

**Workshop – call for contributions:**  
**Knowledge, Culture, Piracy: Piracy as an Inter-disciplinary Research Methodology**

At the Institute for Culture and Society, University of Western Sydney, 21 November 2013.

Chairs:

- Professor James Arvanitakis (University of Western Sydney): [j.arvanitakis@uws.edu.au](mailto:j.arvanitakis@uws.edu.au);
- Dr Martin Fredriksson (Linköping University, Sweden), [martin.fredriksson@liu.se](mailto:martin.fredriksson@liu.se); and
- Professor David Rowe (University of Western Sydney) [d.rowe@uws.edu.au](mailto:d.rowe@uws.edu.au).

The concept of piracy is profoundly intertwined with the development of modernity: from debates around copyright and ownership, to accusations of theft and terrorism. The figure of the 'pirate', be it the maritime figure or the copyright infringer, has been inscribed in a narrative of the non-European Other. Pirates have come to define the boundaries and identity of Western civilization.

The opposition to a Euro-American copyright regime that has surfaced with irregular intervals since the 18<sup>th</sup> century, recently culminating in the file sharing debates, also questions fundamental concepts of modernity, such as those involving the private-public and property rights-free speech dichotomies. This division is particularly evident today as the challenges to copyright reflect a general crisis of property rights; destabilizing the distinction between commodities and public resources evident in the wave of privatization and the distribution of costs and responsibilities in the wake of the global financial crisis.

The goal of this workshop is to explore piracy as a meaningful entry point to the analysis of changing relationships, identities and cultural practices in an era of socio-cultural destabilization that blurs the lines between culture, economy and knowledge. Piracy presents new conceptual dimensions as it connotes both predatory as well as emancipatory practices. How do we research this phenomenon and what new knowledge does it promote?

The workshop is open to addressing a range of questions, such as:

- How do we position piracy in terms of the predatory and/or the violent?
- How do we understand piracy in the context of modernity/modernism?
- How do we understand piracy in the context of (post)colonialism?
- Can piracy only be defined in the context of capitalism?

It will aim to discuss these (and other) questions among the participants in an open and egalitarian manner.

We particularly invite postgraduate students and academics interested in pursuing interdisciplinary research collaborations.

The workshop will be opened by presentations from Sonja Schillings (Free University, Berlin) and James Meese (Swinburne University).

Presentations should not exceed 15-20 minutes. Short abstracts or concept proposals (maximum 250 words) for papers or other presentations/expressions of interest can be sent to [j.arvanitakis@uws.edu.au](mailto:j.arvanitakis@uws.edu.au) or Martin Fredriksson, [martin.fredriksson@liu.se](mailto:martin.fredriksson@liu.se). We accept and review abstracts on a rolling basis. The final deadline is **November 11, 2013**.

To RSVP for the event, email Christy Nguy [c.nguy@uws.edu.au](mailto:c.nguy@uws.edu.au) by 11 November 2013