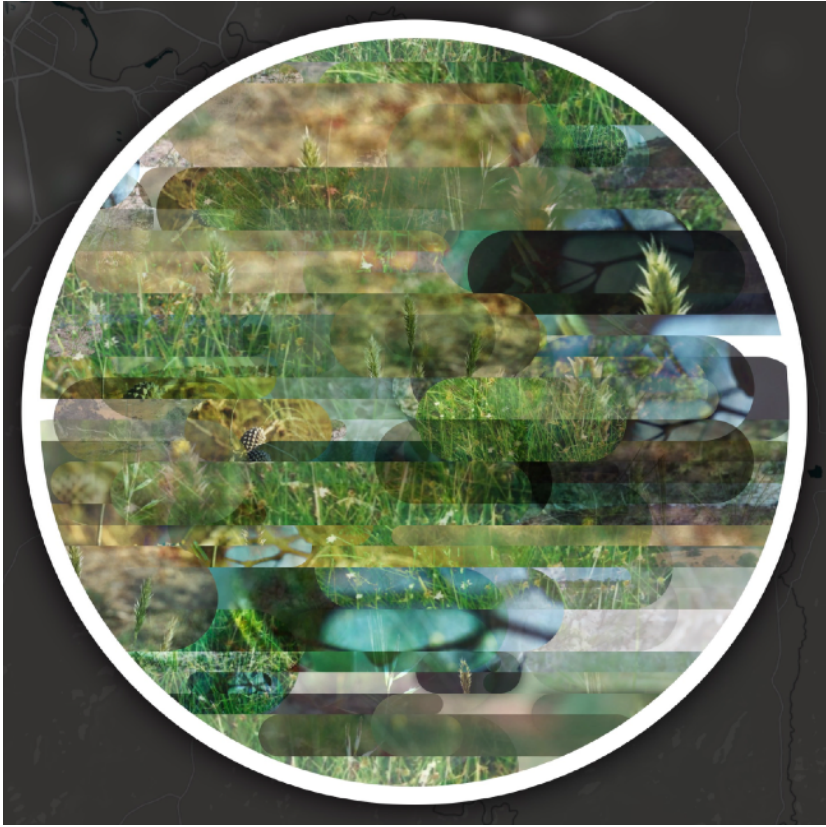


# Research Matters Forum

## Mitchell Whitelaw | Kathryn Robinson

### Mitchell Whitelaw - Visualising Living Landscapes



Digital collections and scientific observations provide rich traces of our living landscapes, both historical and contemporary. What design opportunities does this material offer? How might we redesign representations of landscape - spanning cartography, illustration, imaging and data visualisation - in a way that ethically renders their vibrance, complexity and autonomy. At a time when the living environment is undergoing rapid, perhaps catastrophic change, these questions are urgent. This talk presents early work in what will be a long-term practice-led research project.

**Mitchell Whitelaw** is an academic, writer and practitioner with interests in digital art, design and culture, especially generative systems, data-aesthetics, and digital cultural collections. His work has appeared in journals including *Leonardo*, *Digital Creativity*, *Fibreculture*, and *Senses and Society*. His current work spans materiality, data and culture, with a practical focus on visualisation and interface design for digital heritage and environmental data. <http://mtchl.net>

### Kathryn Robinson - Rediscovering cultural identity in a digital age

The young adult generation of indigenous people in the mining town of Sorowako (South Sulawesi Indonesia) are fighting back against their perceived cultural erasure as a consequence of the adverse dispossession of the village estate forty years ago. While expressions of identity by their parents and grandparents focused on loss land and livelihoods to make way for mining, this current generation also link the loss of the village estate to loss of their cultural identity. The pre-colonial culture of their region is documented in several museum collections in Europe that date from expeditions at the turn of the twentieth century, when this region was still outside direct colonial control. These young, well-educated cultural activists are tapping into digital museum collections to re-present their culture and history, to solidify their moral claims for recognition, but also to prepare their community for an anticipated tourism-led post-mine economy. How is this interface managed and what does this case tell us about possibilities and responsibilities of digital collections and end users?



*The monthly Research Matters Forum is co-hosted by The Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies, The Centre for Digital Humanities Research and the Centre for Art History and Art Theory and supports cross-disciplinary discussion about the ongoing research by our staff, research students and the wider professional and academic community. Sessions run in a 20/20/20 format with two short papers followed by a discussion. If you would like to present please get in touch. Maya Haviland [maya.haviland@anu.edu.au](mailto:maya.haviland@anu.edu.au) | Katrina Grant [katrina.grant@anu.edu.au](mailto:katrina.grant@anu.edu.au) | Chaitanya Sambrani [chaitanya.sambrani@anu.edu.au](mailto:chaitanya.sambrani@anu.edu.au)*

June 6th 11:30am-12:30pm  
Sir Roland Wilson Building Theaterette  
All Welcome