

Knowledge / Culture / Economy International Conference

3-5 November 2014

INSTITUTE
FOR CULTURE
AND SOCIETY

Changing practices of knowledge and culture have been central to recent debates concerning economic and organisational life. This conference will assess the shifting roles of knowledge, culture and economy in contemporary and historical scenarios of globalisation, production, consumption, expenditure, crisis, governance, technological change and reckonings with nature. It will bring together theorists and practitioners from a wide range of backgrounds and knowledge institutions to debate these issues. Particular themes are:

Asia Pacific Cultural Economies

Global processes point to the re-emergence of Asia as a powerful world economic region. Yet Asia presents a complex and heterogeneous cultural landscape that resists containment by any single knowledge archive or civilisational construct. How does this shifting economic geography relate to changing practices of cultural mobility, nationalism, translation or location in the Asian region? What is the position of Australasia in the dynamic context of *Asia Pacific* economy and culture?

Cultures of Finance

Finance capital wields significant power in the world economy. New practices of high frequency trading move markets at a pace that exceeds human cognition, while the logic of financialisation seemingly invades all aspects of social and personal life. What are the knowledges, regimes of valuation, laws and subjectivities created by global circuits of financial action? How do cultures of finance influence experiences of debt, crisis, accumulation and dispossession?

Economic Diversity

From studies of variegated capitalism to engagements with community economies, an emphasis on economic diversity broadens perspectives on what counts as economic activity and knowledge. How does the opening of political economy to a performative approach enable a rethinking of economic possibility? What are the socio-technical assemblages that make diverse economies? What perils and potentialities are associated with conceptualising capitalist and other economies?

Digital Life

Digital technologies are rapidly changing techniques of economic and knowledge management. New kinds of interface, practices of connecting and arrangements of data affect our everyday lives and ways of making a living. How are labour and value produced in the digital economy? Do practices of

peer production provide hopeful alternatives to economic activities driven by intellectual property and the extraction of rent? How are 'smart cities' and new modes of technological governance shaping everyday life? What do digital methods of social and cultural analysis reveal about contemporary knowledge and economic practices?

Fragile Environments

Modern economic practices have taken their toll upon natural and social environments. The world is dotted with fragile landscapes that raise questions about resource economies, food systems, geopolitical frontiers, the grounding of global networks, the constitution of nature, relationships with the past, and projections of future cities. What are the economic practices and knowledge infrastructures that enable the care of irreplaceable natures and cultures? How do such practices of care challenge the boundaries between the social and physical, human and non-human or material and non-material?

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- » **Aihwa Ong**, Professor of Socio-Cultural Anthropology and Southeast Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley
- » **Timothy Mitchell**, Professor and Chair of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies, Columbia University
- » **Chris Gibson**, Professor of Human Geography, Director UOW Global Challenges Program, Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research, University of Wollongong
- » **Katherine Gibson**, Professor, Institute for Culture and Society, University of Western Sydney

REGISTRATION

Registrations are now open: <http://bit.ly/1jC6lJg>

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Ilen Ang, Tony Bennett, Katherine Gibson, Donald McNeill, Brett Neilson, Ned Rossiter, Shanthi Robertson, and Emma Waterton.

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CONFERENCE WEBSITE

Visit the conference web page (<http://bit.ly/1cqJo8c>) for regular updates.