

Archaeology Research Seminar

Heritage of the Air: modernities/mobilities/materialities



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inspiring achievement

Professor Tracy Ireland
The University of Canberra

Thursday 31st October 2019, 3pm
Social Sciences North, Room 242 AV
Theatrette

Fascination with aviation as a cultural context of modernity is burgeoning worldwide. It has gained particular attention in cultural studies, geography and mobility studies, and in popular and community contexts as significant anniversaries of aviation approach in the slipstream of First World War commemorations. These critical, interdisciplinary perspectives are generating intriguing new insights into how 'life in the air changes everything on the ground', on flight as an extension and symbol of global capital, and on the aesthetic, technological and affective contexts of aviation. Few attempts, however, have been made to connect these scholarly perspectives to the heritage and material culture of aviation as it is collected and curated within communities, or to the intangible cultural heritage of Australia's diverse aviation-linked communities. This project aims to develop interdisciplinary approaches that span this gap—drawing from contemporary archaeology, heritage studies, oral history and digital humanities, and through attention to space, scale, affect and more-than-human networks, we are exploring the diverse assemblages, identities and communities that have both shaped – and been shaped by – Australia's heritage of the air.



Tracy Ireland is Professor of Cultural Heritage at the University of Canberra where she leads the Future Heritage program in the Centre for Creative and Cultural Research and is Course Convenor for the Master of Arts in Creative and Cultural Futures. She is currently Lead Chief Investigator of the Heritage of the Air Linkage project, a partnership with Airservices Australia, National Museum of Australia, Queensland Museum, SFO Museum (San Francisco) and the Civil Aviation Historical Society. Tracy is known internationally for her work on heritage ethics and the social values of heritage and she has published widely on historical archaeology and heritage, nationalism and colonialism, drawing on research in Australia, New Zealand, Quebec, USA, and Cyprus. Tracy has prepared heritage assessments and management plans for some of Australia's most significant places, including the Old Great North Road World Heritage site, the Australian War Memorial, Old Parliament House, Canberra, and the Blacktown Native Institution. Tracy became Editor of the Australia ICOMOS journal *Historic Environment* in 2019.

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