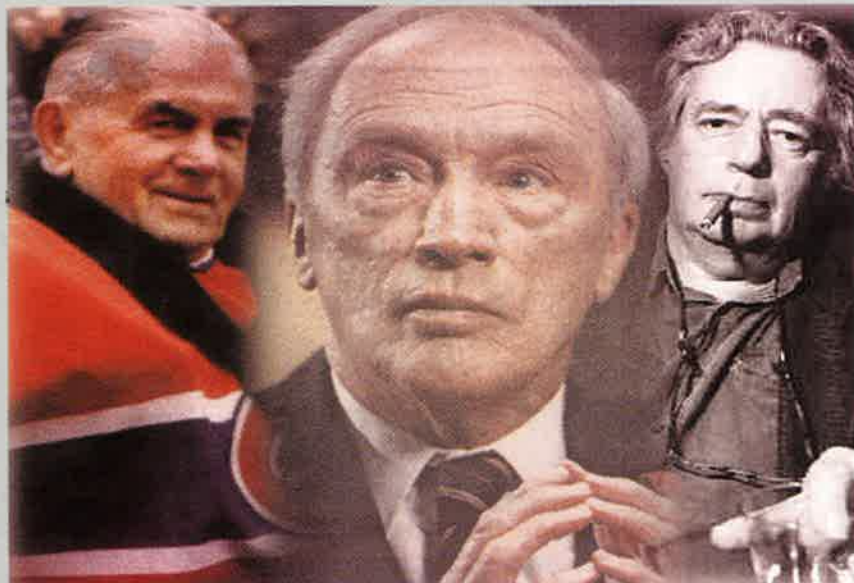


FEATURE ARTICLES

Ian Ward
**TRUDEAUMANIA AND IT'S TIME:
THE EARLY USE OF TV FOR POLITICAL COMMUNICATION**

Michael Meadows
**10-POINT PLAN AND A TREATY:
REPRESENTING RACE RELATIONS IN THE PRESS IN AUSTRALIA AND CANADA**

A. James Hammerton
**EPIC STORIES AND THE MOBILITY OF MODERNITY:
NARRATIVES OF BRITISH MIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA AND CANADA SINCE 1945**



Robin Kearns
**COLONISED BY POLICY? HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
ON COLLECTIVELY OWNED LAND IN CANADA AND AUSTRALIA**

Sherry Siggers
**DRY, DAMP AND WET REVISITED:
ALCOHOL POLICIES IN INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIA AND CANADA**

REVIEWS

Paul Heyer
CANADIAN COMMUNICATION THOUGHT: TEN FOUNDATIONAL WRITERS

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***AUSTRALIAN-
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STUDIES***

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AUSTRALIAN-CANADIAN STUDIES is the official journal of the Association of Canadian Studies in Australia and New Zealand (ACSANZ). It is a refereed journal of both the Humanities and Social Sciences and focuses on comparative, interdisciplinary research in these areas. Its aim is to provide a forum for intellectual debate and information exchange in Australia, Canada, and New Zealand.

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Table of Contents

Vol. 19, No.1, 2001

EDITORIAL

FEATURE ARTICLES

- IAN WARD **Trudeaumania and it's Time: The Early Use of TV for Political Communication** 1
- MICHAEL MEADOWS **A 10-point Plan and a Treaty: Representing Race Relations in the Press in Australia and Canada** 23
- A.JAMES HAMMERTON **Epic Stories and the Mobility of Modernity: Narratives of British Migration to Canada and Australia since 1945** 47
- ROBIN KEARNS **Colonised by policy? Housing Opportunities for Indigenous Peoples on Collectively-owned Land in Canada and New Zealand** 65
- SHERRY SAGGERS **Dry Damp and Wet Revisited: Alcohol Policies in Indigenous Australia and Canada** 83

REVIEWS

- PAUL HEYER **Canadian Communication Thought: Ten Foundational Writers** 105
- CONTRIBUTORS 111
- BOOKS RECEIVED 112

EDITORIAL

Ice-Skating in Penrith: Signing Off

This is my last issue as editor of ACS and again it is way past deadline. The editing task has been both enlightening and frustrating, saddled with the usual problems of publishing a small journal: a lack of time and Murphy's law make for a lethal combination.

From my own perspective, this engagement as editor of ACS marked my own deepening involvement with Canada while living in Australia despite being a Canadian by birth. In some respects it enabled me to discover "Canada" for a second time which was distinct from my first encounter. "Canada" of course, had a very specific construction within Québec – my original home. (I had wanted to focus a special issue on Québec but could not quite manage it within my tenure as editor.)

In the past two years, three remarkable Quebecers – or one should even say Montréalais - have passed on. Maurice the "Rocket" Richard, Pierre Elliot Trudeau and Mordicai Richler all recently passed away - Trudeau and Richard in 2000 and Richler in 2001. Their deaths provoked massive public responses in Canada, each in turn, as they represented not just the highest achievements in their fields of endeavor, but the status of iconic and mythological figures. For me and for many of my generation, their passing reflects a sense of finality; of a world now surely gone – and reflects back to me the stages of my own life. The Rocket

was my childhood hero; he had a national following not dissimilar to Don Bradman. The infamous Richard Riot in 1952 demonstrated the volatile mix of Québécois partisan politics and ice-hockey – reputedly the two “favourite pastimes” of everyday life in Québec. In my adolescence, Trudeau was the most charismatic politician of the time – the sixties. In 1968, I campaigned for him in the seat of Mont Royal and then demonstrated against him during the War Measures Act in 1970. Richler is forever with me through the years from St. Urban’s Horseman to Barney’s Version. As a fellow Québécois and anglophone Jew, it was hard not to read into his works my own biographical projections. And the most quoted exchange after his death was a conversation with Sadye Bronfman which went as follows:

Sadye: “...You’ve done very well for a boy from St. Urban Street...”, to which Richler responded: “...You’ve done pretty well yourself for a bootlegger’s wife...!”

Though I have lived in Australia since 1986, I found myself in Canada – and in Montreal, during the period when each of these iconic figures died. In the case of Trudeau, it was a surreal occasion for an “Australian-Canadian” to be witnessing via CBC TV the fireworks exploding off the Sydney Harbour Bridge celebrating the end of the Olympic Games and then “a world away”, as CBC news anchor Peter Mansbridge put it, the somber line of grieving people passing Trudeau’s casket on Ottawa’s parliament hill. It perhaps was a singularly poignant moment in which the strangest of all connections between Australia and Canada appeared to cross. In this issue, I wanted to mark these instances of historical synchronicity in pictures – as a kind of mythological response – for which much has already been written and said.

I would like to now reflect in this editorial on those experiences that highlighted the last 5 years of my work as Editor. In some respects, the double issue in 1996 on Indigenous media was one of the best and is still in demand from readers and institutions. The issue contained a colour photographic insert and was partly funded by the Australia Council – both firsts for the Journal. It marked the ascendancy of both Indigenous media and of Indigenous issues in general which has not abated in either Canada or Australia to this day. The next “thematic” issue was built on the papers of a 1-day conference held at the Canadian Consulate exploring the triangulation of Canada, Australia and Asia – fertile ground as evidenced by the subsequent conference with a similar emphasis in Wollongong a few years later. A joint publication with the Canadian Journal of Communication in 1998 delivered added value for scholarship in the field of communications. The most recent issue, guest edited by Michael Hall and Mark Williams, celebrated New Zealand literature and culture and was long overdue.

This issue is highlighted by three articles relating to Indigenous issues and so harks back to the first issue I edited on Indigenous media in Canada and Australia. These three articles are comparative and based on timely research. The first article is by Michael Meadows, a former contributor and an author who has mined the area of Indigenous political and institutional debates for some time. In this article he critically examines the coverage of Indigenous affairs by two influential newspapers, the Globe and Mail and the Australian. The article looks at two major events: the amendment of the Native Title Act in Australia and a treaty ratification in British Columbia. Despite continued interest by the media and its readerships in Indigenous affairs, a kind of “compulsion to repeat” the exclusion of Indigenous perspectives in this reporting appears inevitable.

As a kind of companion piece though from a very different approach, Sherry Sadders looks at alcohol control policies in Indigenous communities in Canada and Australia. Placed in the context of colonisation and contemporary health policy, Sadders is keen to understand the questions posed by state control of alcohol. By contrast, the Indigenous community alcohol management policy is also evaluated. Sadders concludes with a recommendation for particular approaches which combine the best of the state and Indigenous policies, though grounded in improved health and social conditions for the communities.

Extending the theme of Indigenous peoples’ social life, Robin Kearns examines the housing needs of Indigenous people in New Zealand and Canada living in rural areas. The article looks at the state approaches to housing needs and how in each situation there is a failure to find an adequate housing plan for Indigenous people. Kearns argues for a better understanding of Indigenous perspectives and less reliance on state policy processes.

Ian Ward develops a timely essay on the Trudeau and Whitlam campaigns and their use of television. First, the recent death of Trudeau evokes the memory of his first political campaign and the Trudeaumania that resulted. Second, this article will resonate with the current Australian election and the media’s changed role over the last thirty years. Ward’s is an analysis of the process of how politics is mediated by television, undertaken through a comparison of the Canadian Liberals under Trudeau and the Labor party under Whitlam.

A. James Hammerton’s contribution to this issue focuses on British migration to Canada and Australia since 1945. Hammerton’s study draws on two surveys of written and oral testimony from British migrants – the British diaspora. Hammerton provides demographics to inform the study and the narrative accounts of migration by several migrants. Hammerton argues for understanding these

narratives as the representations of individuated experiences within the common framework of migration - a narrative trope of epic proportions but with continually re-appearing themes.

I would like to thank all who have helped the journal to be published these last five years – both institutions and individuals. First, the annual grant from the Canadian government to ACSANZ finances the journal and without these funds the journal would not exist. I would like to extend my appreciation to the University of Western Sydney whose facilities were extended to us without charge. I would like to thank Shane Hersey, Richard Lever, Linda Haig Thorenson, Alfred Mutua, Juan Francisco Salazar, and Gavin Farley for their fine efforts over the years. Thanks to the many reviewers and referees indispensable to the journal over the years. The Wollongong printery also deserves high praise for seeing the printing through in a consistent and reliable manner for many years. Thanks to Garry Piggot, Gordon Nolan and Paul Campani.

I wish the new editor, Sonia Mycak, well. I am certain the journal is in good hands and will continue to play an important role in the Canadian Studies project in Australia and New Zealand.

Hart Cohen.

IAN WARD

TRUDEAUMANIA AND IT'S TIME: THE EARLY USE OF TV FOR POLITICAL COMMUNICATION

Television and the transformation of election campaigns

The arrival of television is frequently held to have transformed 'the character of election campaigns' (Rutherford 1990, 426) or even 'created a revolution in political campaigning' (Scammell 1995, 26). Writing about the USA, Lang and Lang (1986, 274) argue that 'the whole pace and style of national political campaigns has been adapted to television' to the point where 'the campaign exists for and on television alone' (also see Pfau and Parrott 1993, 333-5). The essential claim that 'campaigning was never the same after the invention of television' is not new (Bowler and Farrell 1992, 11). In 1974, with Canada in mind, Paltiel (1974, 192) wrote that 'the emergence of ... television in the 1950s ... profoundly altered the style of campaigns', ushering in a more costly, media-reliant approach. More recently the comparative study of electioneering has identified 'growing similarities in electoral communication practices around