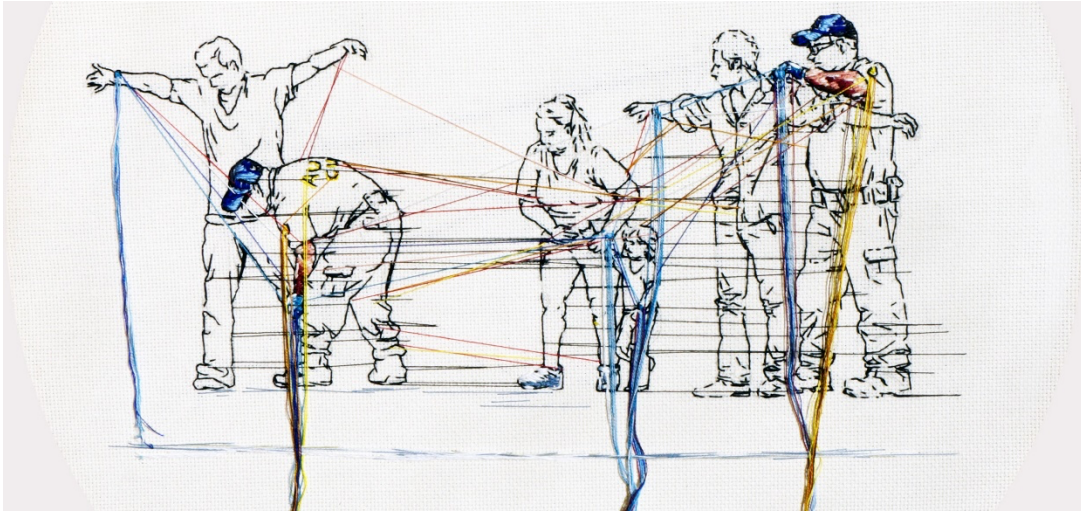


Infrastructural Inequalities: Resistant Media and Abolitionist Futures



Credit: Tim Gregory, *Asylum Seekers Searched on Christmas Island* (2014), Cotton on linen, 60x60cm.

What is abolition a call for? And how does it relate to the question of infrastructure? Abolition moves beyond calls to simply reform prisons and policing, positing that an end to structural racism and state violence requires upending the political, economic, and social conditions that produce them. A crucial part of the revolutionary agenda of abolition is to intervene in the reproduction of existing inequalities and to build material infrastructures and networks of care that support people's needs before they find themselves in precarious situations. Abolition seeks the transformation of the world, but it is not content to wait for a world-historical revolutionary rupture. It is also a set of practices that intervene in existing inequalities by building and organising alternative social infrastructures that facilitate and gesture to ways of living outside the racial capital relation.

This public program, facilitated by Infrastructural Inequalities, follows the publication of the [Infrastructural Inequalities Journal: Policing, Crisis, Abolition](#), a special issue focused on carceral infrastructures and the struggle to abolish them. Bringing together speakers whose research, activism, and creative practice converge on the problem of carcerality and the hopefulness of abolition, the program will comprise two panels. The first will focus on abolition as a critical practice and as a mode of organizing; the second will focus on resistant media and the possibilities of storytelling. Both panels will be livestreamed on YouTube.

1. Critiquing the Carceral State, Organising Abolitionist Futures

Friday May 14

11:30 – 13:00am (AEST)

Streaming live through YouTube

Featuring: Tabitha Lean, Debbie Kilroy, Behrouz Boochani and Omid Tofghian

2. Resistant Media and Abolitionist Storytelling

Monday May 17

10:00 – 11:30am (AEST)

Streaming live through YouTube

Featuring: Alison Whittaker with Astrid Lorange; Johanna Bell and Rocket Bretherton with Liam Grealy

Register [here](#)

Infrastructural Inequalities: Building Research Cultures and Infrastructures of Study



Image: Snack Syndicate, *Infrastructural Inequalities* exhibition, Artspace, 2018. Photograph: Jacque Manning.

Interdisciplinary research, public engagement, impact, and social collaboration are key features of contemporary university discourse. Yet achieving such outcomes can be difficult for individual academic workers, in part because of what is institutionally recognised, required, and rewarded – by grants assessors, hiring and promotion committees, media units, and so on. Slow scholarship, a politics of care, and scholactivism are all ways of framing modes of academic labour that contrast with the neoliberal demands of endless production of a generic high quality, yet it is not always clear how to action such approaches, including from positions of insecure work. The dissection of academic research from teaching, the branding demands of corporate universities, and the institutional anticipation of shifting metrics tied to funding can all stand in the way.

This workshop uses [Infrastructural Inequalities](#) as one among many approaches to collaboration aimed at public intellectual culture. For us, it is an attempt to build a social infrastructure for critical thinking and public engagement: how to generate projects that enliven such principles in ways that are meaningful, ethical, pleasurable, and practically possible. Describing the *Infrastructural Inequalities* project, the workshop will reflect on why we might collaborate, with whom, and the ethics and challenges of doing so. It introduces the forms that collaboration can take – such as reading groups, co-authorship, exhibitions and public programs, organising, independent publishing – and asks participants to share experiences and explore techniques for pursuing different forms.

This workshop is aimed at higher degree research students and early career researchers with an interest in thinking about various forms of academic production. Led by Andrew Brooks, Liam Grealy, Astrid Lorange, and Tess Lea its success will depend on the thoughtful engagement of all participants, in relation to past projects, present difficulties, and future aspirations. Participation for the workshop on the afternoon of Monday 17 May will be in-person and capped.

If you are interested, please submit 300-500 words on:

- What do you research?
- What are the infrastructures that your research engages with and/or depends on?
- What are the impediments to your desired project or approach?
- What aspect(s) of collaboration would you like this workshop to consider and why?

Submissions should be made to a.brooks@unsw.edu.au by 5pm Monday 26 April.