

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR A SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL COOLABAH

### **Placescape, placemaking, placemarking, placedness ... geography and cultural production**

You are invited to contribute papers – *empirical studies, discursive essays, commentary, case studies or creative works* – for publication in a special issue of the journal *Coolabah*. *Coolabah* is the journal of the Observatori: Centre d' Estudis Australians, the Australian Studies Centre, at the Universitat de Barcelona<sup>1</sup>.

This electronic journal provides an international forum for original research in the field of Australian Studies, drawing on interdisciplinary content. It especially welcomes papers that examine the world from cultural perspectives.

**This special issue seeks papers that examine the relationships between place/landscape – both Australian places/landscapes themselves, and Australian perspectives of place/landscape – and cultural production.**

We draw on J. Douglas Porteus's 1985 challenge to geography to remain silent, as a true expression of place, arguing that true geographical appreciation cannot be expressed in prose<sup>2</sup>. If unable to remain silent, geography should, Porteus asserts, express itself in non-traditional writing, such as poetry. Cultural production has the power to reflect, describe and, importantly, create place. Slipping between place and landscape, it is noted that "just as landscape maps memory and declares identity, ... it offers a key to interpreting society ... the land itself, as socially constituted, plays a fundamental role in the ordering of cultural relations ... landscape is neither exclusively natural nor totally cultural; it is a mediation between the two and an integral part of Bourdieu's habitus, the routine social practices within which people experience the world around them"<sup>3</sup>. The real world is truly, in John Rennie Short's words, an imagined country<sup>4</sup>.

This special issue seeks scholarly commentary on the imagining of place and/or landscape, through the agency of cultural production. We call for papers on the convergence of geography and cultural production. Under the heading, ***Placescape, placemaking, placemarking, placedness ... geography and cultural production***,

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<sup>1</sup> *COOLABAH*, ISSN 1988-5946, is listed in Cahus Premium 2010, the MLA International Bibliography, the Directory of Periodicals, and the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).

<sup>2</sup> Porteous, J.D. 1985. Literature and humanist geography', *Area*, 17(2), 117-122. Porteous, J.D. 1994. Not Saussure. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, N.S.19, 239.

<sup>3</sup> Knapp, A.B. & W. Ashmore 1999. Archaeological Landscapes; constructed, conceptualised, ideational. In W. Ashmore and A.B. Knapp (eds) *Archaeology of Landscape: Contemporary Perspectives*, pp1-30. London: Blackwell. Quote from pp 16 & 20-21.

<sup>4</sup> Short, J.R. 1991. *Imagined Country: Environment, Culture and Society*. Routledge, London & New York.

we seek papers engaging sense of place and landscape – *either Australian places/landscapes themselves, or Australian perspectives of place/landscape* – through acts of cultural production.

- Topics could include reflections on the role of the visual, performing, written or electronic arts in visualising, exploring or creating sense of place or place meaning, attachment or marking.
- Papers exploring the influence of geography and place on the creative arts and cultural production, and the cultural expression of place, are welcomed.
- Papers may be text based, strongly visual, or combined.
- Creative works will be welcomed.
- Papers containing links to web-based resources will also be welcomed; this may allow digital imagery and video material, for example, to be interfaced with the texts.

The special issue is edited by Bill Boyd and Ray Norman. Bill is the Professor of Geography at Southern Cross University, and researches place, environment and landscape from a range of perspectives – biophysical through to cultural. Ray is a Tasmanian-based artist, blogger, researcher, community networker and cultural jammer, with a background in studio jewellery and metalsmithing. Ray has been involved in the initiation of speculative community placemaking-cum-placemarking projects through interventionist cultural production. They can be contacted for further information at [william.boyd@scu.edu.au](mailto:william.boyd@scu.edu.au) and [raynorman@eftel.net.au](mailto:raynorman@eftel.net.au).

Proposals for papers or manuscripts for submission should be sent to Bill at [william.boyd@scu.edu.au](mailto:william.boyd@scu.edu.au).

Manuscripts should be in plain text format with a minimum of formatting. Graphics may be embedded in the manuscripts or submitted separately. Since *Coolabah* is an electronic journal, colour images are acceptable and encouraged. All papers should be in English. Structure (organisation and flow of ideas, headings, referencing, etc.) should be appropriate to the discipline from which you are writing. The journal can take long papers (greater than 5,000 words), but papers may, especially given the potential role for visual content, be relatively short.

All material will be peer reviewed by the special issue editors, and the journal retains the right for further peer review.

Manuscripts should be submitted by November 16<sup>th</sup> 2012. The plan is to publish this collection in early 2013.