

ICS SEMINAR SERIES 2024

Deep Science and Cultural research: Quantum
Theory and new insights into racism and
revolution in Western Australia, 1920-1935

7 November 2024 | 11:30am - 1:00pm

Room: EA.G.13 Parramatta South Campus

Abstract

This presentation aims to provoke explorations of meta-issues of theory and method in Cultural Research today. It focuses on one issue that has been important and problematic throughout that time: relationships between Sciences and non-Sciences. The paper argues that there has been a powerful, hidden premise in dominant discursive regimes that makes interdisciplinarity between scientific and non-scientific disciplines seem difficult and renders the use of Big Theory in Science (Deep Science) seemingly illegitimate. It proposes a counter-ontology and epistemology that recognizes similarities and differences across all aspects of the universe at all scales, requiring descriptions and analyses capable of addressing these differences across this scope. It argues that Cultural Research needs enhanced methods and theories that freely incorporate the best Science. This presentation illustrates this by using ideas from Quantum Theory to frame research into two related problems: What could cultural research have contributed to the Voice Referendum? What contribution could my own research make into a single location and time, specifically frontier Western Australia between 1920 and 1935? This presentation leaps without a safety net from a close reading of a Nobel-prize-winning article by Alain Quest to one text from the Referendum and two texts from 1930s WA. It uses Quest's article to propose and apply three points of theory/method to cultural research: 1) radical multi-scalarity, envisaging complex related scales from unimaginably small to incomprehensibly large; 2) quantum entanglement and social causality; 3) metaphor as a method across all fields of knowledge.

Biography

Bob Hodge, FAHA, is Emeritus Professor and foundation member of ICS, author or co-author of 21 books, including *Myths of Oz* (1987) *Darkside of the Dream* (1991), *Social Semiotics* (1988) and *Social Semiotics for a complex world* (2017).

Presenter: Bob Hodge
Discussant: Juan Salazar
Chair: Brett Neilson

NEXT SEMINAR:
14 NOVEMBER