



University of
South Australia

School of
Creative
Industries

CP3: Creative People, Products and Places Symposium

Seminar: Social Media and Death

Prof Jon Stratton, School of Creative Industries, University of South Australia



Event details

Thursday 28 June 2018
11.30am - 1.00pm

University of South Australia
B2-O8, Building B
Magill Campus

Register:
CILResearch@unisa.edu.au

Social media are pervaded by death. This presentation utilises ideas drawn primarily from the work of Guy Debord—the society of the spectacle—and Jean Baudrillard—his discussion of death in *Symbolic Exchange and Death*, to think through the significance of death on social media. Debord argued that the consequence of the ubiquity of the mass media, and television in particular, and their increasing imbrication with consumption capitalism, was that social relations are increasingly lived as spectacle. At the same time, in the modern world death has become increasingly separated from life. No longer integrated into social life, death has become the feared and meaningless end of life which is to be preserved at all costs. The death which is now meaningful is not ‘natural’ death but violent death. Social media is full of unnatural deaths including beheadings and suicide. This presentation discusses the pervasiveness of these on social media.

Jon Stratton is an Adjunct Professor in the School of Creative Industries. Jon has worked at universities in the UK and Australia including Essex University, Griffith University, Queensland University and Curtin University. Jon has published widely in Cultural Studies, Media Studies, Jewish Studies, Australian Studies, Popular Music Studies, and on race and multiculturalism.

Jon is the sole author of eleven books and has coedited a further three books and three journal special issues. Jon's most recent books are *When Music Migrates: Crossing British and European Racial Faultlines 1945-2010* (Ashgate/Routledge 2014) and, edited with Nabeel Zuberi, *Black Popular Music in Britain* (Ashgate/Routledge 2014).

