

CONVICTION POLITICS

THE SPIRIT OF DEMOCRACY AND TRADE UNIONISM ARRIVED IN AUSTRALIA SHACKLED IN CHAINS



MONASH
University

Welcome to the Conviction Politics newsletter.

The third quarterly update of this unique ARC Linkage international research collaboration.

Lead Chief Investigator:

Associate Professor Tony Moore
E: tony.moore@monash.edu

Senior Project Coordinator:

Keisha Clements
E: keisha.clements@monash.edu

[Conviction Politics website](#)

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 Tasmania, University of NSW,
University College Dublin and University
of South Wales

Partner Organisations:

Roar Film, Tasmanian, Museum & Art
Gallery, Tasmanian Archives & Heritage
Office, NSW Teachers Federation,
National Museum of Australia, Australian
Council of Trades Unions, The Union
Education Foundation, Australian
Manufacturing Workers Union, Trades
Union Congress, London People's
History Museum, National Records of
Scotland & Gwent Archives, Wales.

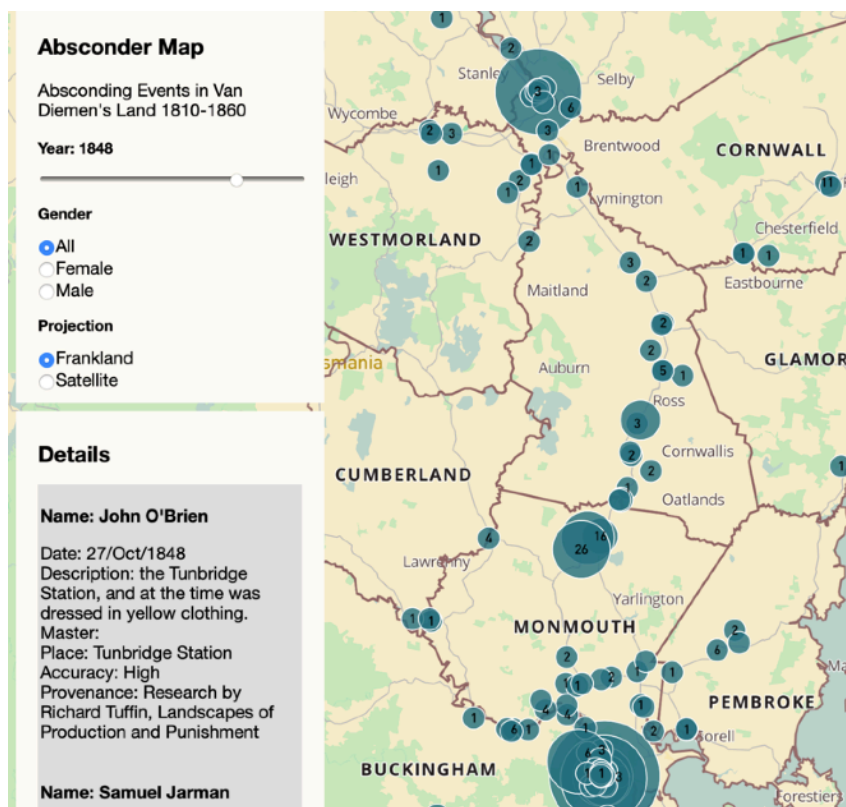


Female prisoner in Millbank, Westminster, London, which for part of its history served as a holding facility for convicted prisoners before they were transported to Australia. Ref taken from: Henry Mayhew and John Binny, The Criminal Prisons of London and Scenes of London Life (London, 1862), p.85.

Inside at a glance:

- **Roar Film musical animation progress**
 - **Absconding maps & Convict LifeLines**
 - **USW student research team commences**
 - **British Council Season Grant Applications**
 - **Never before seen Death or Liberty**
- interviews & more...**

SensiLab Data Visualisations & Ideation



Interactive Absconder Map



George Frankland's map of Van Diemen's Land made in 1839

In this quarter the SensiLab team has focused on absconding events and convict lifelines. After a multi-approach effort of geolocating absconding events a prototype of the interactive [Absconder Map](#) (image left) is now online. The application, which can be filtered by year and by gender, shows where and to what scale convicts absconded in Tasmania. Following Ben Shneiderman's famous visualisation mantra: "Overview first, zoom and filter, details on demand" the circles on the map are clickable and reveal more detail on individual abscondings. Used as a backdrop for the absconding events, and for the first time after 180 years a custom-made map projection recreates the historical boundaries of the map of Van Diemen's Land made by George Frankland in 1839 (see right). Alternatively, the projection can be switched to a satellite view to check natural features. Also, after an ideation process including idea exchanges with Roar Film and the Tasmanian data team the concepts for visualising convict lives have progressed to the implementation stage. The core of the visualisation will be a convict lifeline, giving all details that can be extracted from various historical records in one image.

SensiLab Data Visualisations & Ideation (continued)

The team at SensiLab have had some wonderful discussions around ideas for data visualisation in the Conviction Politics travelling exhibition, which launches at the Tasmanian Museum and Art gallery in 2024. One of which is taking the data and turning it into a tactile, physical object, perhaps using a programmable embroidery machine to create data patterns on fabric like clothing from the period. Giving tangibility to data information that is usually presented on a screen is a very exciting concept.

PhD Scholarship updates:

PhD student Daisy Bailey has been doing terrific work in the area of Chartist and Young Ireland political prisoners transported to NSW and Tasmania, and their impact on Australian colonial democracy and labour rights. Daisy's thesis is particularly focussing on emotion and media in protest, punishment, martyrdom and reform movements. She has compiled some invaluable summaries of many journal articles and books - an excellent resource for the team in terms of the secondary literature. Daisy is now working on her 6 month archival research plan commencing 2021.

The Monash team has developed a practice-based interdisciplinary PhD scholarship to research new approaches in Augmented and Virtual Reality to enhance the exhibition, online and documentary interactive experiences of Conviction Politics audiences. The successful PhD applicant will be jointly supervised by scholars from the School of Media, Film and Journalism and SensiLab: Assoc Prof Tony Moore, and Professors Jon McCormack, Kim Marriott and Mark Andrejevnik. The scholarship will be advertised from January 11th

2021.

Cockatoo Island and Sydney Harbour Trust Collaboration

Cockatoo Island, in the middle of Sydney Harbour, was the site of a harsh convict penitentiary for the punishment of re-offending prisoners, where they were set to work building ships. When transportation was abolished it morphed into a major naval shipbuilding enterprise that continued for most of the twentieth century. Now a UNESCO listed convict archeological and maritime heritage site, Cockatoo Island rivals Port Arthur in the extent of its sandstone buildings and other artefacts, literally a short row from Balmain (to which many convicts escaped!). We had a great meeting with Libby Bennett the Director Projects and Kathryn Roberts the Director, Marketing and Visitor Experience at the Harbour Trust in Sydney where we were able to exchange some useful research - a huge thank you to Katy Roscoe for sharing her dataset of Cockatoo Island convicts. We welcome the Harbour Trust to the project as a collaborating organisation which extends to the use of their archives and being able to shoot part of our documentaries about the exploitation and punishment of unfree labour and convict resistance around the convict and industrial sites. We also hope to extend parts of the exhibition in Sydney to Cockatoo Island and potentially parts of the Harbour with documentary screenings and holding a concert there.

British and Irish Partners Workshop

The 'International Partner and Collaborators' workshop was held over zoom in August and it was fabulous to put faces to emails! Roar Film made a presentation of the online Hub design and gave demonstrations of key features. Partner Organisations' s were then able to provide feedback and raise questions. Smaller meetings will now be held in 2021 to plan out customisation gateways for the various partner organisations. Hopefully the next workshop will be in the UK in person towards the second half of the year.

British Council Season Grant Applications

The Season is a joint initiative by the British Council and the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to strengthen and build cultural connections between the two countries. The Australian programme will take place in the UK from August to November 2021, and the UK programme in Australia from September 2021 to March 2022. Under the theme 'Who are we now?' the Season will reflect on both nations' shared history and culture, in which convict transportation, and the exile as political prisoners of protestors, reformers and rebels is crucial. The Season will explore the UK and Australia's current relationship, and imagine our future by bringing together artists, universities, and civil society leaders from both countries in a diverse and inclusive way.

- On behalf of the project, Roar Film submitted a strong application to the Australia in the UK stream, for a sequence of documentaries under the title Felon to Freedom Fighters, with a potential screening at the People's History Museum in November 2021. Focussing on the political convicts transported to the Australian colonies between 1788 and 1868, the documentaries will incorporate original music by artists from both Australia and the UK. These include Mick Thomas - Musical Director (Aus), Phil 'Swill' Odgers (UK), Clio Renner (Aus), Rory McLeod (UK). They will use archive material from project partners such as The People's History Museum in Manchester and the Gwent Archive in South Wales. The documentaries will incorporate interviews with eminent historians from both the UK and Australia and will use animation and aerial footage. The documentaries will be housed on the Web Portal for Conviction Politics - the principal public output for a major ARC Project led by Monash University. In September 2021 the films will also be streamed in a multi-national event incorporating live interviews with artists and historians. Announcements of successful applicants will be made by the end of January 2021.
- Research Assistant Dr Kyle Harvey and Senior Project Coordinator Keisha Clements also put together an application on behalf of Monash for the [British Council Higher Education program](#) in the BC Season. Our proposed event will begin with the launch of the Conviction Politics online Transmedia Hub in Melbourne at Monash University's Media Lab and stream to academic, industry and community partners across Australia and the UK. Presentations given by Melbourne-based academics will be delivered in person at the Media Lab's television studio, screened at the Media' Lab's theatrette, live-streamed online, and recorded for delivery via the many partners involved in the Conviction Politics project. Presentations from UK students and academics not able to be present in Melbourne will be pre-recorded, with Q&A and follow-up discussion to be held via online video conferencing. Although this grant is non-funded it would be an excellent opportunity to showcase the project and garner branding, publicity and PR support from the British Council.

Musical Animations Update:

Roar Film secured a \$30,000 grant from a Tasmanian Government Covid-19 initiative to assist with animation based production that could occur during the period of lockdowns, border closures and social distancing. Roar are now in the final stages of completing the animations as part of the Conviction Politics suite of micro-documentaries. Most recently recording a fabulous all female choir at Audrey Studios in Melbourne. The participants from Ladychoir are Tess Hildebrand-Burke, Kirsty Joosten, Emma Heeney, Sophie Koh and Angie Hart. Just some of many musical collaborators project musical director Mick Thomas and Roar Creative Director Steve Thomas have engaged on this element of the project. All the music has been recorded and mixed, and animation work now underway. Here's an update:



Ladychoir Vocalist, Angie Hart @ Audrey Studios

1. 'For all that' - Roar Film and the project team are very happy with the final version of this song - it's really haunting and beautiful. Vocals by Clio Renner, counter-intuitive because it's always been seen as a man's song.
2. 'Shadows' - this song is also really beautiful - it's a lament based on one of Eva of the Nation's poems. It tells the separation story epitomised by many convicts - especially the Young Irishmen. Musical Director Mick Thomas has also penned a song that gives her partner Kevin O'Doherty's perspective - 'A Line in the Sand'. It's not finished as yet but I think it's going to be a great bookend.
3. Ben Salter has been working on a song 'The Ruthless William Swallow' about the Brig Cypress mutiny. It's come up really well.
4. 'Five Dots' - A song that talks about Convict Tattoos - we have an interlude in the middle of this where we have a range of voices of convict clerks reporting descriptions of various tattoos. This is one of the first animations.
5. 'We are all alike' - Mick and Ben developed a great song that was recorded by a female choir in Melbourne in December. It's a bit risqué but very exciting.
6. Bathurst Riots - Mick collaborated with the great Kev Carmody, who will sing this song looking at the Bathurst riots from the perspective of an outsider - an Indigenous boy.

Death or Liberty Never Before Seen Footage!

Roar Film have gone back to the rushes from the successful documentary *Death or Liberty* and making use of never before seen interviews with a host of academics and other specialists from Australia, Ireland, Wales in a suite of short documentaries for Conviction Politics. The Roar Film material includes interviews with Chief Investigators Tony Moore and Hamish Maxwell-Stewart, and other project investigators, other researchers in convict history as well as Irish and British radical and labour history.

University of South Wales

Student Involvement

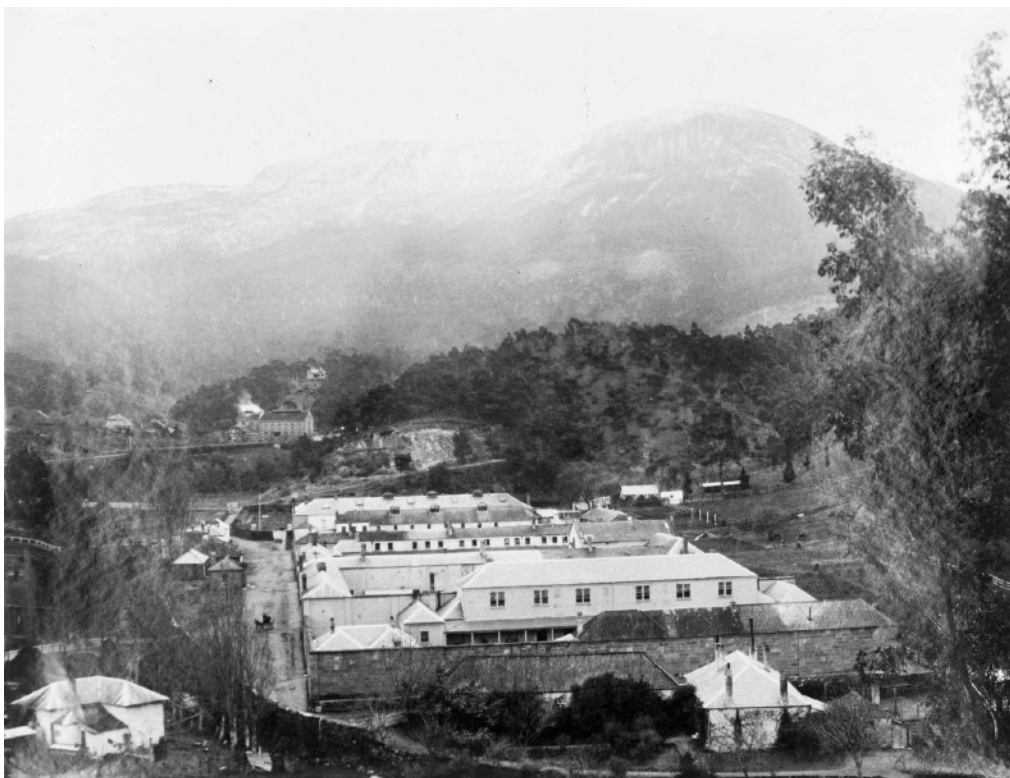
Associate Professor Nick Carter from the Australian Catholic University along with Dr Jonathan Durrant, Principal Lecturer in History at the University of South Wales have implemented a work plan for student involvement in the project. 11 keen students have signed up to the research team, one of whom will be working on Welsh materials. As Gwent archives is unfortunately still closed to the public due to continuing Covid-19 restrictions in Wales, CI Carter came up with some alternative digital media sources for students to research such as online newspaper archives. The student research team will meet weekly in 2021 and we look forward to updates on their findings.

Publications

- Project Lead, Dr Tony Moore from Monash University and Dr Mike Davis from Griffith University, have recently had an [article published in the Age](#) and other Nine (formally Fairfax) group of newspapers, where CI Davis was interviewed for some direct quotes. The article has been published in mastheads around the country which is excellent PR for the project!
- Adjunct Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stewart, Professor Michael Quinlan (University of NSW) and Dr Richard Tuffin (University of New England) have an article about to come out in the *Journal of Australian Colonial History* on collusion and convict protest.
- CI Quinlan and CI Maxwell-Stewart will be presenting some of their work on data and methodology at a Labour History conference in Adelaide in February 2021.
- CI Maxwell-Stewart was asked to submit an article to *Historical Life Course Studies*, documenting the Tasmanian dataset. Congratulations to fellow Conviction Politics team members, Dr Monika Schwarz and Dr Trudy Cowley who are also attributed authors to this piece.
- Both CI Moore and CI Maxwell-Stewart are also contributing chapters to the book *Bentham and Australia*, edited by Dr Tim Causer on behalf of the Bentham Project in the UK which is due for submission early March 2021.
- CI Moore also published the chapter 'The Australian Working Class Art Field: its making and unmaking', in *The Australian Art Field: practices, policies, institutions*, edited by Tony Bennett et. al for the *Routledge Research in Art History* series.

2021 Next Steps

- Now that travel borders are open between Victoria and Tasmania we will be scheduling a face to face meeting early in the New Year with our Partner Organisation, Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery, to progress the planning phase of the traveling exhibition.
- Roar Film will begin shooting interviews with key talent in February 2021 in Melbourne, Sydney and Hobart.
- Lead Chief Investigator Tony Moore to present Conviction Politics to the board at the next People's History Museum annual meeting where they will make decisions on future programme themes.
- More meetings with each Partner Organisations to further discuss unique pathways into the online transmedia hub to suit their key audiences and members.



Cascades Female Factory - Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office