

Grant details

The Australian Women's History Network sought funding for its symposium 'The Past is a Position: History, Activism and Privilege'. We aimed to bring together academics, activists, artists and community groups to discuss the gendered histories of activism and protest. The grant contributed to the successful running of this day-long symposium, held on campus in the ANU School of Music. Funds were used to cover the 'Welcome to Country' from Wally Bell an Elder of the Ngunawal Traditional Custodians, and the cost of catering for our 72+ attendees.

Project/event details


- AWHN 2018 Symposium 'The Past is a Position: History, Activism and Privilege', held on 2 July 2018.
- The conference attracted over 70 registered attendees, with 3 to 4 parallel sessions, and two plenary sessions ('History, Activism, Writing and Doing' and 'Networks, Movements, Land and Water – a panel in tribute to the late Tracey Banivanua Mar'). The programme brought together academics, activists, artists and community groups to discuss the gendered histories of activism and protest.
- All sessions were well-attended, and the discussions fostered future collaborations between academic historians, activists and community groups.
- For the names of speakers please see attached documents.

Impact

- By the morning of 2 July, we had 72 registered attendees—ranging from postgraduate students, to senior lecturers and professors, many of whom were from outside the ANU, and many of whom considered themselves both academics and activists. Please see the attached list for affiliations.
- In our efforts to encourage dialogue across the academy and across community groups, we believe we have made headway—as evidenced in our attendee list. Our encouragement of 'creative methods' of presenting on and engaging with the theme was also heeded by some attendees: we had film screenings, poetry readings and roundtable discussions as part of the panels.

Outcomes

- Please see attached for the event programme, photos of the event, and the following link for a blog post: <http://www.auswhn.org.au/blog/power-academic-activism/>
- The AWHN twitter page has over 3000 followers, and we tweeted profusely throughout the day. Attendees used the hashtag #AWHN2018 – and posts were also retweeted by attendees at the Australian Historical Association conference, which opened on the 2 July.



Bordering Solidarities

Suvendrini Perera
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Call for Papers

'The Past is a Position: History, Activism and Privilege'
Keynote plenary panel speakers include Barbara Baird, Ann Curthoys,
Crystal McKinnon, Maria Nugent, Suvendrini Perera

This symposium will focus on histories of activism – including movements for decolonisation, liberation movements, civil and personal disobedience, public and private demonstrations, individual and coordinated collective acts of resistance and agitation. We focus on these to consider how they have been understood historically and remembered, and to consider which stories have privileged places on the public record and institutions and which do not. As feminists, how do we think histories of activism and protest are being, and should be, told?

This one day symposium will be a gathering that is intellectually exciting, thoughtful and active and creates opportunities for creative research and future collaborations.

We aim to create a gathering which fosters conversations that critically examine political experiences and ideas in the past, which considers the legacies of these in the present, and which works towards creating a better future.

Would you like to be involved?

We are seeking expressions of interest from academics, activists, community groups, writers, artists and anyone else who would like to share practices and histories of activism.

We seek presentations that will promote conversations and exchanges with those attending the symposium and ask that presenters consider innovative and creative ways to present at the symposium. Some formats that can do this include:

- Conversations
- 20x20, aka Pecha Kucha
- roundtables
- performances/films
- workshops
- lightning papers

Proposals can be submitted for individual papers/presentations or full panels. There will be scope for 20-minute papers to be considered too. We are particularly keen to foster conversations between academics and activists/practitioners.

What to do to next?

Please send an expression of interest to present at the conference to us by March 26, 2018 at auswhn@gmail.com. All presenters who are academics must be members of the AWHN.

Let us know: the type of presentation you would like to give and the topic you will address and any technical or venue requirements in 250 words (or less); and a short bio (100 words or less).

Any questions? Please email us to ask.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S HISTORY NETWORK
2018 SYMPOSIUM
THE PAST IS A POSITION: HISTORY, ACTIVISM, AND PRIVILEGE
Venue: ANU Music School

9-10.30am	<p>Larry Sitsky Recital Room (LSRR)</p> <p>Welcome to Country: Wally Bell, Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation Welcome to Conference</p> <p>Opening Plenary: History, Activism, Writing and Doing Chair: Lynette Russell Barbara Baird: 'On giving and getting a history' Chelsea Bond: 'Not Your Jedda' Suvendrini Perera: 'Bordering Solidarities'</p>		
10.30-10.45am	<p>Morning tea - Atheneum</p>		
10.45-12.45pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Larry Sitsky Recital Room (LSRR)</p> <p>Delinquent Girls as Activists: History from the Margins Chair: Jacqueline Z Wilson <i>Nell Butler, Winnie Girls</i> (20 min film) <i>Jacqueline Z Wilson</i>, Survivor-Driven Activist Movements <i>Bonney Djuric</i>, Care Leavers working to establish Parramatta Female Factory Institutions Precinct as Australia's first Site of Conscience <i>Nell Musgrove</i>, Transformations in the field of child welfare history</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Rehearsal Room 2</p> <p>What sort of activism is this? Chair: Anne Rees <i>Catherine Bishop</i>, An Uncomfortable Activist?: Missionary Annie Lock <i>Sue Taffe</i>, Mary Montgomerie Bennett: Tory, Leftie, Feminist, Christian?: the hazards of categorising <i>Elicia Taylor</i>, 'Some channels there must be for woman's faculties': First World War Doctors and Advocacy for Women's Progress <i>Michelle Arrow</i>, 'How much longer will we allow this country's affairs to be run by radical feminists?' Anti-feminist activism in late 1970s Australia</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Rehearsal Room 1</p> <p>New histories of women's activism Chair: Melanie Gustafson <i>Hannah Viney</i>, 'Every Woman Is Another Droplet In The Great Tide': Australian Women's Anti- Nuclear Activism, 1950-1970 <i>Jeannine Baker</i>, 'The long struggle for gender equality at the Australian Broadcasting Commission' <i>Samantha Owen</i>, Testing and Creating Democracy: Community Education from Italy to the Wider World <i>Monique Hameed and Rosi Aryal</i>, the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health pushing towards radical change</p>

12.45-1.45pm	Lunch - Atheneum			
	AWHN AGM – Larry Sitsky Recital Room			
1.45pm-3.15pm	Atheneum	Rehearsal Room 1	Rehearsal Room 2	Larry Sitsky Recital Room
	<p>Creating Activist Archives (workshops) Chair: Samantha Owen <i>Helen Morgan</i>, Australian Women’s Register <i>Melanie Gustafson</i>, Clio Visualising History <i>Catherine Layton</i>, Turning her over in her (unmarked) grave: a forgotten battle</p>	<p>Working-class women’s Activism Chair: Margaret Allen <i>Diane Kirkby and Emma Robertson</i>, ‘The Ballad of Janet Oakden’: Breaking Down Gendered Occupational Traditions <i>Cathy Brigden</i>, Reclaiming women’s voice and activism: the legacy of women’s trade unions <i>Phoebe Kelloway</i>, Pushing the boundaries: working-class women’s participation in male workers’ industrial disputes, 1928-1930</p>	<p>Activism and Academia Chair: Zora Simic <i>Liz Conor</i>, Activist History on the Frontline: Remembering Climate Resistance <i>Anastasia Kanjere</i>, Education and the Academy: Transformative Resource or Toxic Legacy?</p>	<p>New feminist histories of the 1970s & 1980s Chair: Amanda Laugesen <i>Isobelle Barrett Meyering</i>, Feminism and Backlash Politics during the International Year of the Child (1979) <i>Rebecca Sheehan</i>, ‘Love, Flo’: Friendship as Education, as Strategy, as Bridge, as Activism <i>Sophie Robinson</i>, ‘You Have to Get to the Mountain: Listening to Australian Lesbian Feminists’</p>
3.15-3.30pm	Afternoon tea - Atheneum			
3.30-5pm	Larry Sitsky Recital Room (LSRR)			
	<p>Closing Plenary: Networks, Movements, Land and Water – a panel in tribute to the late Tracey Banivanua Mar Chair: Kat Ellinghaus Ann Curthoys: ‘Colonisation and Decolonisation: Towards a Feminist Historiography’ Crystal McKinnon: ‘Networks of Solidarity’ Maria Nugent: ‘Imperial literacy and Indigenous Activism: Jane Duren and Queen Victoria, for instance’</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Conference Closing</p>			
	<p>For those who have registered – dinner following the symposium is at Copper Chimney Indian Gourmet Restaurant 24 West Row Melbourne Building, Canberra at 7pm</p>			