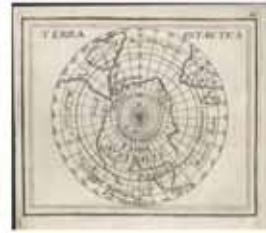




The
University
of Sydney



Sydney Sawyer Seminar

The Antipodean Laboratory: Humanity, Sovereignty, and Environment in Southern Oceans and Lands, 1700-2009

Session Five

Varieties of Empire in the Antipodes: Taking Over and Letting Go

Convenor: Kirsten McKenzie

Presenters: Emma Christopher (Sydney),
The non-free white men and their freed African slaves: claims to British Liberty and its realities in Australia and Sierra Leone.

Kirsten McKenzie (Sydney),
The Daemon Behind the Curtain: prize slaves, convict escapees and the antipodean theatres of liberty.

Mark McKenna (Sydney)
Turning away from Britain: Manning Clark, History, Public Intellectuals and the end of Empire in Australia

James Curran (Sydney)
The "great age of confusion": Intellectuals and the "new nationalism" in Australia

Discussant: Angela Woollacott (Manning Clark Professor of History, ANU)

Settler colonialism has raised profound questions about the process of imperial expansion and the limits of decolonisation. The papers in this session bookend the period from the late eighteenth to the late twentieth centuries, dealing with such diverse commentators as public intellectuals, renegade slave traders and maverick convict escapees. They explore how northern hemisphere debates about political power, social status, national identity and ideas of freedom were worked through in southern settler colonies. Battles over the nature of citizenship were fought out on the imperial periphery in ways that would profoundly shape political rights in Europe. By the end of the twentieth century new varieties of nationalism were grappling with the problem of divesting themselves of a civic identity associated with imperial models they had helped to forge.

To be followed by the launch of Kirsten McKenzie's book,
A Swindler's Progress: Nobles and Convicts in the Age of Liberty.
6pm for a 6.30 launch.

Friday, 30 October 2009, 3-5:30pm

Holme & Sutherland Rooms,
Holme Building, Science Road,
University of Sydney

Places are limited. RSVP by 26 October to:
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