunch is not provided.

2017 REGISTRATION

Registrations will open on 16 October and are managed by the State Library of New South Wales, via Eventbrite. The link to the Eventbrite page can be found at sl.nsw.gov.au/HEP2017

To avoid disappointment, we recommend that you register early.

If you have any inquiries about your registration, please contact Learning Services at the State Library of New South Wales on 02 9273 1778 or learning.library@sl.nsw.gov.au

FOR MORE INFORMATION

STATE LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

sl.nsw.gov.au/HEP2017

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SYDNEY LIVING MUSEUMS

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