

# UTS COSMOPOLITAN CIVIL SOCIETIES RESEARCH CENTRE

## Contested natures: Rethinking how environments matter to people

### Seminar Series 2010

**When:** Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2010, 4pm - 6pm  
**Where:** Cosmopolitan Civil Societies Research Centre, UTS City Campus  
Level 3, Mary Ann House, 645 Harris Street, Sydney  
(a short walk from Central Railway Station)

#### SUMMARY

Each of the papers in this session revolves around a central case study that explores a group of people's relationships with their local environment: conservationists' efforts to protect the endangered colony of little penguins living around Manly in Sydney Harbour from various predators; controversy over the growth of mangroves on the middle Georges River from 1950 to 1970; and the manner in which popular religion in Southeast Asia construes nature as a realm of the supernatural. All three papers are particularly concerned with the various ways in which these environments, and the relationships between the people, other animals, and trees that constitute them, have been or might be classified and understood. In addition to exploring modes of thought, however, the papers in this session also explore the real world consequences for livelihoods and conservation of these various ways of thinking about nature.

#### PROGRAMME

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##### INVASIVE SPECIES IN PENGUIN WORLDS

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Dr Thom van Dooren, Member of CCS, UTS

**Thom van Dooren** is an environmental anthropologist/philosopher whose research interests lie in human relationships with plants, animals and nature more broadly. In particular, he is concerned with the entanglement of these relationships with issues of environmental justice, inside processes of globalisation, climate change and accelerating rates of species extinction.

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##### INVADERS OR VICTIMS? COMPETING CLAIMS FOR MANGROVES ON AN INDUSTRIAL RIVER

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Professor Heather Goodall Member of CCS, UTS

**Heather Goodall** is a Professor of History and has researched and published in three major areas:

- \* Indigenous histories and relationships in Australia
- \* Environmental history, focused on water, rivers and oceans and tracing in particular the ways environmental issues are used in social conflicts and inter-cultural social relations
- \* Intercolonial networks, particularly those between Australia and India and around the Indian Ocean, and including the decolonization conflicts of the mid 20th century in India, Indonesia and Australia.

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##### POPULAR RELIGION AND NATURE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

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Dr Denis Byrne (DECCW)

**Denis Byrne** manages the Research Section of the Cultural Heritage Division in the [Department of Environment and Conservation](#). Denis' interests include the contemporary religious/spiritual context of heritage sites in Asia and Australia (the subject of his recent fellowship at the Getty Conservation Institute, Los Angeles), the history and heritage of racial segregation in Australia, and the push towards greater acknowledgement of the social value of heritage places.

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##### DISCUSSANT

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Dr. Jodi Frawley (Meriwether Scholar, State Library of NSW)

**Jodi Frawley** is a CCS associate. She is an environmental historian with research interests in transnationalism and history of science and technology as they relate to environmental change.

*Presentations will be followed by wider discussion. Refreshments will be provided.*

#### REGISTRATION

Please send registration details to: [ccs@uts.edu.au](mailto:ccs@uts.edu.au) & please include name, group or organisational affiliation & e-mail address

**THIS SEMINAR IS A FREE PUBLIC EVENT.  
PLEASE RSVP AS PLACES ARE LIMITED**