

**WESTERN SYDNEY**  
UNIVERSITY



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Institute for Culture  
and Society

**Photos of the past:  
the negotiation of  
identity and belonging at  
Australian tourism sites**



# The project

This project offers a comparative analysis of the way Australia's past is constructed and remembered at three categories of heritage tourism sites (seven sites in total). The project will examine how the messages presented at each site are used to underpin present day constructions of national belonging and will do so by targeting 'affect' (felt responses to atmosphere, mood and message).

Methodologically, the project will involve the ubiquitous touristic practice of 'photographing', which will allow the research to move beyond notions of representation and consider how processes of 'taking photos' can be used to access sensory experiences, recover memories and imbue touristic sites with meaning.

This project will explore the way visitors construct and express identity at a range of tourism sites in Australia. Focussing upon the practices of photography, the research will provide a detailed analysis of negotiations of belonging, which in turn may be used to facilitate debate over the pressing contemporary issue of national cohesion.

## RESEARCHER

Associate Professor Emma Waterton

## FUNDING

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It champions collaborative engaged research in the humanities and social sciences for a globalising digital age, and is the largest dedicated research concentration of its kind in Australia.

The Institute encourages collaboration from Australian and international institutions, and students interested in postgraduate studies.



*Photographs by Emma Waterton.*