

# Making Public Histories - New Seminar Series

Welcome to a new seminar series exploring issues and approaches in making public histories. The seminars will be engaging and audio-visual, with expert presentations and lively participation from historians working in museums, heritage, professional history, the media, universities, archives and libraries, community history – and anyone interested in historical representation in contemporary society.

## Where and when

Thursdays, 5.30pm -7.00pm, State Library of Victoria, seminar room 1. Come to Entry 3, La Trobe St at 5.25pm.

## 24 July 2008

### The Tail Wagging the Dog? Oral history, digital story-telling and *old* Media

The expanding realm of online communications, and increasing public access to multi-media production tools, from mp3 files to PowerPoint, has seen an unprecedented growth of websites devoted to individual and community story-telling in a multiplicity of forms. From digital autobiographies to web sites which allow the production, dissemination and sharing of personal and group stories, this technology-driven phenomenon has begun to challenge and alter old paradigms which once defined the roles of ‘the story-teller’ and ‘the audience’ - particularly in relation to the broadcast media. **Michelle Rayner**, Executive Producer of social history programs at ABC Radio National, will discuss the implications of the brave, new and seemingly limitless world of digital online storytelling for her own practise of producing oral history radio programs.

## 4 September 2008

### Unlocking the Medieval Imagination: Living history and public culture

**Shane Carmody**, Director of Collections and Access at the State Library of Victoria, will consider the Library’s recent exhibition, ‘The Medieval Imagination: Illuminated Manuscripts from Cambridge, Australia and New Zealand’, which drew capacity audiences, linked with medieval re-enactment groups, music groups, art and craft societies and the Universities, and challenged notions of public value being measured only in monetary terms. **Constant Mews**, Professor of History and Director of the Centre for Studies in Religion and Theology at Monash University’s School of Historical Studies, will reflect on the public nature of the history both celebrated and performed through the exhibition and associated events.

## 16 October 2008

### Creating Victoria’s Framework of Historical Themes

**Amanda Bacon** (manager of the strategic projects unit in Heritage Victoria) will outline the origins and aims of a project which is developing a framework of historical themes for assessment, management, promotion and interpretation of Victoria’s heritage places and objects. The project attempts to redress the longstanding dominance of architecture and engineering in heritage work, and seeks broader community engagement by identifying the rich web of stories and historical connections across the state. **Sandy Blair** from Melbourne-based consultancy firm Context will outline the challenges of creating a set of themes that are at once engaging, inclusive of a wide range of experiences, and also applicable across the natural, indigenous, and historic environments. As Heritage Council representative on the project, **Renate Howe** will explore the different ways that historians, heritage professionals and local government administrators perceive historical themes.

## 20 November 2008

### ‘Exhibiting Melbourne: The city in the museum’

Visitors to Melbourne can now approach the city’s history through an impressive range of galleries and exhibitions, including The City Museum, The Australian Gallery of Sport, The State Library’s ‘Faces of Victoria’, the Immigration Museum and Museum Victoria’s recently opened ‘Melbourne Story’. Deakin University Museologist **Linda Young**, a recent arrival in Melbourne, and Sir John Monash Distinguished Professor, historian **Graeme Davison**, who has been interpreting the city for three decades, introduce a discussion of how to interpret the city’s history and culture in the museum environment. Museum practitioners, including **Deborah Tout-Smith** (Museum Victoria) and **Richard Ferguson** (MCC Exhibitions) will respond from a curatorial perspective.

**The Making Public Histories Seminar Series is offered jointly by the Monash University Institute for Public History, History Council of Victoria and the State Library of Victoria.**

No charge and no booking required. Venue information [www.slv.vic.gov.au/programs/learning](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/programs/learning).

Suggestions for future seminars to: Professor Alistair Thomson, Director, Institute for Public History, School of Historical Studies, Monash University: (03) 9905 9785, [alistair.thomson@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:alistair.thomson@arts.monash.edu.au)