Call for Papers

Shaping Canberra: The Lived Experience of Place, Home & Capital

Humanities Research Centre, Australian National University
17-20 September 2013

Convenors: Dr Mary Hutchison, Dr Sarah Scott

Conference Aims and Themes

Shaping Canberra will generate new national scholarly discussion about the lived experience of Canberra as a place, home and capital. It starts from the position that the local and national dimensions of Canberra are not opposing or even separate aspects, but deeply entwined. On this basis it asks participants to consider how the local, national (and international) play out in instances and reflections of Canberra’s life and development in the context of four themes: histories and memories, collections and archives, spaces and places; expressions and interpretations. International and national as well as local speakers will be part of the program which aims to create a lively community of discussion across disciplines and practices, and establish a basis for further research and discussion.

Shaping Canberra takes place in the year of the centenary of Canberra and within the context of the HRC’s 2013 research theme, Cities, Imaginaries, Publics. In keeping with the intention to generate fresh insights into the Canberra experience and encourage discussion across disciplines, conference events and activities include an exhibition at the ANU School of Art Gallery, and master classes, workshops, tours and public lectures. The exhibition will present work by established Canberra artists inspired by material in a variety of Canberra archives and collections.

The themes of the conference provide a broad frame for papers which might consider a wide range of particular subjects such as government, individual lives, the arts, architecture, cultural landscapes, community, Indigenous history and culture, public collections, and heritage. Papers offering a critical discussion of practice (for example collections management, heritage interpretation, community history, creative practice) are welcome. Short papers concerning research projects that meet the conference interests are invited for panel presentation.

Examples of areas for discussion:

- Cultural memory and the public collection of records of Canberra’s local/national history and experience.
- The representation of life in Canberra - by artists and writers, in heritage interpretations, public art, museum exhibitions.
- Local sustainability and national heritage.
- The meaning of place/s – geographies and architectures.
- The local community’s role in shaping the ‘planned city’ – neighbourhood, housing, social activities, community organisations, political action.
- Indigenous Canberra.
- The impact of national developments and events on local Canberra and community responses to them.
- The interface between urban and rural Canberra.
- The development of local senses of identity and place.
- The Canberra experience of national policies, events etc.
Submission Guidelines

- Abstracts of 300 words
- Biography of author – 50 words
- Indicate which theme you see as having primary relevance to your paper
- Deadline: 15 December 2012
- Notification of acceptance: 15 March 2013

Send submissions to:

Dr Mary Hutchison: mary.hutchison@anu.edu.au
Website: http://hrc.anu.edu.au/100yearsinthemaking

Invited Speakers Include:

Professor Jeannette Bastian, Associate Dean, Professor and Director, Archives Program, Simmons College, Boston, USA: Cultural memory and the archives of place.

Associate Professor Nicholas Brown, School of History, ANU and Centre for Historical Research, National Museum of Australia: Community, Government, Environment: The lived experience of Canberra.

Professor Kate Darian-Smith, Professor of Australian Studies and History, University of Melbourne: Growing Up in Canberra: Childhood, Community, and Place.

Dr Julie Gough, artist, freelance curator, Honorary Associate, School of Art, University of Tasmania; Senior Adjunct Research Fellow, School of Creative Arts, James Cook University: creative practice, archives and histories.

Mr Jakob Parby, Curator, Museum of Copenhagen: Capturing the diversity of a city in museum interpretation.

Dr Susan Parham, Head of Urbanism University of Hertfordshire, UK: Garden City heritage and sustainability.

Emeritus Professor Ken Taylor, Research School of Humanities and the Arts ANU: Canberra’s cultural landscape.

Dr Ron Van Oers, Senior Researcher, Tongji University, Shanghai and Vice Director of the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research Asia Pacific: Canberra as an historic urban landscape.

Emeritus Professor David Williams, Research School of Humanities and the Arts, ANU ANU: Canberra’s public art collection.

Contact for conference inquiries: Sharon.komidar@anu.edu.au