

CONVICTION POLITICS



MONASH
University

Welcome to the Conviction Politics newsletter

The 5th update of ARC Linkage international research collaboration.

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**School of Media, Film & Journalism,
Monash Faculty of Arts in
collaboration with SensiLab, Faculty
of Information Technology**

In partnership with:

Australian Catholic University, Griffith University, Deakin University, University of New England, University of NSW, University College Dublin and University of South Wales

Partner Organisations:

Roar Film, Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery, Libraries Tasmania, NSW Teachers Federation, National Museum of Australia, The Union Education Foundation (Australian Council of Trade Unions), Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union, Trades Union Congress, People's History Museum and National Records of Scotland

Collaborators:

Sydney Harbour Trust, Bentham Project (University College London), Gwent Archives, Wales and the Menzies Australia Institute (Kings College London).



Conviction Politics Stage One Launch in Monash University, Caulfield Campus (2 November 2021). L-R: Daisy Bailey, Monika Schwarz, Alison Pennington, Tony Moore. Credit: Simon Midler

Inside at a glance:

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Conviction Politics website:



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Conviction Politics Stage One Multimedia Hub Launch



Sally McManus launched the opening with a passionate speech "We are Stronger TOGETHER". Credit: Caitlin Carey.



Conviction Politics Stage One Launch at Monash University, Caulfield Campus. L-R: Steve Thomas and Hamish Maxwell-Stewart (on screen), Daisy Bailey, Monika Schwarz, Alison Pennington, Tony Moore. Credit: Simon Midler.

Conviction Politics held two launches for Stage One of its Multimedia Hub as part of the [UK/Australia Season](#), a prestigious cultural exchange programme run by the British Council and the Australian Government. Hybrid in-person/online events were held at the People's History Museum in Manchester on 11 November, and at Monash University in Melbourne on 2 December 2021. The launches were diverse, media-rich events featuring documentary screenings, musical entertainment, panel discussions, demonstrations of the Hub's innovative content, and audience Q&A. The findings have been collated in a first-of-its-kind digital history project. The launches revealed the [Multimedia Hub](#), with documentaries, visualisations, short & long reads and music.

The Melbourne launch had a sizeable media reach, including interviews and profiles on [WIN TV Hobart](#), [ABC Radio Melbourne](#), [6PR Perth](#), [Power FM Hunter Valley](#), and [ABC Radio Hobart](#). A multimedia article was also produced by [Monash Lens](#). In the UK, in-depth profiles were published in the [Byline Times](#) and the [Manchester World](#), and both launches garnered sizeable livestream audiences and social media engagement. Conviction Politics was grateful to have eminent union figures launch the project at both events, including national leader of the Australian trade union movement, ACTU Secretary Sally McManus, and the outgoing Secretary of the Trades Union Congress–South East Region, Dr Nigel Costley. The full Manchester launch can be viewed [here](#).



Left: Musicians Clio Renner and Mick Thomas (musical director for Conviction Politics) performing during the launch event at Monash University. Right: Brett Hutchins (Deputy Dean (Research), Faculty of Arts, Monash University) speaking at the launch.



Credit: Simon Midler.

Conviction Politics Screenings

A number of Conviction Politics short documentaries were screened in Ireland on 16 July 2022 as part of the [Irish Civil War National Conference](#), a conference marking the centenary of the start of the Irish Civil War and hosted by University College Cork. The screening was followed by a discussion featuring Tony Moore.

The [Menzies Australia Institute](#) at Kings College London also hosted an in-person screening of Conviction Politics' short documentaries and a presentation of the projects' online Hub by Tony Moore. British perspectives were delivered by Tim Causer from UCL's Bentham Centre. The event, held on 13 July 2022, attracted more than 70 participants, and was chaired by Menzies' new director Dr Agnieszka Sobocinska (formerly of Monash), who will be a key point of contact as the Menzies Australia Institute becomes an ongoing collaborator of Conviction Politics.

The third screening, featuring a talk by Tony Moore, was generously hosted by the [Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival](#) and the [Radical History School](#) in Dorset on 15 July 2022, led by Dr Nigel Costley and Les Kennedy.

2022 Hobart Partner Organisation Workshop

The Conviction Politics Australian workshop took place on 7-8 April 2022 in the Training Room of the State Library of Tasmania. The participants and presenters included Tony Moore (Monash), Hamish Maxwell-Stewart (UNE), Nick Carter (ACU), Jon McCormack and Monika Schwarz (Monash SensiLab), Daisy Bailey (Monash PhD student), Steve Thomas (Roar Film), Elspeth Wishart (TMAG), Julie Gough (TMAG, First Nations artist), Melissa Edwards (TMAG), Dee Dzelalija (TMAG), Kelly Pummeroy (TMAG), Roxanne Giles (UNE PhD student), Ross Latham and Caroline Homer (Libraries Tasmania), and Jonathan Fisher and Emily Clark (Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority).

The workshop showcased the Conviction Politics team's research outputs and discussed the Multimedia Hub's functionality, presentation and future direction. TMAG has presented an initial concept of the Conviction Politics travelling exhibition, which will premiere in Hobart in 2023, and discussed the First Nations perspectives of the Hub and exhibition content curation with advice from Tasmanian First Nations artist Julie Gough. The workshop has formulated a potential sponsorship list and produced a prospectus for pitching targeted sponsors. New technologies, such as 3D scanned objects and augmented reality applications, have also been incorporated in the discussion, providing new possibilities for the exhibition which will travel to Sydney, Canberra, London, Manchester, and Dublin.

2022 UK/Irish Partner Organisation Workshop

Conviction Politics' Tony Moore, Hamish Maxwell-Stewart, Steve Thomas and UK-based engagement consultant Paul Smith have recently conducted research, fieldwork and film shoots in the UK and Ireland. In tandem, the project's UK/Irish workshop took place on 8 June 2022 at the Trades Union Congress in London. Paul Nowak, the incoming TUC General Secretary, delivered the opening speech. Other participants included Tim Causer (University College London), Les James (Our Chartist Heritage), David Brown and Samantha Smart (National Records of Scotland), Eoin Hahessy (University College Cork/Monash), Katharine Quarmby (author and journalist), Chris Evans (University of South Wales) and Lisa Snook (Gwent Archives). A major outcome was the participants' consensus on advocating for a UK based Museum of Convict Transportation.

The project thanks the TUC for generously hosting this long-awaited gathering, especially after the disruptions of 2020-21 caused by the pandemic.

Roar Film NSW Film Shoot

Roar Film has accomplished a fruitful domestic film shoot, conducted with Conviction Politics lead Tony Moore in Sydney and the Illawarra from 3-7 May 2022.

Interviewees included Tom Keneally (author), Dr Naomi Parry Duncan (UTAS), John Jeremy (former CEO of Cockatoo Island dockyard), Libby Bennett (Sydney Harbour Trust), A/Prof. Nick Carter (ACU), Dr Mark Dunn (historian), Neale Towart (Unions NSW), Margaret Vos and John Dixon (NSW Teachers Federation), Dr Stephen Gapps (Australian National Maritime Museum), Dr Terry Irving (historian), Carlin de Montfort (Hyde Park Barracks), Warren Fahey (folklore expert), Felicity Skoberne (descendant of convict Joseph Marceau), Solomon Staunton (descendent of convict Peter Larkin) and Peter Lewis (The Guardian).

The team was lucky to have a week of brilliant weather, and filmed interviews, collection items, and exteriors at locations such as the Parramatta Heritage Precinct (home of the Parramatta Female Factory), Cockatoo Island, Sydney Trades Hall, Hyde Park Barracks and the West Dapto Catholic Cemetery.

The project team thanks all of our interviewees who were generous with their time and expertise, contributing not only their knowledge of convict history and heritage, but also their personal experiences with the ongoing legacies of convictism and political prisoners.

We also thank the film crew for their wonderful work: Aaron Luke Wilson (Roar Film) and Kyle Harvey (Monash).



Clockwise from top right: Margaret Vos at Sydney Trades Hall; Libby Bennett at Cockatoo Island; Naomi Parry Duncan at Parramatta Heritage Precinct; Mark Dunn at Cockatoo Island; Tom Keneally at Parramatta Heritage Precinct; Tony Moore and Kyle Harvey in the banner room at Sydney Trades Hall. Credit: Roar Film.

Roar Film UK and Ireland Film Shoot



Originally planned for 2020, Roar Film and Tony Moore finally made it to the UK and Ireland for a productive film shoot throughout June 2022, filming in London, Manchester, Glasgow, Dublin and Cork.

Locations included Bentham House and the Student Centre at University College London, the Trades Union Congress in London, Pluto Press in London, the People's History Museum in Manchester, the [Thomas Muir Heritage Trail](#) north of Glasgow, University College Cork, and Caledonian Park in London (the starting point of the 1834 Tolpuddle March).

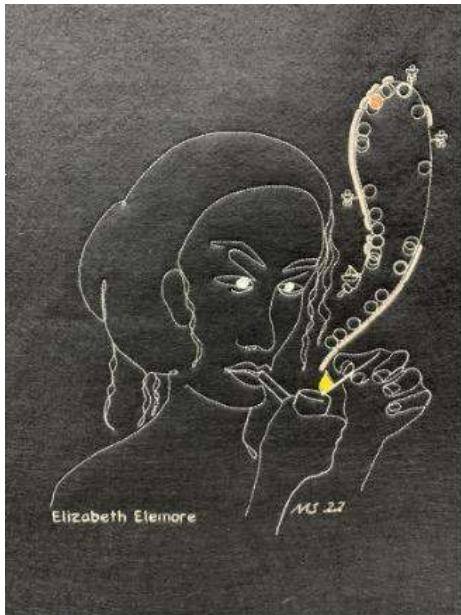
Interviewees included Paul Smith (the project's UK consultant), Paul Nowak (TUC), Dr Tim Causer (UCL), Dr James Gatheral (historian), Katharine Quarmby (journalist and author), Murray Armstrong (author), Jimmy Watson (chair of the Friends of Thomas Muir charity), Prof. Gerard Carruthers (University of Glasgow), Prof. Lindsay Farmer (University of Glasgow), Katy Ashton (PHM), Eoin Hahessy (Monash/UCC), Dr Gavin Foster (Concordia University), Dr Edward Molloy (UCC), Dr Heather Laird (UCC), and Dr Katie Roscoe (University of Liverpool). Sam Jenkins, Kloe Rumsey and Simon Sheppard (PHM) provided expert access to their invaluable collection.

The project thanks film crew Mariia Springis, Alexander Saunes and Jevgenijs Zharko (UK), Ed Godsell (Cork), and Isabel Lu and Kyle Harvey for logistical support. Our UK engagement consultant Paul Smith has been invaluable in helping us navigate the UK and Ireland.

We are also grateful to Dr Nigel Costley, (TUC), Prof. Philip Scofield (Bentham Project) and Prof. John Borgonovo (UCC) for their unfailing support and enthusiasm for the Conviction Politics project.

Clockwise from top right: Tony Moore and Mariia Springis filming the Jeremy Bentham auto-icon at UCL; Gerard Carruthers at UCC; Murray Armstrong at Pluto Press; Eoin Hahessy and Steve Thomas overlooking Spike Island in Cork Harbour (where Irish convicts were detained before transportation to Australia); Lindsay Farmer at UCC; Tony Moore and two attendees of the Irish Civil War conference at UCC holding flyers for the Conviction Politics screening; Paul Smith at TUC; Jimmy Watson at Cadder Parish Church in Bishopbriggs (near Glasgow); Katharine Quarmby at UCL; and Alex Saunes and Tony Moore with union banners at PHM. Credit: Roar Film.

SensiLab and Data Visualisation



Data embroideries of Elizabeth Elemore and Rosina Savilin. Credit: Monika Schwarz.

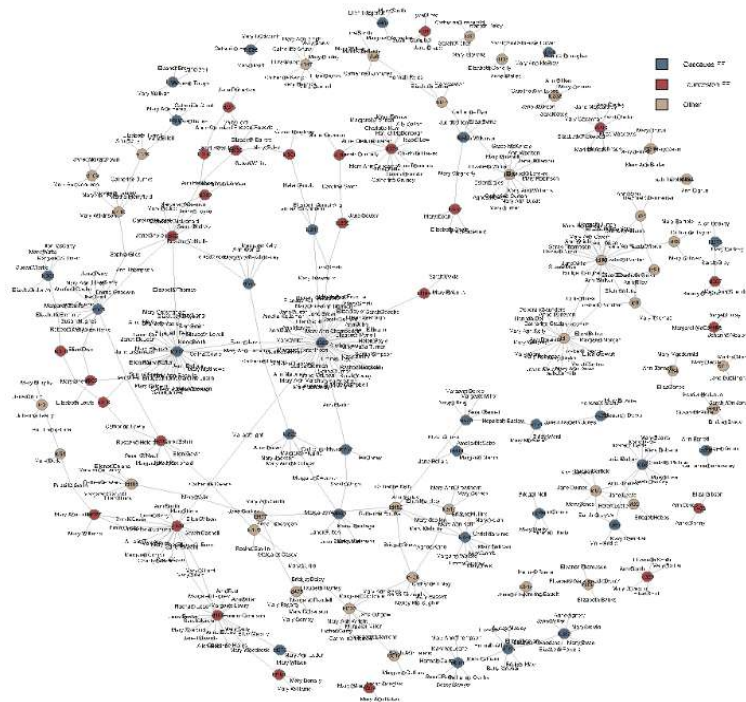
Dr Monika Schwarz and the SensiLab team have recently been focused on data embroidery. As part of the Whyte Fund project, *A Stitch in Time*, a first set of embroideries inspired by resilient female convict women were created to showcase in [an Open House event](#) at the Lab during [Melbourne Design Week 2022](#) in April and in a pop-up tent in the city centre at the Melbourne Knowledge Week in May.

This project uses data embroidery, a new form of data physicalisation, to display historical life courses of Australian female convicts. The source of the data includes the female convict records of Van Diemen's Land kept by the British Bureaucracy, including their trial and voyage, their colonial offences and sentences, their marriages and births or their official status like receiving a Certificate of Freedom. These data titbits inspire the sketches for the data embroideries, focusing on acts of resilience or resourcefulness. The data is integrated in the form of a lifeline with the inspiring data points highlighted in colour. The embroideries try to capture moments where the women's personality is shining through the records, showing that these women weren't so different from us. Here are two examples.

Elizabeth Elemore, a young nursemaid from Liverpool transported in 1840 aged 20, was sentenced to 7 years for stealing, but due to her large number of colonial offences, many of which were against convict regulations, spent the best part of 20 years in the convict system, including long stays in the Female Factories. Her spirit of resistance was manifest in being sentenced three times for insubordination and taking part in a further three episodes of collective action. Elizabeth probably knew all the tricks because in 1846 when she was sentenced for smoking in the watchhouse, she had a pipe and a match concealed in her boot.

A house servant from London, Rosina Savilin was 18 when she was transported for shoplifting in 1833. For seven years, her frequent absconding attempts earned her more time in Tasmania's Female Factories. Rosina was one of the few who successfully escaped from the Launceston Female Factory. Her life took a turn when she was caught with Frederick Young, her future husband, in her master's house 'for an improper purpose'. Frederick and Rosina went on to add a few siblings to her oldest daughter and eventually vanished from the Tasmanian records, likely making a new start in another Australian colony.

Australian History Association Conference



Network visualisation of the collective resistance in the Female Factories of Van Diemen's Land. The larger nodes represent the events, coloured by their location. Connected to the events are the names of the women sentenced for participating in them. Credit Dr Monika Schwarz

The Conviction Politics team presented papers, data visualisations and documentaries at the Australian History Association conference (29 November-2 December 2021), which was held online. The team hosted two panel discussions, followed by film screenings of the project trailer and several short documentaries. In the *Visualising Convict Resistance* panel, Hamish Maxwell-Stewart delivered a talk titled "Ensuring that business remains unfinished: Convict absconding 1820-60". His paper argued that absconding was a form of organised convict protest, part of a wave of unrest triggered by the introduction of the post-Bigge reorganisation of convict labour in Eastern Australia.

In "We are all alike: The collective visualisation of female convict lives", Monika Schwarz explored the links between individual prosecutions in the female Conduct Records through network analysis, revealing both the collective nature of many transgressions, and the web of collusion that bound convict women to each other. By using network analysis, she was able to visualise an ongoing fight against the convict regulations in the factories held up by a larger body of women, quasi forming a network of resistance. (See also a 3-minute [video](#) on Monika's work).

The 'Conviction Politics: Modes of Resistance by Transported Political Prisoners' panel included a paper by Tony Moore, titled "When the Pen is Mightier than the Pike: Media Activists Transported to Australia as Convicts". Daisy Bailey's presentation was titled "The Emotions of Exile and Activism in The Irish Exile and Freedom's Advocate 1850-1851". She examined how emotions were utilised in *The Irish Exile and Freedom's Advocate* (1850-1851) to create an 'imagined community' of the Irish diaspora and anti-imperial sentiment in the Australian colonies and demonstrated how the history of emotions and transnational history could expand the archive and our understanding of media activism in Australian history.

Daisy Bailey PhD Updates

Conviction Politics' PhD student Daisy Bailey undertook two field research trips to Hobart to work with UNESCO protected convict records at the Tasmanian Archives, held by the project's partner organisation Libraries Tasmania. Daisy has also completed an international research trip to the UK and Ireland from 9 August to 11 September to examine key archives on the Chartist and Young Ireland movements. During her time overseas, Daisy also presented a paper titled, "The Emotions of Exile and Affective Activism: Chartist and Young Ireland Political Prisoners Transported to the Australian Colonies in the Mid-Nineteenth Century" at the [Society for the History of Emotions Biennial Conference](#), 'Going Places: Mobility, Migration, Exile, Space and Emotions', held in Florence, Italy from 30 August to 2 September.

Daisy's paper examines the emotions of exile of Chartist and Young Ireland political prisoners that were transported to the Australian colonies in the mid-nineteenth century for their involvement in various uprisings, strikes, and seditious speeches and writing, in the pursuit of democratic parliamentary reforms in the UK. Its focus is on the mobility of the radicals and the effects of punishment, including the impact it had on the communities from which they came and the communities they encountered in the Australian colonies. She examines how the partners, family and friends of the political prisoners responded to their criminalisation, transportation, and loss, and how they drew on public feeling to campaign for their release.

This involves an analysis of the political prisoners' subjective accounts of exile, drawn from auto-biographical and other textual sources. The paper demonstrates how the emotions of exile, involving, nostalgia, lament, homesickness, the desire for belonging, and a commitment to their political ideals, motivated the political prisoners to either escape the colony or to be drawn into the settler imaginary of the 'new' Australian nation.

New Open Access Publication: *Jeremy Bentham and Australia*

Jeremy Bentham and Australia is a collection of scholarship inspired by Bentham's writings on Australia. Edited by Conviction Politics collaborator Tim Causer (UCL), together with Margot Finn and Philip Schofield, this anthology comprises of a distinguished group of authors reflect on Bentham's Australian writings, making original contributions to existing debates and setting agendas for future ones. Conviction Politics researcher Hamish Maxwell-Stewart has contributed a chapter entitled *Bentham, Convict Transportation and the Great Confinement Thesis*, in which Bentham's opposition to transportation was revisited and the flaws of two assumptions that underpin the 'great confinement thesis' are critically examined. The full book can be accessed [here](#).

Katharine Quarmby: *The Low Road*

We are pleased to announce the publication of [The Low Road](#) from award-winning writer, editor and journalist [Katharine Quarmby](#), a long-time supporter of Conviction Politics. Set in rural England, London and Australia in the early 19th century, *The Low Road* is based on the true story about a female infanticide suspect and traces the journey of her daughter from orphanage to transportation. This novel is about uncovering lost histories: the stories of poor women from rural areas, the stories of convicts sent to penal colonies because of poverty and activism, the stories of people who left no records behind and the largely overlooked history of same sex relationships between convict women. This is a three generational tale of women caught up in political times - from the fall-out of the Napoleonic wars and the poverty after, to the rise of the Swing Rioters and other political dissidents and beyond the seas to Australia.

Land of a Thousand Sorrows Revisited Documentary Screenings and Québec Patriots' Day Commemorations

A new documentary by Conviction Politics collaborator and Canadian writer, director and actor Deke Richards (aka Pierre Marcoux), [*Land of a Thousand Sorrows Revisited*](#) recently premiered in Australia with screenings in Wollongong, Sydney, Hobart and Melbourne. The documentary tells the story of the 58 Canadian patriots from Lower Canada (now Québec) exiled to the penal colony of Australia from 1840-48 for their 1838 uprising against the British.

The Sydney screening on 23 May (National Patriots' Day, a Québec holiday) was followed by a plaque unveiling at the Eastern Suburbs Memorial Gardens, dedicated to the two Canadians who died in captivity. Tony Moore, who appears as an interviewee in the documentary, spoke at this event in honour of the two men, explaining the significance of the Canadian rebellions for the achievement of responsible government in both Canada and the Australian colonies.

Tony also spoke at a screening at the Wollongong Art Gallery on 25 May, which followed a plaque unveiling at West Dapto Catholic Cemetery to honour transported patriot Joseph Marceau, who settled in the area in the 1840s. The ceremony was attended by Deke Richards, Consul General of Canada to Australia André François Giroux, Wollongong Lord Mayor Gordon Bradbery AM, and Marie-Anne Alepin, President of the Saint-Jean-Baptiste Society of Montréal, the Québec patriotic cultural organisation that dates back to the 1830s. The ceremony was organised by Marceau descendant Felicity Skoberne.

Top right: Deke Richards (at right) speaking at the Eastern Suburbs Memorial Gardens (Credit: Tony Moore). Right: The gravesite of Joseph and Mary Marceau with the newly unveiled plaque, West Dapto Catholic Ceremony (Credit: Mark Skoberne).



Plaque unveiling at West Dapto Catholic Cemetery honouring Joseph Marceau. L-R: Gordon Bradbery AM, Felicity Skoberne, and Marie-Anne Alepin. Credit: Mark Skoberne.

More photos from film shoots, screenings, and convict commemoration events



Clockwise from top right: Monika Schwarz, Ross Marceau, Deke Richards, Tony Moore and Isabel Lu at the Monash screening of *Land of a Thousand Sorrows Revisited* (Credit: Tony Moore); Gordon Bradbery, André François Giroux and Deke Richards at West Dapto Catholic Cemetery (Credit: Tony Moore); Tony Moore (front left) with descendants of Joseph Marceau in Wollongong (Credit: Tony Moore); Tim Causer interviewed at UCL (Credit: Roar Film); Nick Carter interviewed at Cockatoo Island (Credit: Roar Film); and a Thomas Muir memorial in Huntershill, Scotland (Credit: Tony Moore).

First Conviction Politics Monograph Overturns Orthodoxies of Convict Transportation

Congratulations to Conviction Politics Chief Investigators Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stewart (University of New England) and Emeritus Professor Michael Quinlan (University of NSW) on the publication of their new book *Unfree Workers: Insubordination and Resistance in Convict Australia, 1788-1860*, published by Palgrave Macmillan. The book is accessible [here](#).

Michael Quinlan recently gave a keynote address to the Association of Industrial Relations Academics of Australia and New Zealand Conference at the University of Sydney, based on the article on inequality and worker mobilisation he recently co-authored with Hamish Maxwell-Stewart (see below right).

A PDF of Michael's presentation is available [here](#).

Additional Conviction Politics Outputs

Monika Schwarz has produced a [short video](#) on visualising female convict resistance, which was screened at the Melbourne launch of the Multimedia Hub in December 2021.

Hamish Maxwell-Stewart has produced a [short video](#) showcasing the findings of the new book *Unfree Workers*.

Conviction Politics and Roar Film invite you to explore the multimedia [Conviction Politics Hub](#), which currently features over 60 short documentaries, numerous songs, and a multitude of images, long reads, and short reads.

Roar Film have produced a video trailer of the Hub, demonstrating its innovative approach. The trailer can be viewed [here](#).

Conviction Politics Resource Promoted to All NSW Public School Teachers

Tony Moore (Monash University) and Mike Davis (Griffith University) have recently published an article titled "[Conviction Politics: How Convicts Shaped Australian Democracy and the Labour Movement](#)" in the *Journal of Professional Learning*. The journal has been developed as an adjunct to the work of the Centre for Professional Learning (CPL), the professional development arm of the NSW Teachers Federation, one of Conviction Politics' valued Partner Organisations. The article marks the first stage of an ongoing collaboration that will produce a variety of resources for NSW teachers, showcasing research from Conviction Politics and assisting teachers with the history and legacy of those convicts who contributed to the teaching profession, the fight for democracy and workers' rights in NSW and beyond.

The project thanks the CPL's Margaret Vos for her assistance with this publication.

New article on worker mobilisation

Michael Quinlan and Hamish Maxwell-Stewart have recently published an article titled '[Inequality worker mobilisation and lessons from history: Australia 1788-1900](#)' in the journal *Labour and Industry*. Their article reveals the importance of examining the history of worker mobilisation and argues for a historical perspective for industrial relations research.

Please see [here](#) for an e-copy if you don't have access to the journal through your institution.