



Australian  
National  
University

Humanities  
Research  
Centre

TUESDAY 16 APRIL 2024



'Starstruck: Australian Movie Portraits', NPG Canberra, 2017.

Image courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery of Australia. Photographer: Mark Mohell.

SPECIAL EDITION  
WORK IN PROGRESS  
SEMINAR SERIES

## Images in context: national photography exhibitions as sites of cross-disciplinary research

10:00am  
Tues 16  
April

Baldessin Bld  
Room E4.44  
Proudfoot  
Room, Level 4

I explore the interpretation and exhibition of photographs drawn from four collections in national archive, museum, and library contexts in Canberra Australia. My focus is how exhibition curation can instigate cross-disciplinary and collaborative research that can contribute to new interpretations of photographs in these institutional settings. The three photography exhibitions, held between 2003 and 2018, provide an overview on the epistemological qualities curatorial research entails, particularly the ability to cross between established disciplines of knowledge.

I conducted over 50 in-depth interviews with staff members and photographers, focusing on their experience working on those exhibitions. By considering exhibitions as research sites that can produced their own effects, I argue that curatorial work practices as a method can generate different types of meaning and contexts suggested by the collections themselves, moving photographs between genres and established categories of document and art object.



### Jennifer Coombes

*PhD Candidate in the ANU ICCR Program*

Jennifer Coombes is an assistant director at the Territory Records Office and ArchivesACT. She has previously worked a curator and archivist at the National Library of Australia, the Australian War Memorial and the National Film and Sound Archive. Jennifer holds a Master of Arts (Museums and Collections) from the ANU.

### HRC 2024 Annual Theme – Time, Place, Everywhen

2024 marks the 50th year of the ANU Humanities Research Centre (HRC). To celebrate, the HRC is supporting research into different ideas of time and place and paying respect to Indigenous people through the theme of 'everywhen'.

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