

Date

Thursday July 22, 2010

Time

2pm - 4:30pm

Venue

The Boardroom
Superintendent's Cottage
Building ET
Parramatta Campus
([view map](#))

RSVP

Christy Nguy
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CCR seminar series 2010

Tony Bennett

(CCR, University of Western Sydney)

Revisiting the Working-Class Choice of the Necessary

My general concern in this paper is with the consequences of Bourdieu's engagement with Kant's aesthetic categories for his approach to survey design and his interpretation of his survey findings in *Distinction*. I shall take his account of the working-class choice of the necessary as my route into these questions. I shall focus particularly on his contention that, owing to the dictates of necessity, the working-classes are unable to make any judgements of form that are free from functional considerations. In questioning this view, I shall make two main arguments. First, I shall show how Bourdieu neglects the implications of his own methodological strictures regarding the survey and sample designs of the project he reports in *Distinction*. Second, I shall show how the forms of reasoning he deploys in contending that working-class people are incapable of relational judgements of form are structurally similar to late nineteenth and early twentieth century ethnographic surveys which, mobilising Kantian categories within a set of racialised coordinates, attributed the so-called inability of 'primitive' peoples to make discriminations across the full-range of the colour spectrum to the limiting effects of necessity experienced by hunter-gatherers living on the nature/culture divide.

Tony Bennett is Research Professor in Social and Cultural Theory in the Centre for Cultural Research at the University of Western Sydney, a Professorial Fellow in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Melbourne, and Visiting Research Professor at the Open University. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. His main books include *Formalism and Marxism* (1979), *Bond and Beyond: The Political Career of a Popular Hero* (1987, with Janet Woollacott), *Outside Literature* (1991), *The Birth of the Museum* (1995), *Culture: A Reformer's Science* (1998), *Pasts Beyond Memory: Evolution, Museums, Colonialism* (2004), and *Critical Trajectories: Culture, Society, Intellectuals* (2007). He is also a co-author of *Accounting for Tastes: Australian Everyday Cultures* (1999, with Mike Emmison and John Frow) and *Culture, Class, Distinction* (2009, with Mike Savage, Elizabeth Silva, Alan Warde, Modesto Gayo-Cal and David Wright).

Tim Winter

(CCR, University of Western Sydney)

Heritage in Asia : critical times, time for critique

Heritage culture in Asia has become business in recent years. Rapid economic and social change across the region means cultural forms inherited from the past are at once under threat and undergoing a revival as never before. Expanding infrastructures, increasing incomes, liberalizing economies and the lowering of borders, both physical and political, are all converging as powerful forces transforming Asia's social, cultural and physical landscapes. But as the region's societies look forward, there are competing forces that ensure they re-visit the past. In recent years the idea of 'heritage' – both natural and cultural – has come to the fore across Asia, driven by a language of identity, tradition, revival, and sustainability. For some, heritage has become an effective means for protecting those landscapes, rituals, artifacts or traditional values endangered by rapid socio-economic change. For others, it has emerged as a valuable resource for achieving wider goals such as poverty alleviation, nation building or the cultural profiling of citizens. Or for some, discourses of heritage present obstacles inhibiting progress, national unification, or the shedding of unwanted memories.

In a region of immensely uneven change - such that the pre-/industrial and post-industrial all co-exist to create simultaneous presents - major analytical challenges arise from the need to preserve, safeguard and restore in contexts where aspirations for modernization and development are powerful and legitimate forces. As this talk will demonstrate, much of the analysis of heritage in Asia has relied upon inherited or borrowed conceptions, and assumptions about what should be valued and privileged. The legacies of colonialism, aggressive nationalisms, social inequality, and the uneasy governance of pluralist populations all conspire to stifle open and innovative discussion. There is little doubt that over the coming decade the contestations surrounding heritage in Asia will continue to intensify, whereby converging forces and conflicting values are the norm.

This talk offers a number of key analytical themes for thinking about what is going on around heritage culture in Asia today, and argues that more critical, inter-disciplinary approaches are required if the complexities and multi-vector agendas enmeshing this increasingly important aspect of public life are to be better understood.

Dr Tim Winter is a Senior Research Fellow at CCR. His research interests centre on the political economies of 'heritage' and tourism and the social and cultural aspects of sustainability with projects currently being pursued in Sri Lanka, Kashmir, Cambodia, Malaysia and Thailand. Tim is currently leading the ARC funded project Cultural Heritage in Conflict Transformation Societies. He is the author of *Post-Conflict Heritage, Postcolonial Tourism: Culture, Politics and Development at Angkor*, is editor of *Historic Environment* and is co-producer of the documentary *Destination Angkor* (with Tom Zybrycki).