The Northern Territory Intervention: Aftermath!

IPCS, Arena Magazine, and Mark the Evangelist Church held a panel event entitled “The Northern Territory Intervention: Aftermath!” on 21 June 2017. The event marked the 10th anniversary of the Northern Territory Emergency Response Intervention of 2007. The Intervention’s disastrous impacts are still reverberating throughout the Northern Territory. The panellists spoke to a full house about the unjust events of the Intervention itself as well as the ongoing legacy of the policies and practices it set into motion.

Jon Altman (Research Professor at the Alfred Deakin Institute, Deakin University), an outspoken critic of the Intervention, facilitated the panel. He pointed out that the Intervention is one event in a long history of violence and assimilative policies. Jon flagged the paradox between two anniversaries: the 1967 referendum to abolish racialised exclusion, and the 2007 evasion of that progressive step, which made the Intervention possible. The Intervention was based on race-specific policy and resulted in the treatment of Indigenous peoples as non-citizens. To foreground the discussion, Jon recalled the material impacts of the Intervention on remote-living Aboriginals: in particular, the experience of poverty that has followed the abolition of the ATSIC and the demoralization resulting from draconian policing practices. Jon acknowledged our collective responsibility to these communities through a question: “Where to now?”

Joe Morrison, of Dagoman and Torres Strait Islander heritage, spoke from his personal experience as former head of the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance and as current CEO of the Northern Land Council in Darwin. He took us back to his memory of the day of the intervention, working alongside Patrick Dodson at a NAILSMA meeting when the news of the Intervention abruptly ended all discussions. He led the panellists in articulating the incredible hurt associated with the Intervention: the shock of military engagement and the confusion it bred. This destruction extended to working local economies and remote outstations, which sustained unique life ways of Aboriginal communities living on country. Joe noted one positive development since the Intervention: a very successful movement of community-based ranger programs. Beginning in the 90s, the program now funds 600 rangers who work directly on country to maintain the integrity of their lands. Joe stressed that programs such as these and social movements that build awareness around them are the best way to move forward. In particular, he named the Uluru statement as a foundation to inform our approaches for the future of coexistence.

A concerned audience was present to hear about the history and ramifications of the Intervention.
(Continued from p.1) Thalia Anthony, Associate Professor in Law, University of Technology, Sydney, drew on her expert knowledge of the recent Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory to shed light on the ongoing legacy of institutionalized violence against Indigenous children since the Intervention. Child incarceration rates are double what they were 10 years ago in the NT. Thalia situates this increase within the intervention’s initiatives: increased surveillance and policing capacities as well as exacerbated economic deprivation. The Intervention, Thalia showed us, is built on brutality, and that foundation transferred into the detention environment. Thalia urged us to hold our governments accountable. She pointed out that the Royal Commission has not been critical of the Intervention, and no one has been held accountable for the apparent relationship between the NTER policies and the injustices of youth incarceration.

Muriel Bamblett spoke from her experience as a Yorta Yorta and Dja Dja Wurrung woman and shared her unique insights as the Chief Executive Officer of the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency since 1999 and Chairperson of the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care for ten years. Having been present in the conversations about the Intervention with Mal Brough, Muriel reflected on her disappointment with the government’s refusal to listen. She noted that governments and communities knew about the challenges facing Northern communities, including child abuse, for decades, and did nothing. When the government did act, it was late, without consultation, and through punitive measures. This not only destroyed the trust between institutions and Aboriginal people, but it also troubled the trust that Elders had from their own communities. She called for truth-telling and reconciliation around unspoken Aboriginal experiences. A proud Victorian, Muriel noted her excitement in the potential for a treaty and the integrity of recognition for the future. Despite a condemning view of the Intervention and its legacy, the panel’s message was one of action and awareness. All of the panellists drew attention to the role that awareness and understanding of the issues has on Aboriginal policy. Jon contextualized the Intervention within the media’s misrepresentation of Aboriginal communities and child abuse in the NT. Joe noted the importance of nation wide awareness about the lived conditions in the north. He reminded us that the south provided the large basis of support for the movements toward the 1967 referendum and early land rights. Thalia’s research made abundantly clear the importance of awareness, in particular government accountability, and our own responsibility to ask the hard questions of our politicians. Muriel spoke of the rich and complex social, ecological, and philosophical knowledges, lived and practised across the NT. She described being captivated hearing the fluent speech of Aboriginal people in their mother tongues. She made clear that too many of us of us simply do not know what is truly at stake.

Lara Fullenwieder

Martin Harrison Collection

There will be a reception in November to launch the Martin Harrison Archive. A joint venture with the Martin Harrison Literary Estate, the poetry library acquired by the IPCS last year includes an extensive holding of works on poetics, critical theory and postcolonial topics. Harrison (1949-2014) is best known for a remarkable poetic oeuvre. He absorbed and responded to many currents in twentieth century poetry and a strand of environmental encounters in recent Australian poetry. He first came to public attention through his ABC broadcasting and subsequently taught a (by now almost legendary) creative writing course at UTS.

The library will be available for consultation by arrangement, and it is planned to offer a residency programme to promote the study of Harrison’s work either through reflective research or creative writing. The IPCS is pleased that Paul Carter will assist with the care of the collection and the management of the programme.

We are thinking of scheduling the reception in the week beginning 13 November. Once a date has been settled, it will be posted on our website and flyers will be sent to members and other interested persons.

Newsletter Forty-Four*Institute of Postcolonial Studies
Page 2
Seminar Series

Panel discussion and book launch: Timothy Neale’s Wild Articulations
Tuesday 8 August 6pm – 8pm

In Wild Articulations (University of Hawaii Press), Timothy Neale examines environmentalism, indigeneity, and development in Northern Australia through the controversy surrounding the Wild Rivers Act 2005 (Qld) in Cape York Peninsula, an event that drew together a diverse cast of actors—traditional owners, prime ministers, politicians, environmentalists, mining companies, the late Steve Irwin, crocodiles, and river systems—to contest the future of the north. With a population of fewer than 18,000 people spread over a landmass of over 50,000 square miles, Cape York Peninsula remains a “frontier” in many senses. Long constructed as a wild space—whether as terra nullius, a zone of legal exception, or a biodiverse wilderness region in need of conservation—Australia’s north has seen two fundamental political changes over the past two decades. The first is the legal recognition of Indigenous land rights, reaching over a majority of its area. The second is that the region has been the centre of national debates regarding the market integration and social normalization of Indigenous people, attracting the attention of federal and state governments and becoming a site for intensive neoliberal reforms. Drawing connections with other settler colonial nations such as Canada and Aotearoa New Zealand, Wild Articulations examines how indigenous lands continue to be imagined and governed as “wild.”

Timothy Neale is from Aotearoa/New Zealand and a Research Fellow at Deakin University’s Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation. In addition to Wild Articulations, he is co-editor (with Eve Vincent) of Unstable relations: environmentalism and indigenous people in contemporary Australia, co-editor (with Stephen Turner) of Other people’s country: law, water and entitlement in settler colonial sites (Routledge, 2016) and co-editor (with Crystal McKinnon and Eve Vincent) of History, power, text: cultural studies and Indigenous studies (UTS ePress, 2014).

Diary of Events
Tuesday 8 August 6pm – 8pm: Panel discussion and book launch: Timothy Neale’s Wild Articulations
Wednesday 16 August, 7.30 – 9.00 pm: The Optics of Reconciling: the politics of visibility and visibility in the Canadian Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement
Wednesday 6 September, 7:30 - 9pm: Last Rites
Wednesday 20 September, 6pm - 8pm: Panel discussion and journal launch: Beyond recognition? special edition of Postcolonial Studies
Wednesday 4 October 7:30pm:The Rights/Rites of Girls and Goddesses
Wednesday 8 November 7.30 – 9.00pm: Asylum, borders, security: Maritime lineages, global prospects
November (Date to be confirmed): Reception for launch of Martin Harrison archive.

All seminars will be held at the Institute: 78-80 Curzon Street, North Melbourne, VIC 3051.
Charges: Waged: $5, Unwaged: $3, Members free

A Short History of the IPCS
It is a pleasure to announce that long-serving Council member Joan Clarke has written a short history of the IPCS to mark the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Institute. This will be published independently in a limited run and will be set up for print on demand.
The Optics of Reconciling: the politics of visibility and visuality in the Canadian Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement

Wednesday 16 August, 7.30 – 9.00 pm

This talk explores the optics of reconciliation and the visibility of ‘truth’ in the Canadian Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement, 2007 (IRSSA). The IRSSA is a legal settlement to redress the violence experienced by Indigenous children through Indian Residential Schools. From 1831 to 1996, federally funded schools displaced an estimated 150,000 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children. The abuse, trauma, and violence experienced by Indigenous populations through this 150-year policy were and continue to be devastating. The IRSSA brought together a range of therapeutic, performative, and compensatory policy initiatives aimed at the reconciliation of Indigenous/settler populations, including a Truth and Reconciliation Commission and an unprecedented individual assessment program. Although reconciliation in Canada is premised on the revelation of historical truth, this talk explores how the Agreement structures access to or obscures the visibility of the truth: competing trajectories of visibility and invisibility work to mediate settler visualizations of Indigenous/settler relationships and, consequently, the possibilities for reconciliation. My analysis focuses on the physical and virtual visuality of reconciliation in Canada. I draw on my own experiences of the public TRC national events, centered on performances of testimony and witness and framed by multifarious streaming and recording devices. I contrast the TRC’s ethos of visibility and revelation against the policy directives and actualization of an invisible, but monumental, ‘closed-door’ assessment program, where Survivors were required to detail their most intimate experiences of sexual and physical violence for the Adjudication body and federal government. Ultimately, this talk challenges the efficacy of state-based justice and redress for Indigenous peoples.

Lara Fullenwieder recently received her Ph.D. in Cultural Studies from Queen’s University, Canada. Her thesis, entitled Unsettling Histories: Representation and Indigenous Creative Art Praxis in Official Indian Residential School Redress is an investigation of the role of visual strategies, art, and representation in reconciling Indian Residential School history in Canada. Her research interests include settler biopolitics, politics of representation, visual cultures, and critical settler methodologies. She is currently a Research Assistant at Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, and is an Editorial Assistant for the The Visuality of Reconciliation Project at Queen’s.

Last Rites

Wednesday 6 September 7.30 – 9.00pm

A series of reflexions - intimate engagements - with the Australian condition. A broader underlying thematic approaches the implications of Darwinian thought in relation to the speculative/moralistic bases of the social sciences and what I shall call the impossibility of thought. In a world of ‘mattering’ what matters?

John von Sturmer is a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Postcolonial Studies. John’s early career linked him with French anthropological fieldwork in Western Cape York Peninsula, principally among the Kugu-nganycharra. This formed the basis of his Ph.D research. In 1970 he was appointed the first lecturer in Aboriginal Studies at the University of Queensland, in conjunction with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, Canberra. In the 1970s he was very active in the promotion of Aboriginal dance and ceremonial life. From 1978 - 1984 he was director of the project to monitor the social impact of uranium mining on the Aborigines of the Northern
Territory. Other areas of engagement include customary law, land purchases and claims and the Wik Native Title claim. He has a long interest in Aboriginal art. He has taught and practised as a psychoanalyst.

**Panel discussion and journal launch:**
**Beyond recognition? special edition of *Postcolonial Studies***
**Wednesday 20 September, 6 - 8pm**

Recognition has emerged in recent decades as an almost universally valued moral and political horizon. Recognition claims underpin many social struggles, and animate the management of difference in both formal and informal arenas. Recently, critical Indigenous scholars Audra Simpson and Glen Coulthard have posed a fundamental challenge to this moral and political horizon. Writing particularly in response to North American settler-colonialism, they argue that the politics of recognition has functioned, not to ameliorate colonialism’s negative effects, but to reproduce them. In this special edition, contributors respond to the important provocation posed by Simpson and Coulthard’s scholarship, and extend their critiques into new geographic and empirical terrains including indigenous Australia, Papua New Guinea, Kenya and Canada. Collectively, the articles in this special edition explore complex and productive – if fraught - grounds from which to engage with the possibilities of being against, or beyond, recognition.

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**The Rights/Rites of Girls and Goddesses**
**Wednesday 4 October 7:30pm**

Priya Srinivasan
Vocal: Uthra Vijay
Veena: Hari Sivanesan
Tabla: Jay Dabgar

Join us for an evening of South Asian performance and discussion looking at the relationship between the goddess, subalternity and violence against women and girls in India and in Australia. How can we understand postcoloniality, neoliberalism and the crisis around control and representation of women's bodies in Australia through performance as a lens.

Priya Srinivasan is an independent scholar and artist based in Melbourne, Australia. She has presented excerpts of her award winning book “Sweating Saris: Indian Dance as Transnational Labor” in the hybrid form of “talking dances” at the University of Chicago, University of California, Berkeley, Harvard University, and Kings College in London. Priya Srinivasan has a PhD in Performance Studies from Northwestern University; an MA in Dance from UCLA and a First Class Honors in Ethnomusicology from Monash University.

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**Asylum, borders, security: Maritime lineages, global prospects**
**Wednesday 8 November 7.30 – 9.00pm**

In this paper I offer perspectives on the global politics of asylum, borders and security by paying attention to the maritime lineages of border security, and consider the global prospects for political justice and asylum seeking in the age of Trump’s wall and Europe’s ‘Migrant Crisis’. I
re-examine key differences in the framing of asylum seeking during the Indochinese Exodus, from 1975, and the pivotal emergence of a deterrence-led policy in the US Caribbean in 1981. Using Australia as a political laboratory where further developments proceeded from these maritime lineages, I look at the complex relations between boat-borne asylum seeking and the rise of civil aviation as a global middle class norm, and their interactions with the rise of coastal surveillance, the shift toward multiculturalism, and the rise of neoliberalism and skills-based ‘temporary’ migration to Australia’s nascent global cities, Sydney and Melbourne. The contention I present holds that contemporary Australia’s selective openness to the world is predicated on its systemic closure to boat borne asylum seeking, which implies the negation of asylum for a category of person as the offshored condition of multicultural prosperity. Finally, I consider the fully fledged emergence of border security as a two decade political project, one capable of restoring a seemingly threatened national sovereignty yet more fundamentally aligned with global logistics, and evaluate the fate of asylum seeking in the world of secured circulation it is now actively co-producing in Australia’s name.

Peter Chambers has just completed a full-length work that addresses the co-emergence of border security, offshore detention on distant islands, and onshore enclaves in global cities. In the coming year, the implications of this book are being further developed by focusing on the ocean in its immanence, the pervasive use of offshore, and the cultural effects of Australian border security’s stabilising social imaginaries. Over the next two years his work explores the normative implications of border security, offshore, and vulnerable noncitizen life. This seeks concrete ways of thinking about global political justice by regarding our common vulnerability through differential exposure to harm – through citizenship status, access to space, and conflict between modes of transport. Pete is a lecturer in criminology at Deakin University, and his recent teaching has focused on terrorism, criminological theory, surveillance, global crime, and political justice.

Book Series: Writing Past Colonialism

We are very pleased to announce that contracts have been signed for two monographs to be published shortly in the series. These are Dean Brink’s Japanese Poetry and its Publics: from colonial Taiwan to 3/11 and Paul Carter’s Archipelagic Thinking: Decolonising Governance.

Dean’s book looks at the diverse ways in which poetry was central to nation building in nineteenth century Japan, how it played a significant role in articulating ideas about colonial expression in Taiwan, and how in the last few decades it represented questions of globalisation and ecology. This is a highly interdisciplinary book with an accompanying film component. The book is slated to come out in November of this year.

Dean is associate professor, Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan.

Archipelagic thinking: decolonising governance explores bio-regional governance, arguing that the archipelagic organisation and distribution of powers and interests best serves the project of sustaining cultural and environmental biodiversity. Addressing the problem of developing regionally operative governance models from local knowledges closely tied to Indigenous traditional ecologies, it argues that the archipelago (both politically and poetically) offers a template for formalising relational, scalable practices of care. The book alternates a cultural overview of archipelagic thinking in the interrelated domains of poetry, philosophy and politics and three case studies. The case studies consider archipelagic thinking in the context of cultural strategies for region building (Western District, Victoria), cooperative land/sea governance policies (Arafura/Timor Seas) and integrated cultural/environmental diverstiy planning (Maluku, Indonesia).

Paul expects to finish the manuscript late this year and it will be published in 2018. He is Professor of Design (Urbanism) at RMIT University, Melbourne. The book committee is also considering the possibility of an occasional series for manuscripts that may not be taken by a mainstream publisher such as Routledge as they do not meet global marketing arrangements. We envisage an international support group to review mss so that they reach the widest readership and could help with networks of potential funding and publicity. Another point of discussion has been a collaboration with Palaver, an independent publishing house, set up by Paul Komesaroff as part of Global Reconciliation. The favoured title for this series is Senses of the Postcolonial.
Appointments

Associate Director - Academic Programme

Swati Parashar has contributed much to the intellectual and public life of the IPCS, organising events, initiating collaborations as well as encouraging her students to get involved. In 2013 she became a member of Council and in late 2015 she was appointed Associate Director Academic Program since late 2015.

After a year as a visiting fellow at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies in Delhi, Swati took up a tenured position at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden. With her customary vigour, she continued to plan seminars and other events but it became clear that the difficulties of distance were such that the Associate Director position needed to return to Melbourne. Swati will of course maintain her association with the Institute and looks forward to being on deck during her annual leave in the Swedish summers.

Managing Editor - Postcolonial Studies

Melinda's current research focuses on postcolonial placemaking and the turbulence of displacement, as well as the analysis of contemporary cultural attitudes to images. She is currently Associate Professor of Anthropology and an Australian Research Council Future Fellow in the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University and also an Arena Publications Editor.

Managing Editor - Postcolonial Studies

After nine years, David Martin has decided to step down from the position of managing editor of Postcolonial Studies. We are grateful for the work David put in to bring the journal back on to schedule and for the support he has provided to his successor during the transition period. David will continue his association with the journal as an editor of the London collective.

The Institute is pleased to announce that Alison Caddick is the new Managing Editor. Alison is a publisher and editor with Arena Publications. She was managing editor of Arena Journal for many years and has been editing Arena Magazine for the past 10 years. She has a background in social theory and the history and philosophy of science.
Postcolonial Studies

It’s a moment of change and reorganisation around Postcolonial Studies. As noted on p.7 there has been a change of hands in the managing editor. A new electronic Editorial Manager system is being developed by Taylor and Francis that should streamline various processes. And there are structural changes taking place to help coordinate the four relatively autonomous PCS collectives, or as newly named, ‘Global Editorial Groups’.

PCS 19:4 has just been delivered. This is the special issue ‘Feminism Meets Postcolonialism: Rethinking Gender, State and Political Violence’, edited by Swati Parashar. Issue 20.1, ‘Against Recognition’, put together by the Melbourne editors, is in production, while 20.2 will be a general issue featuring several pieces with a South and Latin American interest. The special issue ‘Postcolonial Bordering’, edited by John Cash and Catarina Kinnvall, will follow. Others are in the pipeline.

The new electronic system for submission and tracking of manuscripts being developed by Taylor and Francis will come into play in September 2017. It will be a cleaner system whereby scholars submitting to us will automatically be asked to fulfil various requirements, the managing editor will readily be able to distribute manuscripts to editorial groups, and referees will be reminded automatically about their commitments to review manuscripts and respond in good time. The system will rest on each of the global editorial groups ushering submissions through the refereeing process, with the support of the managing editor.

While assisting in the review process of the unsolicited manuscripts, the global editorial groups will continue to take responsibility for particular issues of PCS, including special issues. Finding the right referees for our double blind review process for the diverse material published in PCS is a big task. An expanded list of reviewers is being developed. Overall, the system will allow easy appraisal of the various processes, tracking who is doing what, where and by when.

Finally, to provide some central coordination while maintaining and fostering the work of the collectives, a new Editorial Board has been established in Melbourne, made up of John Cash, Phillip Darby and Paul James. The Board will have a light touch, keeping abreast of where processes are up to, playing a role in the scheduling of special issues, and working with the managing editor.

Alison Caddick

Subscriptions

You can now take out - or renew - a membership subscription online by pointing your browser to http://www.ipcs.org.au/join.html. You will need to sign up to the PayPal system the first time you use the system. After that, payments can be made by credit card or transfer from a bank account. Please note that subscriptions taken out online will automatically renew each year - you can cancel your subscription at any time by visiting http://www.ipcs.org.au/join.html. Members can also pay their subscriptions in person at IPCS or by cheque mailed to the Institute.

Annual subscription rates are as follows:

- Student Membership: $20 per annum
- Ordinary Membership: $40 per annum
- Corporate Membership: $500 per annum

The first 200 members of the Institute now receive a free subscription to our journal Postcolonial Studies.

Donations

Donations to the Institute can now also be made online. Donations over $2 are tax-deductible for Australian taxpayers. To donate online, please visit our homepage at http://www.ipcs.org.au/

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Amy Nethery (centre) with Melinda Hinkson (L) and Maria Rae after her talk on 24 May 2017.