

Giving Voice to the Past

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# ORAL HISTORY NETWORK NEWS

No. 88, December 2018 - January 2019

ISSN 2206-866X

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### **Oral History NSW 2018 Christmas Party**

- Wednesday, December 5, 2018
- 5:30 pm 8:00 pm
- History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney



Oral History NSW warmly invites members and friends to our Christmas Party. Come along and catch up with members in an informal setting, and enjoy the opportunity to connect with the New South Wales oral history community over drinks and nibbles.

We are charging a \$10 entry fee to help cover the cost of the event. Please book online if possible (for catering purposes) even if you intend to pay cash on the day.

### We hope to see you there!

To book now and pay by credit card or PayPal, see **HERE**. To book now and pay by cash on the day, please email: **events@oralhistorynsw.org.au** 



# Oral History Australia Journal No. 41, 2019 Call for papers – Special issue: Oral History and the Emotions

See the full call for papers HERE for more detail on the theme, and where to forward contributions.

Contributions are invited in three categories:

**A.** Papers on the theme 'Oral History and the Emotions'. Papers in Category A may be submitted to the Oral History Australia Editorial Board for peer-review.

Deadline (for Category A papers submitted for peer-

review): 31 March 2019

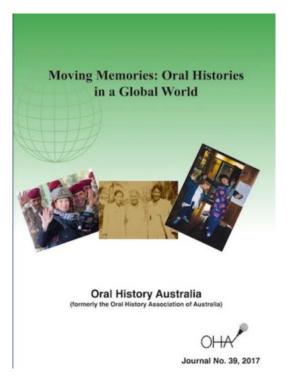
Deadline (for Category A papers not submitted for peer-review): 31 May 2019

**B.** Articles/project reports describing specific projects or conference reports, the information gained through them, and principal outcomes or practice issues identified in the process.

Deadline: 31 May 2019

**C.** Reviews of books and other publications from Australia or elsewhere that are of interest to the oral history community: may include reviews of static or internetavailable exhibitions, or any projects presented for a public audience.

Deadline: 1 April 2019





# OHA Biennial Conference Intimate Stories, Challenging Histories 10–13 October 2019

State Library of Queensland, Brisbane

### Proposals for presentations are now being accepted.

The 2019 Biennial Oral History Australia Conference takes place in our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. **Oral History Queensland** and **Oral History Australia** are presenting the conference in partnership with the **State Library of Queensland** and **Queensland Memory**.

The main conference will be on Friday 11 October and Saturday 12 October 2019. Oral history training workshops will be held at a Brisbane venue on Thursday 10 October. Following the conference, on Sunday 13 October, a selection of history walks and tours will introduce participants to the region's rich and diverse communities of memory.

### Deadline for proposals: 1 March 2019

See **HERE** for keynote themes and speakers.

For more about the Call for Presentations and how to submit a proposal, see **HERE**. General information about the conference is available on the **conference home page**.

### **NEWS & EVENTS**



### One veteran's view of the Australian War Memorial redevelopment

(From *The Sydney Morning Herald*): Mark Toogood (left) served in the Australian Regular Army and Reserves between 1997 and 2009. He saw active service in East Timor and Iraq before being medically discharged due to Post Traumatic Stress.

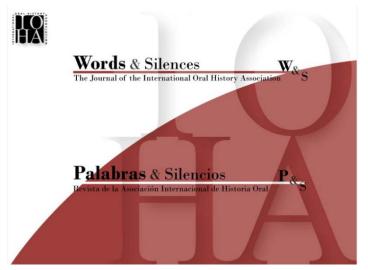
My first reaction on hearing the announcement about the Australian War Memorial's plan to spend \$500 million on an expansion and the initial commentary surrounding that was reflexive anger – it seemed obscene.

"I'm not angry anymore, but I am troubled by a lot of things about it. The size of the spend, the nature of what they are proposing, the black and white nature of the debate, and the 'Invictus Generation' branding makes me very worried."

Read the full article in The Sydney Morning Herald HERE.

- Details of the grant, see ABC News item HERE.
- Also see: "Australian cultural institutions struggle to survive as War Memorial gets half-billion dollar upgrade" Guardian Australia HERE.

# 'Memory and Narration' Words and Silences/Palabras y Silencios

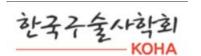


"The **editors** of the International Oral History Association's Digital Edition Journal, *Words and Silences*, seek contributions for its 2018-2019 issue. This issue's theme follows that of the XX IOHA Conference held in Jyväskylä, Finland: Memory and Narration.

"Just as the program in Finland focused on the complex and multidimensional nature of oral history, we welcome articles from diverse perspectives that explore a range of issues related to memory documentation, oral history/life story analyses, as well as discussions of oral history related to narrative and narration."

Deadline for submissions: 31 January 2019

See the full call for papers and submission details and requirements HERE



### **Korean Oral History Association**

### KOHA Tenth Anniversary Conference 1 June 2019, Seoul South Korea

### **Call for Papers**

Extract:

To celebrate the tenth-year anniversary [of KOHA], the 2019 conference with the theme "Beyond 'Oral History' and Back to Oral Histories" will not only look back at the last decade of Korean oral history but also look forward to its future. In addition, it will have a limited number of international sessions (a total of 3 sessions or min. 7 presenters). International scholars, researchers, educators, and others are encouraged to submit proposals for papers or sessions to be considered for the program. Topics should include clear evidence of oral history research or provide new insights into the methodology with a regional focus preferably on South Korea or Asia but are not limited to a particular region.

See more details **HERE**.

Deadline for proposals: **31 January 2019** 



The Fate of Things: Memory Objects and Art
Showing to 28 February 2019
Sydney Jewish Museum, 148 Darlinghurst Road, Darlinghurst

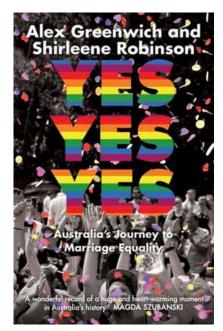
In *The Fate of Things: Memory Objects and Art*, two Australian-born artists remember their families' Holocaust experiences through inherited objects, remnants and relics. For this exhibition, **Anne Zahalka** and **Sylvia Griffin** have undertaken a process of self-discovery by imbuing tangible symbols of their family histories with personal interpretations of their second-hand traumatic memories. Through video, photography, assemblage, sculpture and textiles, the artists memorialise lost family members never met, particularly female predecessors, to trace who they are today and how their characters have been formed over time.

This exhibition is presented by *Sydney Jewish Museum*Further information available on the **Sydney Jewish Museum Website** 

### **READING & LISTENING**

Crowning achievement or painful waste: marriage equality campaign's complex legacy.

Two new books with very differing perspectives look back on Australia's long march towards legalising same-sex marriage



# Yes Yes: Australia's Journey to Marriage Equality by Shirleene Robinson & Alex Greenwich

New South, Nov-2018

A compelling, moving account of the long journey to marriage equality in Australia.

Yes Yes Yes, written by two advocates intimately involved in the struggle for marriage equality, reveals the untold story of how a grassroots movement won hearts and minds and transformed a country. From its tentative origins in 2004, through to a groundswell of public support, everyday people contributed so much to see marriage equality become law.

"The book captures the passion that propelled the movement forward, weaving together stories of heartbreak, hope and triumph. It is based on personal memories and more than forty interviews with key figures and everyday advocates from across Australia. It covers

the movement's origins in 2004, when the Marriage Act of 1961 was amended to exclude same-sex couples, through to the unsuccessful High Court challenge, a public vote in 2017 and the Parliamentary aftermath. It reminds us that social change is possible and that love is love. (Source: New South)

'A wonderful record of a huge and heart-warming moment in Australia's history.' — Magda Szubanski

'Winning the freedom to marry and changing hearts and minds — and the law — is never easy, even in a progressive democracy like Australia. By sharing the ins and outs and behind the scene stories from Australia's long and dramatic journey to marriage equality, Alex Greenwich and Shirleene Robinson offer valuable inspiration and instruction to all those heroes working tirelessly across the world to gain much-needed human rights wins and turn NOs into overwhelming and vitally important declarations of YES YES in support of equality!'— Evan Wolfson, Founder, Freedom to Marry, USA

Purchase through New South's website HERE.

### Going Postal. More Than Yes or No

Edited by Quinn Eades and Son Vivienne
Brow Books 2018

Going Postal: More than Yes or No offers a multitude of queer perspectives on the postal survey, mostly written before the result was announced. ... A diverse collection that encapsulates every form of discontent about the survey, from poetry, cartoons, blogs and social media posts to essays and personal reflections. The aim, they say, is 'to amplify some of the voices that were less audible' during the campaign to produce a result that is 'disagreeable and hopefully discordant'. —Source: The Guardian



The reflective foil cover of Going Postal alludes to both the positive and negative elements of the 2017 marriage equality campaign in Australia.

Photograph: Brow Books

Purchase from Angus & Robertson HERE.
Read *The Guardian's* review of both books HERE.

### **Sexing Histories presents:**



## Oral histories with phone sex workers

Over the course of the 1980s, telephones, credit cards and imaginations brought countless people together to co-create sexual fantasies, and experience new forms of sexual gratification. The latest episode of *Sexing History*, a podcast about how the history of sexuality shapes our present, can be heard HERE. It explores the U.S. history of phone sex lines and dial-a-porn lines in the 1980s. Featuring exclusive oral histories with gay and straight phone sex workers and rare archival material, this episode reveals the sex work

behind the service used by millions of Americans.

You can listen to the latest episode HERE. A bonus track with an extended oral history with Mark S. King can be found HERE. King worked on gay phone sex lines and also owned his own phone sex business. His story helps us better understand the complex relationships between gay history, the history of sex work, the history of the AIDS epidemic and the telecommunications revolution of the 1980s.

Podcast subscriptions are available through **iTunes** and **Stitcher**. For more information or previews of future episodes, see the Sexing History website **HERE**.

# cultural <del>চুকুব দাক</del> conversations

Cultural Conversations is a project of the Australian Centre for Oral History, promoting crosscultural exchange by building a living archive of the stories of Australia's and South Korea's eminent visual artists.

The interviews are freely available world-wide through its web-site **HERE**. All interviews are available in English and the Korean interviews are also available in Korean.

The Cultural Conversations project held two exhibitions of the interviews in 2016, at **Gallery LVS** in Seoul and at the **Korean Cultural Centre Australia** in Sydney, Australia. Each exhibition showcased the interviews of eight Australian and six South Korean artists' interviews and were accompanied by catalogues, monographs and other ephemera to give more detailed information about the artists and their professional work.





Click here to **download a PDF copy** of the catalogue (33Mb). For more information, please **email** Dr. Bob Jansen.

### From the OHR blog:



## Five questions about The Oral History Reader

(Robert Perks and Alistair Thomson, Eds.)

3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Routledge 2016)

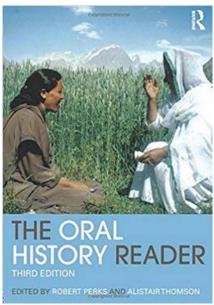
The Oral History Review blog recently asked authors of books reviewed in the OHR to answer five questions about why we should read them. In the latest instalment of the series, Alistair Thomson discusses *The Oral History Reader*.

### The questions asked:

- 1. What's it about and why does it matter?
- 2. How does oral history contribute to your book?
- 3. What do you like about using oral history as a methodology?
- 4. Why will fellow oral historians be interested in your book?
- 5. What is the one thing that you most want readers to remember about your book?

Read the full text of the interview responses **HERE**.

Read the review by Sarah Milligan in the OHR HERE.





# "Interviewing my father"

Historian Barry York reflects on a deeply personal migration story



Barry York, Loreto York Interviewed by His Son Barry at His Home in Brunswick West, 1989–1990, courtesy Barry York

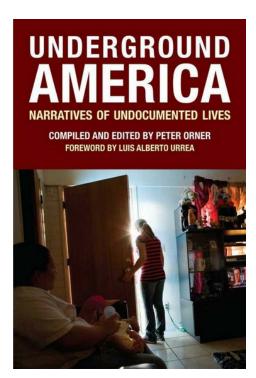
Walt Whitman once said 'I am multitudes'. That certainly applied to my father, Loreto York—so much so that I quoted the line in my eulogy at his funeral in 2009. He was aged 90 when he died. Twenty years earlier, in 1989, at my parents' home in West Brunswick, Melbourne, I recorded a lengthy oral history interview with Loreto (better known as 'Larry') for the National Library. Over the many sessions I was mindful of the day my dad would be no more and that this would be an intimate record of his life.

Read the full article **HERE**.



The National Library of Australia Magazine September 2018 issue

## **Inside a U.S. Immigrant Detention Facility**



The topic of immigration has been a critical political issue since borders were built, yet immigrant voices continue to be excluded from this ongoing story within the United States.

Recently, we've seen a surge of media coverage discussing an appalling scene at our border: refugees are being arrested and locked away in immigrant detention facilities, and many parents are being forcibly separated from their children.

In the introduction to *Underground America*, editor Peter Orner writes, 'We hear a lot about these people in the media. We hear they are responsible for crime. We hear they take our jobs, our benefits. We hear they refuse to speak English. But how often do we hear *from* them?'

- Extract from Voice of Witness review

See the full review **HERE**. Purchase from eBay **HERE**.

### Oral history inside San Quentin prison

I was inspired by how adept the students were at contextualizing oral history, posing powerful questions about the nature of history—namely who makes it and who writes it. They quickly made connections between oral history and traditions like West African Griots, and modern day emcees.

"In order to prepare ourselves for interviews during our second class, our first meeting finished with an exploration of the question, 'If you had a meaningful story to share with someone, what would you need to feel safe, to feel brave?' There were many lively responses, and the class felt very connected to issues related to respect, representation, and the

Image courtesy of the Prison University Project

importance of agency over one's own story.

- Extract from article by Cliff Mayotte, Voice of Witness website.

See the full article **HERE**.

### **CONFERENCES etc. – Australia**



### • Oral History Australia Biennial Conference Intimate Stories, Challenging Histories

State Library of Queensland, **Brisbane**, 10–13 October 2019
See details **HERE** 



For more details, and abstract submission and early bird registration dates, see the website **HERE**.

### **CONFERENCES etc. – Overseas**



• Oral History Association 2019 Annual Meeting Pathways in the Field: Considerations for those Working In, On and Around Oral History

> Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, 16–19 October 2019 See details HERE.



Oral History Society

Oral History @ Work. Recording Change in Working Lives
Prifysgol Abertawe – Swansea University, U.K.
5–6 July 2019

**Download CALL FOR PAPERS HERE,** 

**Deadline 14 December 2018** 



Oral History Association of India
 Community, Place and Identity: Possibilities of Oral History
 Fourth OHAI Conference

Delhi, India, February 1–2, 2019. Details HERE.



### Membership of Oral History NSW Inc. gives you:

- Regular seminars and workshops.
- Opportunities for informal exchange of ideas and experience.
- Biennial National Oral History Conferences.
- Subscription to the annual *Oral History Australia Journal*.
- Oral History Network News, the monthly email newsletter keeping you in touch with current topics and events of interest to oral historians. Notices received requesting oral historians for particular projects are also published here.
- Awards and Grants the Oral History Australia Hazel de Berg Award for Excellence in **Oral History** recognises oral historians who have made an outstanding contribution to oral history in Australia over a considerable period of time. See more about the award & past recipients **HERE**.

From time to time Oral History NSW makes available grants to members undertaking research based on, or concerning oral history, who wish to participate or present papers at an international oral history conference.

• ALSO, as Oral History NSW is an affiliated member of the Royal Australian Historical Society NSW all members may attend the RAHS Conference at members' rates. See the RAHS website **HERE**.

Oral History Network News is published by Oral History NSW for its members and all others in the wider community with an interest in oral history.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Oral History NSW, and information on services does not imply endorsement.

### DO YOU HAVE A CONTRIBUTION?

Letters/comments - anecdotes - news items links to websites using oral history relevant resources for oral historians. Closing date for items for the next issue (February 2019) is

27 January 2019.

Forward copy to the Editor: networknews@oralhistorynsw.org.au

Oral History Network News No. 88, Dec 2018 - Jan 2019 ISSN 2206-866X

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