



Cultural Studies Association of Australasia 30th Anniversary Conference – 2022

Everyday Icons * Pasts and Futures * National Interests

**Melbourne Tuesday 29 November – Thursday 1 December
RMIT University**

2022 is the 30th Anniversary of the Cultural Studies Association of Australasia—an important milestone for reflecting on the Association's role in developing and promoting teaching, research, scholarship and engagement among cultural studies scholars.

CSAA will be celebrating this milestone at its 2022 conference in Melbourne, hosted by RMIT University, with keynotes, historical and forward-planning roundtables and plenty of opportunities to present, network, engage and recognise the important role of cultural studies in the community.

Call for papers, presentations and panels

The 30th Anniversary Conference has three themes:

Everyday Icons: Cultural studies celebrates the everyday with insight. As a discipline, we are renowned for cultivating a discerning approach to understanding geographies of belonging. We are all attached to everyday places, rituals, local celebrities and ideas in ways that organise individual and cultural identity and choreograph belonging. Ask a Melbourne local about Mirka Mora or Franco Cozzo: local celebrities who shaped the city and who live on in urban Melbourne spaces. Ask a Gold Coast resident about Big Kev and mediated, lived, historical and contemporary experiences, places, images, sounds will be woven together in sharing dis/identification and dis/attachment. Local people become everyday icons, as do buildings, giant landmarks (be they animals or fruits), and scholarly figures. The everyday icons of Australian cultural studies have shaped the thinking of a generation and built the foundations for cultural studies now. This theme invites you to celebrate the vernacular icons that shape your quotidian experience. From Meaghan Morris to boutique coffee shops, we want to hear about why and how your everyday icons provide sustenance. Who or what is your everyday icon? What is fabulous about this icon?

Pasts and Futures: Putting culture, texts, artefact and emergences into their temporal context is a key cultural studies activity. In an anniversary year, we often look back at trajectories of the past to understand the present and predict the future, and we are certainly keen to do so at an anniversary conference. Yet, critiquing chrononormativity as the cultural condition that deploys temporal concepts—including pasts, presents and futures—to organise and make productive bodies, being, selfhood and relationality is also an important cultural studies endeavour. As climate catastrophes make futures less knowable, we are driven to develop new ways to think those chrononormativities to address the urgency of the future at local and global scale. This theme calls upon us to ask how temporalities, choronormativities and the consideration of histories and futures shape cultural studies research. What are the utilities for conceiving research that emerge from revisiting cultural studies' pasts? How does the application of temporality change the trajectories of a cultural artefact? And in what instances do we eschew the constraints of linear temporality to think otherwise?

National interests: In the era of COVID-related restrictions on mobility, the figure of 'the nation' has become more marked as (some) people are further restricted from crossing its borders, while many others became more dependent on government biopolitical initiatives to sustain life in an era of pandemic, of climate catastrophes and the emergence of warrior-like tensions in many regions. And, of course, many are vulnerabilised by the same initiatives or by the failure of national interests to sustain life in inclusive and democratic ways. As the concept of national interests increasingly governs research funding regimes and scholars are called upon to demonstrate their alignment with national interests, how can cultural studies

scholarship navigate the lines between the regimes that fund research, resistance to nationalism, and the politicisation of scholarship?

We are calling all cultural studies scholars and postgraduates to submit proposal for papers, presentations and panels that speak to any of the above key themes, as well as general cultural studies papers on any other topic.

Further information on the conference can be found at the CSAA2022 site: <https://www.CSAA2022.net>

Please submit abstracts via the Submissions Portal by **Monday 11 July** at: <https://www.CSAA2022.net>

You can contact the RMIT Organising Committee at: CSAA.Conference.2022@gmail.com

The CHASS Congress

This year, the 30th Anniversary CSAA Conference is participating in the inaugural Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS) Congress (24 November – 3 December, 2022). The Congress will bring together 21 Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences associations holding conferences and events during the same period in Melbourne. This will provide those who wish to attend more than one conference during the annual conferencing season a cost-effective and climate-friendly travel solution, and opportunities to participate in extra events. It is also an initiative that allows us to showcase the strengths of our scholarship to the wider community, and to draw links and networks that smash silos between the various disciplines in the arts, humanities and social sciences. The CHASS Congress will feature keynotes and events during the period, held on the campuses on the University of Melbourne, RMIT University and Deakin University.

About Melbourne (Naarm)

Melbourne (or Naarm, the traditional name of the land in the languages of the Kulin Nations) is undergoing a resurgence in recovery since the 2020-21 lockdowns of the pandemic. With the public returning to events across theatre, performing arts, galleries, exhibitions, museums there is once again a lot to do in a visit to Melbourne. For some ideas on what to do in the evenings and outside the conference, please see: <https://www.visitvictoria.com/>

Accommodation options

Delegate rates (cheaper) for accommodation are being negotiated and will be available on the conference website in August.



The CSAA 30th Anniversary Conference will be held at RMIT University on the unceded lands of Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nations.

Conference organising committee:
Rob Cover, Mark Gibson, Anna Hickey-Moody and Jay Daniel Thompson.