
Editorial

History in the Making Journal Collective:

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Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of History In The Making for 2014! This issue contains seven articles which showcase some of the best work by history students from universities across Australia. Four of our articles explore aspects of mid-twentieth century history, from Carol Dunn's examination of the Jewish connection to male homosexuality during the Third Reich, to Greer Gamble's case study on the British literary left and the Soviet Union from 1930 to 1950. Sarah Abbass' case study of ambassador Hu Shih explores diplomatic relations between the United States and China between 1938 and 1942, while Heather Lunney uses the science fiction television series *The Twilight Zone* to examine early Cold War attitudes in the United States. This interest in the history of the United States is taken a little further back into the past by Ben Brooks, whose article traces the ideological underpinnings of the Second Amendment. We also have two articles that explore the nuances of late twentieth century Australian feminist studies, with Kali Myers and Sophie Robinson providing two diverse and fascinating pieces on the nature of this complex historiographical field. What emerges from this collection of articles is evidence of the high calibre of original historical work being undertaken by students in university history departments throughout Australia. We are also pleased that this issue of History In The Making showcases a range of study levels, with our authors representing every level of tertiary historical study from undergraduate to Masters degrees.

It is certainly an exciting time to be a student of history, with the discipline undergoing somewhat of a popular culture resurgence. In Australia, television dramatisations of everything from Kerry

Packer's media empire (ABC TV's *Howzat!*: Kerry Packer's War and the Paper Giants series) to rock band INXS (Channel Seven's *Never Tear Us Apart: The Untold Story of INXS*) have thrust Australian history into the spotlight. Australian political history has enjoyed a similar popular renaissance, with ABC TV's *Whitlam: The Power And The Passion* documentary, Network Ten's Hawke telemovie, and the ABC's four-part interview series with former Prime Minister Paul Keating achieving high ratings and critical acclaim.

The popularisation of history is nothing new, but what has changed is the role of social media in communicating history. The televisual popular histories mentioned above were accompanied by significant social media commentary, with professional historians and non-historian viewers alike live-Tweeting (that is, uploading commentary to Twitter in real time as the shows were broadcast) each of the documentaries and dramatisations. The result was a wide array of people actively engaging with history, with historical narratives, and with broader questions around representation and accuracy.

This is not a phenomenon limited to Australian television histories. Worldwide, history has become the subject of a social media boom, with countless Twitter accounts, Facebook pages, Tumblrs, and blogs dedicated to celebrating and disseminating aspects of human history to a wide (and, crucially, often non-specialist and non-academic) audience. History is no longer confined to the realm of the book or the academy; now, history is everywhere, from the 140 character Tweet to the long-form blog post.

With the rise of social media, history practitioners have access to a much larger and more diverse audience. These avenues offer new ways for those of us passionate about history to share our knowledge and research. To this end, History In The Making has a Twitter account (@HITMJournal) and a Facebook page ('History In The Making Journal'). In addition, our blog is now up and running, providing history students with a more informal space within which to talk about their research, their experiences, and their views on the studying and writing of history in all its forms. We welcome blog contributions from history students on any aspect of history, from book reviews, to archive finds, or even advice on how to navigate historical study.

This issue marks the introduction of four new members to the History In The Making team: Sarah Gregory, Rebecca Hawkings, Andrew Kelly, and Declan Mulders-Jones. As postgraduate students, our four new Journal Collective members are passionate about promoting and encouraging the work of history students, and we are excited to have them on board as we take History In The Making into the future.

As ever, this issue could not have come to fruition without the efforts of our volunteer editors, reviewers, and proof-readers, as well as the continuing support from our History In The Making Journal partners. We thank all involved for their hard work and dedication, and we look forward to working with you on upcoming issues of the Journal.

The History in the Making Journal Collective

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Article Abstracts

‘Wartime Ambassador: Hu Shih in Washington, October 1938 – September 1942.’

Sarah Abbass

Fourth Year Undergraduate, University of Western Sydney

Between October 1938 and September 1942, Hu Shih served as China’s ambassador to the United States. During China’s war with Japan, Hu Shih was tasked with converting American sympathy for China into substantial aid and assistance. Hu Shih occupied a central position in Sino-American relations during the Second World War, but he is yet to be the subject of significant scholarly examination. This article addresses that gap, detailing Hu Shih’s significant and influential role in changing the relationship between the United States and China during this tumultuous period in history.

‘Tracing the Ideological Origins of the Second Amendment.’

Ben Brooks

Third Year Undergraduate, University of Sydney

The Second Amendment of the United States’ Bill of Rights asserts the right of American citizens to ‘bear arms’; to access, own, and utilise guns and similar weaponry. The Second Amendment is

a contentious document, and this article seeks to explore the origins of the Amendment and the historical context from which it arose. By tracing the ideologies behind the Second Amendment, this article argues that the document is more than just a peculiar historical anachronism; rather, the Second Amendment institutionalises the right to revolutionary action, and in itself is proof of the problems with reading historical documents in contemporary terms.

‘The Jewish Connection to Homosexuality in the Third Reich.’

Carol Dunn

Masters, University of Sydney

Significant historical literature has detailed the narratives of those groups persecuted by Nazi Germany. This article explores the connections between two of these groups, using the history of the homosexual rights movement and the rise of sex studies in the twentieth century to outline the links between the Jewish people of Europe and homosexual communities. What emerges is a history of dual oppression, with this article detailing the ways by which the Jewish backgrounds of prominent sexologists and homosexual rights activists gave rise to increased and targeted propaganda and persecution.

‘Infallibility Complex: The British Left and the Soviet Union, 1930-1950.’

Greer Rose Gamble

Third Year Undergraduate, Macquarie University

In 2003, British novelist Martin Amis asserted, “Everybody knows...of the 6 million of the Holocaust. Nobody knows of the 6 million of the Terror Famine.” This article seeks to explore why historical knowledge of the Holocaust is more widely disseminated and understood than knowledge of life under Stalin. One explanation put forward by this article is the role played by British literary Left in obfuscating the information communicated about the USSR to the British public. In examining this case study, this article asks broader questions about the communication of historical truths, and the role of politics and memory in creating historical narratives.

‘Exploring the Cold War through The Twilight Zone: Five episodes in a journey to a dimension of sight, sound and mind.’

Heather Lunney

Masters, University of New England

Popular culture in the post-World War Two era played a significant role in the construction of Cold War narratives and the promotion of specific ideologies. With this in mind, this article uses the popular science fiction television series *The Twilight Zone* to explore the dominant concerns of early Cold War America: those of nuclear annihilation, the threat of the external enemy, and the threat of the enemy within the domestic sphere. This article demonstrates that *The Twilight Zone* is an important marker of Cold War ideologies, and provides an archive through which to track the changes in these attitudes over time.

‘Diasporas of Modernity: Centres and Peripheries in Transnational Feminist Studies of Australian Colonial Modernity, 1999-2012.’

Kali Myers

Honours, University of Melbourne

In 1999, Antoinette Burton’s *Gender, Sexuality and Colonial Modernities* drew attention to the inextricable relationship between the colonial project, modernity, and the construction and regulation of women’s sexuality, bodies and identity. This article uses that nexus to study the way that feminist studies and critiques of Australian colonial modernity have prompted a re-examination of historical interpretations of Australia’s past, present and future identities. At its core, this article asks broader questions about the role of historiography in constructing and reconstructing national narratives.

‘Gendered Claims: Men in feminism in 1980s Australia.’

Sophie Robinson

Honours, University of New South Wales

The 1980s in Australia was a time of increased public awareness and institutional presence of feminist politics. This article examines the role that men played in the feminist project in Australia during the 1980s, with specific attention paid to the ways by which feminist language and theory underpinned the gendered claims regarding masculinity made by men during this era. The presence of men alongside feminist debates and practices of the 1980s were, this article asserts, integral to the history of contemporary Australian feminism, ambiguous and contested though that presence may have been.
