

Title:

Slavery Biographies and Networks

Authors:

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Abstract:

This presentation reports on an Australian Research Council-funded project that focuses on the development of digital tools to map biographical narratives and data relating to the legacies of British slavery in Australia from the 1830s onward (<https://australian-legacies-slavery.org/about>). Developing innovative methods for biographical research and digital mapping, this data-intensive project is tracing the movement of capital, people and culture from slave-owning Britain to WA, to produce new understandings of the continuing impact of slavery wealth in shaping colonial immigration, investment, and law. The project seeks to reveal how the wealth from slavery led to the formation of Australian institutions, funded large land holdings, and helped form influential networks of association in the early colonial period that coincided with the abolition of slavery in Britain. The research team is presenting its primary research data using the Australian research infrastructure the ‘Time-Layered Cultural Map of Australia’ (TLCMap) (<https://www.tlcmmap.org/>). The resource has been developed to help researchers create digital maps from their own cultural, textual, and historical data, layered with datasets already registered on the platform. This presentation provides a report on a series of biographical mapping and visualisation experiments using TLCMap to show movement of slavery wealth and influence across the Australian continent.

Bios:

Paul Arthur:

Paul Arthur is Vice-Chancellor’s Professorial Research Fellow and Chair in Digital Humanities and Social Sciences at Edith Cowan University, Western Australia. He speaks and publishes on major challenges and changes facing 21st-century society, from the global impacts of technology on communication, culture and identity to migration and human rights.

Isabel Smith:

Isabel Smith is a Research Associate in the School of Arts and Humanities at Edith Cowan University, Western Australia, with particular interests in digital storytelling, cultural and oral history, and the relationships between memory, narrative and identity. She has previously worked as a History Curator at major state museums in Australia and as a social researcher in the UK.