



CRN/CAPSTRANS/ICR
Obsolescence: Media History, Policy and Aesthetics Workshop
Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd October 2009
In 67.101

This workshop will bring together researchers from around Australia to discuss what happens when technologies, and even cities, become obsolete. Topics covered will include the impact of e-waste on our environment, the problems for industrial cities in a post industrial economy, and how some obsolete technologies are recovered as collectable objects of nostalgia. Researchers will be working towards outcomes including publications, exhibitions and interventions including the design of recycling programmes. The workshop has been funded by the ARC Cultural Research Network, and the Innovations in Cultural Research node of CAPSTRANS.

Thursday 1st October 2009

10 AM - Arrival morning tea.

10.30 AM Introductory session.

- Introductions from seminar participants.
- Discussion - "How do things become obsolete?" - facilitated by Jason Wilson.

1PM Lunch

2PM Human waste.

- Short introduction by Jason Wilson, discussing work of Zygmunt Bauman, showing "The Wire" and slum mapping. (15 mins)
- Discussion - "What are the links between technological obsolescence and human redundancy?"

3.30PM Afternoon Tea

4PM Obsolescence, pedagogy and aesthetics.

- Short introduction by Jason Jacobs: "The aesthetic sensation of obsolescence is already recognized through the familiar fetishisation of antique objects and technologies. But what happens when the rhetorics and sensations of the old refresh in the framework of the new? Online lectures as relays of events, usually operated by technicians offer a fascinating compression of the old and the new in ways that might stimulate: blackboards, screens, instruction, performance."
- Discussion: "How is the obsolete aesthetically recovered? What can we say here about cultural capital, enthusiasm, connoisseurship and beauty?"

5.30 PM Finish Day One

7.00 PM Dinner at Rapongi Japanese Restuarant, Market Street, Wollongong.

<http://www.roppongi-japaneserestaurant.com.au/> (Optional dinner at attendees' expense)

Friday 2nd October

9.00 AM Technology and e-waste

- Short presentation by UoW Staff (Chris Moore, Graham Barwell) on e-waste project beginning at the University of Wollongong.
- Discussion: "What is the connection between waste, structural obsolescence and technology? How can we intervene in waste-making?"

10.30 AM Morning tea

11.00 AM Questions of obsolescence.

- Time for facilitated discussion of further questions around obsolescence generated by workshop participants, addressing themes raised during the workshop and themes not covered to this point.

12.30 PM Lunch

1.30 PM The future of obsolescence.

Discussion of future directions and outcomes for projects engaging with culture and obsolescence.

For further information please contact Jason Wilson on 3088 (email – jasonw@uow.edu.au)