

Call for Papers

Rock art symposium, 11th October 2019, University of Melbourne

Conveners: *José Antonio González Zarandona* (ADI, Deakin University); *Holly-Jones Amin* (University of Melbourne); *Lyndon Ormond-Parker* (University of Melbourne) and *Melissa Marshall* (University of Notre Dame Australia)

Rationale

Rock art is uniquely powerful and provides an ongoing connection here in Australia to what is undoubtedly one of the world's oldest living cultures. As the world capital of rock art with over 100,000 rock art sites, more than any other country in the world, we face complex challenges to preserve these creative legacies into the unforeseeable future. Although it is nationally recognized as an important part of Australia's heritage, rock art in Australia is still damaged and remains under threat. With so many rock art sites in remote locations there are ongoing preservation challenges.

The aim of this one-day symposium in Melbourne is to have a robust discussion about the **social and political dimensions of rock art in Australia**. The symposium seeks to analyze the mechanisms under which rock art operates in Australia beyond archaeological engagement. The overall aim is to review and highlight what is and what is not working in rock art preservation in Australia.

Proposed themes for sessions and workshop

To achieve this end, the symposium will bring Traditional Owners together with archaeologists, anthropologists and scholars working on rock art research. We are looking for papers, provocations and case studies that analyze the following four topics:

1. **Management of rock art sites**, in particular we are interested in hearing about community-owned initiatives.
2. **Access to resources**, what resources are available to Indigenous communities towards the conservation of rock art sites, opening up discussions on which organisations can be targeted for funding.
3. **The management and values of intangible aspects of rock art**, for example, how does Indigenous ontology and epistemology shape the conservation and management world?
4. **Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act**, specifically we are interested in hearing about the new intangible heritage aspects of the Act, and how do traditional owners, conservators, archaeologists and heritage managers engage with them in the context of Rock Art research and management?

We seek papers that present a methodological intervention into reductionist conservation histories by developing a more diverse vocabulary and directions for future research in and on this field. Please send abstracts of 200-300 words and queries to Antonio González (antonio.g@deakin.edu.au). **Deadline is 20th May 2019.**

This symposium will be held following a three-day workshop in Gariwerd (the Grampians). The three-day workshop is facilitated by Parks Victoria, Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Nulungu Research Institute (the University of Notre Dame Australia), where Indigenous rangers and Traditional Owners from around the nation will have the opportunity to discuss experiences, knowledge, ideas, challenges, successes, memories and traumas regarding rock art conservation and management. Their ability to join in with this workshop will provide fresh insights into future strategies.