

RANZ Conference

2nd Biennial International Conference on Redefining Australia and New Zealand: Changes, Innovations, Reversals: Warsaw, 16-17 September 2019

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

In 2017, the University of Opole and the Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznań co-organized a conference *Redefining Australia and New Zealand: Historical Heritage and Contemporary Perspectives in Language, Culture and Literature*.

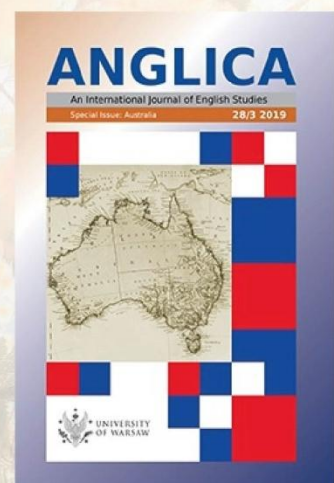
<http://wfil.uni.opole.pl/wp-content/uploads/Conference-Program-Redefining-Australia-and-New-Zealand.pdf>

It was decided then and there that there is a need for conferences on the past and present of New Zealand and Australia to be organized on a regular basis, with preferably all Polish universities to be engaged, in order to effectively promote the culture of New Zealand and Australia in Poland. Hence the decision for the next conference to be hosted by the University of Warsaw.

During the first immensely successful conference hosted by the University of Opole, plans were also made to bring forth the **POLISH ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND STUDIES (PASANZ)** in order to promote a variety of disciplines including art, history, political science, law, sociology, literary studies, film studies, linguistics so as to achieve a truly interdisciplinary perspective of Australia and New Zealand. The formal constitution of the *Polish Association of Australian and New Zealand Studies* was announced by its elected President, Professor Ryszard W. Wolny (University of Opole), during the opening of the RANZ 2019 Warsaw conference.

The first conference on *Redefining Australia and New Zealand* resulted in a special issue of **ANGLICA: AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ENGLISH STUDIES 28.3: Australia**, published in 2019.

<http://www.anglica.ia.uw.edu.pl/issues/anglica-as-a-journal/325-anglica-an-international-journal-of-english-studies-28-3>



RANZ 2019 WARSAW CONFERENCE

The Institute of English Studies, University of Warsaw, was proud to host the *2nd Biennial International Conference on Redefining Australia and New Zealand: Changes, Innovations, Reversals*, 16-17 September 2019. It was a great honour to have our conference endorsed by Her Excellency the Ambassador of New Zealand to Poland, Ms. Mary Thurston, and His Excellency the Ambassador of Australia to Poland, Mr. Paul Wojciechowski.



We were pleased to welcome Ms. Helen Roberts, representing Her Excellency the Ambassador of New Zealand to Poland, Ms. Mary Thurston, at the opening of our conference.



It was an immense honour and pleasure to host Professor Ian Conrich (University of Vienna) and Professor Beate Neumeier (University of Cologne) as our keynote lecturers.

Ian Conrich, who is a Professorial Fellow in Anthropology at the University of Vienna, as well as Chair of the *New Zealand Studies Association* since 1997, Principal Editor of the *Journal of New Zealand and Pacific Studies*, and the author and co-author of numerous works on the culture of New Zealand, including *Studies in New Zealand Cinema* and *Contemporary New Zealand Cinema*, presented a lecture on "Performing Indigeneity: The Māori Body on Display in Early Postcards" during the first day of our conference.



Beate Neumeier, who is Professor and Chair of English at the University of Cologne; co-director of the *Centre for Australian Studies* at the University of Cologne and co-coordinator of a network of German universities developing an interdisciplinary online teaching platform in Australian Studies; president of the *German Association of Australian Studies*, presented a lecture on the "Challenges of the Anthropocene: Indigenous Australian Literature and Performance" during the second day of our conference.



The participants of the RANZ 2019 Warsaw conference had the unique opportunity of seeing the "Heirloom" exhibition of the Australian versions of the Polish "wianek" prepared by Grace Pundyk (a Melbourne-based scholar, artist, performer, author and playwright).



The aim of our conference was to incite an in-depth discussion on the past and present of Australia and New Zealand from a multitude of perspectives. We are extremely thankful to Jean Anderson (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand), Mikko Myllyntausta (University of Turku, Finland), Anna Orzechowska (University of Warsaw, Poland), Paweł Kornacki (University of Warsaw, Poland), Krzysztof Kosecki (University of Łódź, Poland), Barbara Klonowska (The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland), and Helen Singleton (Curtin University, Australia) for their contributions on the historical politics and contemporary cultural/linguistic (national) identities. A huge thank you to Ryszard W. Wolny (University of Opole, Poland), Rūta Šlapkauskaitė (Vilnius University, Lithuania), Zuzanna Kruk-Buchowska (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland), and Grace Pundyk (Melbourne, Australia) for their invaluable insights on the constructions of eco-identities: environment and the nation. The hauntings underlying contemporary Australian and New Zealand national identities were excellently underscored by Donna Coates (University of Calgary,

Canada), Anna Branach-Kallas (Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland), Elżbieta Niewiadoma (University of Warsaw, Poland), and Dagmara Drewniak (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland) through their presentations on memory, and trauma from trans-temporal and trans-cultural perspectives. Due to the intellectually-inspiring contributions by Jesús Ángel González (University of Cantabria, Spain), Marek Paryż (University of Warsaw, Poland), Jacek Fabiszak (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland), our conference also embraced the intriguing subject matter of filmic (de)(re)constructions of national identities within the context of Australian and New Zealand film productions. Finally, the thought-provoking presentations by Ian Willis (University of Wollongong NSW, Australia), Joanna Maciulewicz (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland), and Agnieszka Setecka (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland) offered a female-oriented perspective on Australia and New Zealand.

