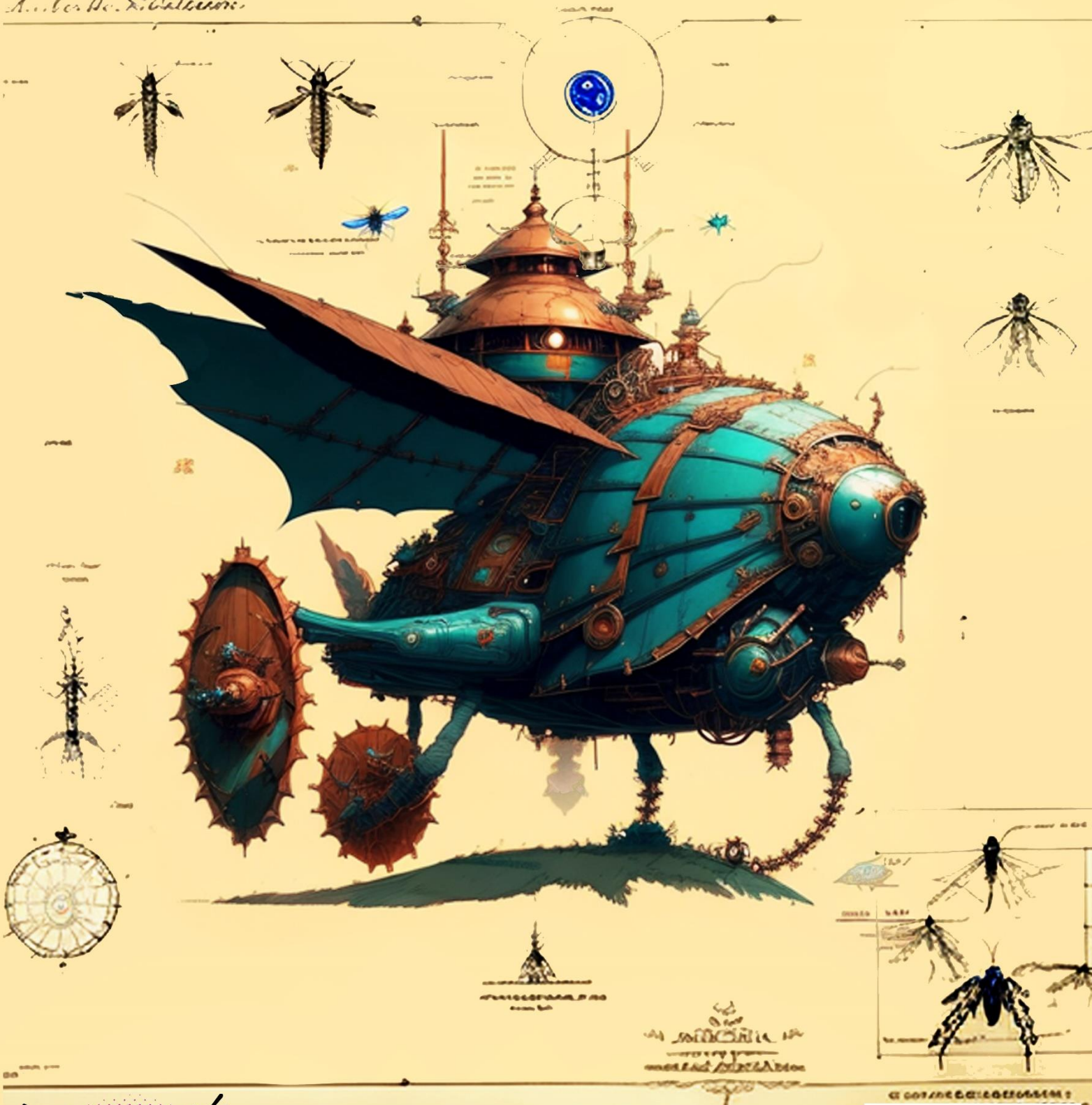


# FLYING HIGH: AVIATION IN POPULAR CULTURE AVIATION CULTURES MARK VII

*Number No. 2014/2015*



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ALICE GORMAN

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY



## Aviation – Day One – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023

All times are in Australian Eastern Standard Time (UTC +10 hours)

0925	930	Acknowledgment of Country	Jo Coghlan
930	945	Welcome address	Alistair Noble
945	1100	<b>Chair Jo Coghlan</b> KEYNOTE - Space Travel and Popular Culture in Australia: A Black Hole in National Identity	Alice Gorman
1100	1115	<b>Comfort Break / Networking</b>	
<b>Panel Two Chair Huw Nolan</b>			
1115	1130	The “Flying Coffin” Goes to War: Brewster Buffaloes in the Early Pacific, 1941-42.	Jeff Schultz
1130	1145	Early bomb culture? Responding to the shadow of the Zeppelin, 1914-1918/1939	Brett Holman
1145	1200	Dreaming of flight: Australian and New Zealand high school boys’ depictions of military aviation during the Second World War	Liam Barnsdale
<b>1200</b>	<b>1220</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Questions</b>
1205	1220	<b>Comfort Break / Networking</b>	
<b>Panel Three Chair Lisa Hackett</b>			
1220	1235	“The wind rises, we must try to live”, access to dreams, hope and devastation via the pilot’s seat in Studio Ghibli films	Huw Nolan, Jo Coghlan and Lesley McLean
1235	1250	Cosmic Encounters: Exploring the Relevance and Cultural Significance of Space Exploration and Aviation in Popular Anime	Arpan Mitra
1250	1305	Flights of Fantasy: Fantastic Beasts and Magical Machines	Sakti Sekhar Dash
<b>1305</b>	<b>1325</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Questions</b>
1325	1425	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>Panel Four Chair James Kightly</b>			
1425	1440	Our black box obsession: air accident investigation in popular culture	Tash Heap
1440	1455	For All Womankind?: Propaganda values of putting women into NASA uniforms	Lisa Hackett & Jo Coghlan
1455	1510	A Popular Culture History of the Festival of the Winds and Aviation at Bondi Beach	Donna Lee Brien
<b>1510</b>	<b>1530</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Questions</b>
1530	1540	<b>Comfort Break / Networking</b>	
<b>Panel Five Chair Jo Coghlan</b>			
1540	1555	Looking up in the sky: Exploring the Politics of flying in Science Fiction	Sayan Chattopadhyay
1555	1610	Portugal's WWII Sunken Plane Wrecks	Carlos Tomaz
1610	1625	Flights of Fancy: aviation fiction for girls in comics and novels	Nina Baker
1625	1645	<b>Questions</b>	
1645	1700	<b>Closing remarks</b>	
			<b>End of Day one</b>

## Aviation – Day Two – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023

All times are in Australian Eastern Standard Time (UTC +10 hours)

<b>Panel One Chair Huw Nolan</b>			
<b>1040</b>	<b>1045</b>	<b>Welcome/Acknowledgment of Country</b>	<b>Huw Nolan</b>
1045	1100	Build your Own Saturn V at home! Model kits as expressions of the popularity of space travel	Guillaume de Syon
1100	1115	"'I've Always Dreamed about Flying': Flight and Self-Actualization in Animated Disney Films,"	Brennan Thomas
1115	1130	"So Young, So Brave:" The March 1971 Hijacking Incident and Air Piracy in the Philippines	Rafael C. Romero
<b>1130</b>	<b>1150</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Questions</b>
<b>1150</b>	<b>1200</b>	<b>Comfort Break / Networking</b>	
<b>Panel Two Chair James Kightly</b>			
1200	1215	The Spectacle of a Crash: Prosthetic Acquisition and Synaptic Pruning in Contemporary Film Narratives	Manodip Chakraborty
1215	1230	What can be learned in "just three days": Aviation archaeology as presented in Channel 4's Time Team series, 1999-2005	Daniel Leahy
1230	1245	When the world stopped flying: A case study of the impacts of COVID19 on aviation travel for offshore Australian citizens	Simona Strungaru
<b>1245</b>	<b>1305</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Questions</b>
1305	1400	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>Panel Two Chair Tash Heap</b>			
1400	1415	"It's not flying, it's falling with style": Demystifying a child's psychological development with aviation through select Fantasy and Sci-Fi texts	Debraj Biswas & Sayan Chattopadhyay
1415	1430	'I wanted wings.' Donald Duck, Pilot Officer Prune, and a motorbike: the popular culture of Stalag Luft III	Kristen Alexander
1430	1445	Hollywood's Greatest Aviator: Jimmy Stewart's Two Lives of Flying	James Kightly
<b>1445</b>	<b>1505</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Questions</b>
1505	1515	<b>Comfort Break / Networking</b>	
<b>Panel Three Chair Jo Coghlan</b>			
1515	1530	"A Screaming Comes Across the Sky": Major Charles Black, the V-2 and Gravity's Rainbow	Prudence Black
1530	1545	Flying to Exotic Conferences in 2023: The costly presentations of Dr. Dorian Grey	Nicholas Rowe
1545	1600	"Breaking through the Glass Ceiling: Exploring the Experience of Women Pilots in the Nigerian Aviation Industry	Olajide Stephen Ogunmakinju & Oluwatomilola Ayeni
1600	1615	'The End of the World': British aerial warfare literature before the First World War	Michael Terry
<b>1615</b>	<b>1640</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Questions</b>
1640	1700	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	
			Jo Coghlan & Tash Heap

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## *Welcome!*

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Welcome to the sixth symposium of the University of New England's Pop Culture Research Network, PopCRN in association with [Aviation Cultures](#). We are extremely excited to host this diverse group of academic papers, unified under the theme of Aviation in Popular Culture

We have speakers from across the globe joining us, so thank you for getting up early and/or staying up late. We have done our best to incorporate everyone's time zones. This also means we have forgone the traditional thematic panels in favour of availability. We hope unexpected synergies will occur and each panel will be inspiring. For those who miss out because of the time differences. We will be recording the presentations and they will be made available via the [PopCRN website](#).

The Popular Culture Research Network (PopCRN) brings together researchers across a variety of disciplines to further popular culture studies. Established in 2021 in response to the University of New England's strong research output in the popular culture field, it provides a centre of excellence to showcase academic talent. It provides a venue for researchers to share and collaborate on work. PopCRN also provides publishing opportunities for those presenters who would like to extend the reach of their work. Our symposiums have attracted scholars from around the world, working in a diverse array of disciplines, all connected through popular culture phenomena.

Aviation Cultures is a series of conferences where researchers and practitioners come together to share their knowledge and ideas about flight, and its place in history and society. First held in 2015, Aviation Cultures has grown and evolved from small beginnings into major gatherings of people interested in not just what aircraft are and what they can do, but also what they mean, and have meant. To understand what kinds of things Aviation Cultures is about, read more about [our history](#), look at what we discussed in [past conferences](#), or watch [our introductory videos](#).

The popular culture field stretches across a number of modes, including television, music, fashion, theatre, literature, sport and film. Popular culture is an important aspect of society to study as it reflects issues such as trends, norms, and social identity. PopCRN furthers research into the field through collaborations of its members, with a focus on interdisciplinary work. PopCRN researchers are established in their field and their work represents the cutting edge of popular culture study. We aim to give our presenters publishing opportunities. A selection of our recent edited volumes include:

- Special edition of the [International Journal of James Bond Studies](#) (April 2023). Featuring selected papers from our 2022 Symposium "The World is Not Enough: The Impact of James Bond on Popular Culture."
- "Uniform", a special edition of [M/C Journal](#) (March 2023). Featuring 11 articles interrogating uniform and uniformity in media and culture.
- "Masculinity on Film", a special edition of [Film, Fashion & Consumption](#) (November 2022). Featuring articles examining how the masculinities are constructed on screen through the use of fashion.

Please contact us if you would like to be a part of PopCRN and stay abreast of PopCRN news.

Thank you, we hope you enjoy the symposium,

Lisa, Tash, Jo and Huw

## Join our Aviation Symposium via Zoom

If the link does not work, further help can be found at the end of the booklet.

### Join us on social media!



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[Aviation Cultures Facebook](#)

*The University of New England (Armidale campus) acknowledges that we are on the country of the Anaiwan people, who are the traditional custodians on whose land this University stands. We also pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.*

## Space Travel and Popular Culture in Australia: A Black Hole in National Identity

*Associate Professor Alice Gorman, Flinders University, Adelaide*

### *Biography*

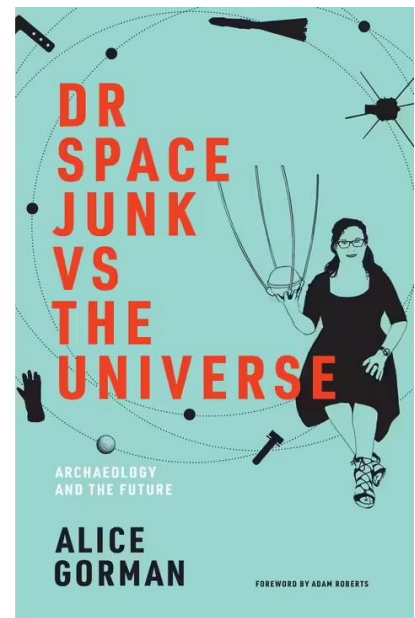
Dr Alice Gorman is an internationally recognised leader in the field of space archaeology. Her research on space exploration has been featured in National Geographic, New Scientist, and Archaeology magazine. She is a faculty member of the International Space University's Southern Hemisphere Space Program in Adelaide.

Her book *Dr Space Junk vs the Universe: Archaeology and the Future* (NewSouth Publishing, MIT Press, 2019) won the NIB Award People's Choice and the John Mulvaney Book Award, as well as being shortlisted for the NSW and Queensland Premier's Awards and the Adelaide Festival Awards.

She has worked extensively in Indigenous heritage management, providing advice for mining industry, urban development, government departments, local councils and Native Title groups in NSW, WA, SA and Queensland. She is also a specialist in stone tool analysis, and the Aboriginal use of bottle glass after European settlement.

Alice is a member of the Advisory Council of the Space Industry Association of Australia, a member of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, and President of the Anthropological Society of South Australia. She tweets as @drspacejunk.

**Twitter:** [@drspacejunk](https://twitter.com/drspacejunk)





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*Panel two*

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**The “Flying Coffin” Goes to War: Brewster Buffaloes in the Early Pacific, 1941-42**

*Jeff Schultz, Luzerne County Community College in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania.*

While many stories of fighter planes revolve around glory, there will always be those who do not share in the awards common to often rosy memories of conflicts past. For every aerial ace there were five planes that did not return, yet those who fell in combat still warrant consideration as they were not merely the defeated and proof of another aviator’s prowess.

The Allied pilots who flew the Brewster 339 “Buffalo” fighter in the early Pacific fighting did not enjoy many successes, nor did they stop the Imperial Japanese onrush from overwhelming most of their colonial possessions in a sweeping December 1941 to mid-1942 advance. Not merely Americans, but also a number of British, Commonwealth and Dutch pilots flew the American-made Brewster 339 fighters which fought bravely, yet proved incapable against the more agile Imperial Japanese adversaries.

This paper will use both primary and secondary sources to give a sense of the valiant Allied struggle to counter Imperial Japan using the Brewster fighter in the early months of World War II until the tide of war shifted.

*Biography*

Jeff Schultz is an Associate Professor of History at Luzerne County Community College in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania. He earned both a Masters in History and a Masters in Political Science from Central Michigan University. He teaches history and political science to undergraduates.

He has presented a number of scholarly papers covering military topics from World War I to Vietnam at various history conferences, symposia and other events. He also authored Chapter #12 in Timothy Heck and B.A. Friedman, eds. *On Contested Shores: The Evolving Role of Amphibious Operations in the History of Warfare* (Marine Corps University Press, 2020).

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## Early bomb culture? Responding to the shadow of the Zeppelin, 1914-1918/1939

*Brett Holman, University of Canberra*

The German air raids on Britain between 1914 and 1918 constituted the first strategic aerial war in history. Britain's defences against these Zeppelins and Gothas were not only military, but emotional, through cultivation of the correct attitude of 'British pluck' by politicians, priests and the press. British popular culture played an often-contradictory part in this process, acknowledging the threat of aerial bombardment while simultaneously seeking to undermine its power through ridicule or reassurance. In this paper I will highlight the key types of British cultural response to the shadow of the Zeppelin, including plays, films, novels, cartoons, jokes, souvenirs and charms. I will finally consider whether this early 'bomb culture' had wider cultural legacies, or whether it was merely a flash in the wartime blackout.

### *Biography*

Dr Brett Holman is a professional associate of the Centre for Creative and Cultural Research at the University of Canberra and is the author of *The Next War in the Air: Civilian Fears of Strategic Bombardment in Britain, 1908-1941* (Routledge, 2016). His research interests include air-mindedness and the aeroplane in British and Australian culture; the theory, anticipation and experience of aerial bombardment in Britain, c.1900 to 1945, particularly in the civilian and public sphere; aviation spectacle and aerial theatre in the modern period; and mystery aircraft scares in the early twentieth century. He blogs at Airminded: <https://airminded.org>; [bholman@airminded.org](mailto:bholman@airminded.org)



*Dreaming of flight: Australian and New Zealand high school boys' depictions of  
military aviation during the Second World War*  
*Liam Barnsdale, The University of Queensland*

Throughout the Second World War, news of the great aviation events of the conflict spread across the globe and captured the imagination of great swathes of many societies. Particularly receptive to the stories of the excitement of aerial dogfights, the tension of bombing operations, and the tragedies of airmen's deaths were adolescent males, many of whom aspired to join the ranks of their nations' air arms and emulate those aviators whose antics they so eagerly followed in film, print and radio. Distance had very little impact in these youths' fervour, and the enthusiastic fascination that Australian and New Zealand adolescent males had for aviation were reflected in their writings and drawings published in school magazines. This paper will examine the plethora of Australian and New Zealand boys' depictions of the air war in drawings, poems and short stories published in secondary school magazines between 1939 and 1945, using these to give an insight into the perceptions held not only by these individuals but the broader civilian population of aviation and aviators during the Second World War.

*Biography*

Liam Barnsdale is a PhD candidate at The University of Queensland, having commenced his study there in April 2020. His thesis examines perspectives on and motivations behind school cadet training in Australia and New Zealand during the Second World War, examining the diverse views on cadet training across socio-economic, racial, religious and regional divides between and within the two countries. Prior to this Liam completed his Master of Arts at Victoria University of Wellington, and his MA thesis, "The sort of man": Politics, Clothing and Characteristics in British Propaganda Depictions of Royal Air Force Aviators, 1939-1945', examines the depictions of aviators in British Second World War propaganda.

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*“The wind rises, we must try to live”, access to dreams, hope and devastation via the pilot’s seat in  
the films of Studio Ghibli*

*Huw Nolan, Jo Coghlan and Lesley McLean, University of New England.*

This paper explores the role of airships in Studio Ghibli films as conveyors of imagination, wonder, and morality. Drawing upon Cora Diamond's theoretical framework, we analyse the thematic elements and philosophical implications present in these films. In Studio Ghibli's storytelling, airships often symbolise vehicles that transport characters to spiritual realms beyond human limitations. Using Cora Diamond's understanding of imagination as transformative, we examine how airships facilitate journeys to fantastical worlds and spark imaginative exploration. This imagination helps us recognize the moral significance of our actions and their impact on others. Airships in Studio Ghibli films serve as powerful symbols of transcendence, allowing characters to venture into spiritual realms that challenge conventional notions of existence. They inspire awe and wonder, evoking an alien sense of limitless possibilities. By embracing Cora Diamond's theoretical framework, we explore how these airships facilitate transformative journeys that ignite the flame of imagination to soar through liminal territories. By examining the role of airships in Studio Ghibli films, guided by Cora Diamond's philosophical framework, we aim to deepen our understanding of the intricate interplay between imagination, wonder, and morality. We explore how Ghibli's fantastical realms piloted through airships can spark transformative experiences and inspire moral reflection. In essence, airships act as conduits for the expansion of our imagination and the recognition of the ethical dimensions of our actions.

*Biography*

Huw Nolan is an animal welfare scientist. Huw's research investigates the impact human imagination, beliefs and intuitions have on the welfare of animals.

Jo Coghlan is an Associate Professor in Sociology and Politics at the University of New England, Armidale, NSW. Her research interests are in popular culture and material culture with an emphasis on gender, political representations, fashion studies and death studies.

Lesley McLean is a lecturer in Philosophy and Religion within the School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences at the University of New England. She has published in the area of animal ethics (her philosophical interests) and is currently researching the intersection of 'cults', popular culture and dark tourism (her religious studies interests).

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## *Cosmic Encounters: Exploring the Relevance and Cultural Significance of Space*

### *Exploration and Aviation in Popular Anime*

*Arpan Mitra, Independent Scholar, India*

This paper delves into the intersection of space exploration and aviation in popular anime, examining their relevance, sophistication, and allusions to multiple theories within the realm of popular culture. By analysing prominent anime series such as "Cowboy Bebop," "Space Battleship Yamato," "Mobile Suit Gundam," and "Macross," this research explores how these narratives encapsulate the human desire for exploration, featuring futuristic technologies and imaginative concepts that push the boundaries of scientific plausibility. Moreover, it investigates the cultural significance of space exploration and aviation anime, highlighting their role in expressing national identity and pride, particularly in the context of Japan's historical connection to aerospace industries and its space program. Furthermore, this research uncovers the socio-political commentary and ethical dilemmas presented in anime series such as "Neon Genesis Evangelion," addressing themes related to the human condition, existentialism, and the consequences of scientific progress. Additionally, it examines the metaphorical and symbolic representation of space exploration and aviation, exemplified by anime series like "The Vision of Escaflowne," wherein these elements serve as metaphors for personal growth, overcoming obstacles, and the pursuit of dreams. Through this analysis, this research underscores how popular anime serves as a medium for contemplating the human curiosity, technological advancements, cultural significance, socio-political issues, and personal journeys intertwined with space exploration and aviation, offering a multifaceted exploration of these themes within the context of popular culture.

#### *Biography*

Arpan Mitra is a high school English teacher currently working at Divine Mercy School, Howrah. He has obtained his postgraduate degree in English Language and Literature from the University of Calcutta and has also cleared the National Eligibility Test conducted by the University Grants Commission of India. Apart from teaching, he pursues independent research, and his areas of interest include postcolonial literature and theory, children's literature and culture, digital humanities and literature, disability studies and literature, and popular culture.

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## *Flights of Fantasy: Fantastic Beasts and Magical Machines*

*Sakti Sekhar Dash, Fellow of Social Science Research Council, Open Association of  
Research Society, USA*

When Daedalus, the great artificer from Greek mythology fashioned wings of wax for himself and his son, he was affirming humankind's primal fantasy to take flight. The absence of wings and watching the birds taking to the air fueled an insatiable desire among the humans to fly. In literature and popular culture, several motifs pertaining to aviation have emerged over the ages. If Daedalus represented one of the earliest motifs of aviation, modern literature and popular culture have conjured images of fantastic beasts and magical machines that aid humans in flying. In the Harry Potter Series several motifs related to flying have been employed by J.K. Rowling. Among those, flying broomsticks are the most common, which has its roots in medieval lore. It was generally believed that witches and wizards could fly on broomsticks, and this belief has remained entrenched in popular imagination. Similarly, there are references to magical flying carpets in the Harry Potter Series. The motif of flying carpets has middle eastern origins and the same has been a part of popular culture, literature and imagination.

Generally, the human imagination has vested commonplace objects with the power of flight. But, the human mind and imagination have not been able to resist the fantastic images of birds and beasts soaring in the sky; this led to the creation of multiple myths and legends celebrating fantastic creatures with the powers of flight. From Pegasus to Buckbeak, the presence of flying beasts in literature and popular culture has not been found lacking. Human imagination through popular culture and literature has made a concerted effort to represent its primal fantasy to soar through the skies.

### *Biography*

Sakti Sekhar Dash is a Fellow of Social Science Research Council, Open Association of Research Society, USA. Currently, he is engaged as a senior researcher in the Department of English, Ravenshaw University, India. With a profound interest in literature, history, and culture, he has extensively studied the myths, legends, and folklore of ancient Greece, Egypt, Rome, and India. As a researcher he loves to revisit and re-examine ancient texts from multiple perspectives. An experienced educator, he has served as the editor-in-chief of an international peer-reviewed journal. He has extensively written and published on a diverse range of topics, including, modernism, Greek drama, environmental studies, Theatre of the Absurd, and Shakespearean drama.

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***Our Black Box Obsession: Air Accident Investigation in Popular Culture***

*Natasha Heap, University of Southern Queensland*

The cockpit voice recorder, later the flight data recorder, both colloquially called the “black box” was invented by Australian David Warren in the mid-1950s. This technology records how an aircraft was being flown moments before a crash. This recording and analysis of this data spawned a new industry of air crash investigation with books, television series, podcasts and even feature films on air accidents. It has also led to the rise of the “celebrity” air crash investigator and constant media headlines after an accident shouting for the recovery of the “black box” to determine the accident’s cause. But is our obsession with the “black box” and the celebrity air crash investigator warranted? Can the “black box” tell us all we need to know about aviation accidents? This paper explores how the “black box” and air crash investigation has been misrepresented by some and misunderstood by the travelling public.

*Biography*

Natasha Heap has been involved in the aviation industry for over 20 years. After receiving her commercial pilot licence in 1998 at the Royal Newcastle Aero Club she has worked as a flight instructor, charter pilot, search and rescue pilot and a Training Captain for QantasLink – Australia’s largest regional airline. She is now a Lecturer in Aviation at the University of Southern Queensland, bringing a wealth of industry experience to the tertiary sector and is driven to connect theoretical approaches to a practical application in the industry. Natasha’s research interests are multidisciplinary. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Ancient History from Macquarie University and a Master of Philosophy in Biological Anthropology from James Cook University. Her research focus is on historic aviation, aviation archaeology, biological anthropology, dental anthropology, forensic anthropology and archaeology, with a current focus on the application of forensic archaeological methods in the area of air accident investigation.

## *Propaganda values of putting women into NASA uniforms*

*Lisa J. Hackett & Jo Coghlan, University of New England, Australia*

When NASA started Program Mercury in 1958 the aim was to put a man into orbit and return him safely to Earth. The astronauts involved in the program were known as the Mercury 7. Having never recruited astronauts before, NASA put together selection criteria that would become the standard for future space programs. The central policy was that recruits would have professional education in flight and engineering, and extensive experience as test pilots in the military. This reduced the possible selection pool to 508 individuals, all of whom were male. The Mercury 7 were subjected to a rigorous protocol of medical tests designed to evaluate their ability to withstand space travel. Unbeknownst to NASA, the medical contractor who was employed to run the tests secretly recruited 13 women pilots to undergo the same testing. The women often outperformed the men in these tests. Jackie Cochran, famed aviator and Leader of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) of the Second World War was instrumental in the development of the Mercury 13 programme, her husband owning the testing company contracted to NASA. Despite the success of the Mercury programme, the use of women astronauts was politically controversial and were shut out of the programme for decades. The female astronaut would be Sally Ryde in 1983.

*For All Mankind* (2019-) reimagines the history of space exploration, taking its inspiration from the imagined impact of Russian landing on the moon first. Putting the US on the backfoot, the space programme becomes central to not only propaganda, but also the economic development of each of the cold war powers. When Russian quickly lands a female cosmonaut, Anastasia Belikova, on the moon, reimagining Valentina Tereshkova's pioneering space mission as a lunar one, the US president orders NASA to recruit female astronauts to counter the Russian propaganda.

This presentation interrogates the real and imagined future that *For All Mankind* presents, asking what socio-political differences could have been arguably materialised had the Mercury 13 women been allowed into the US space programme at its inception.

### *Biography*

Dr Lisa J Hackett is a lecturer at the University of New England, Armidale NSW. Her research interests included popular and material culture, particular pertaining to clothing and uniform, with an emphasis on crime, gender and political representations. She is the founder, alongside Associate Professor Jo Coghlan and Huw Nolan of PopCRN – the Popular Culture Research Network. She is currently working on the women pilot's uniforms in the Second World War and fashion in crime. Her most recent publications are 'The Mad Kings of The Royals: Fashioning

transgressions in royal popular culture television’ with Jo Coghlan was published in *Film, Fashion and Consumption* 2022, ‘The Inculcative Power of Australian Cadet Corps Uniforms in the 1900s and 1910s’ with Nathan Wise in *M/C Journal* 2023 and ‘Parliamentary Dress: Gendered Contestations of the Political Uniform’, also in the *M/C Journal*.

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Jo Coghlan is an Associate Professor in Sociology and Politics at the University of New England, Armidale, NSW. Her research interests are in popular culture and material culture with an emphasis on gender, political representations, fashion studies and death studies. Her most recent publications include ‘The Mad Kings of The Royals: Fashioning transgressions in royal popular culture television’ with Lisa Hackett, (*Film Fashion and Consumption* 2022), ‘Othering the ‘bag-lady’: Examining stereotypes of vulnerable and homeless women in popular culture’ with Sue Smith (*Australasian Journal of Popular Culture* 2022), ‘‘Dressing Up’ two Democratic First Ladies: Fashion as political performance in America’ with Denise Rall, Lisa Hackett and Anita Boyd, (*Fashion, Women and Power: The Politics of Dress* 2022), ‘The History Bubble: Negotiating Authenticity in Romance Novels’ (*Media Culture Journal* 2021), and ‘Rebranded Pauline Hanson: A Party of Policy or Protest? (The Rise of Right Populism: Pauline Hanson’s One Nation and Australian Politics 2019).

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## *Flying High: Aviation in Popular Culture Conference*

*Donna Lee Brien, Australian Catholic University and Central Queensland University, Australia*

The Festival of the Winds is a spectacular kite flying festival that takes place at Bondi Beach each September. First held in 1978, this event has developed from an event of local to national and international significance. This presentation pieces together commentary in the popular press with information gleaned from Council records and community memories, together with material culture in terms of posters and photographs, to trace the history and development of the festival, as well as chart its many faceted associations with aviation. Alongside the story of the festival, this narrative provides a revealing window into aspects of Bondi Beach's history and its perception as a national icon, as well some insights into how contemporary history can be written using popular culture sources.

### *Biography*

Donna Lee Brien, BEd (Deakin), GCHEd (UNE), MA(Prelim) (USyd), MA (Writing) (Research) (UTS), PhD (QUT), is Emeritus Professor, Central Queensland University, Australia. Donna has authored or edited over 20 books and monographs and published over 300 journal articles, book chapters, scholarly conference papers and creative works, many of which deal with popular culture. Her latest books are *Speculative Biography: Opportunities, Experiments and Provocations* (2022) and *Paradox, Image and Identity: The Shadow Side of Nursing* (2020) both for Routledge, UK. Donna is currently studying for her second doctorate at the Australian Catholic University, writing a history of Bondi Beach.

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*Looking up in the sky: Exploring the Politics of flying in Science Fiction*

*Sayan Chattopadhyay, Adamas University, India*

Flying has been a source of fascination for centuries, and also been a major theme in Science Fiction (SF) and popular culture since the early days. From mythological "Icarus" to postmodern "Superman", from Jules Verne's "From the Earth to the Moon" to H.G. Wells' "The War of the Worlds", authors have explored the possibilities of flight and its implications for humanity in pop culture. In early science fiction, flying was often depicted as a form of transportation or exploration, with stories featuring airships, flying machines, and even people flying. SF stories often explored themes such as technological progress, human ingenuity, and our relationship with nature. They also provided an escape from reality into a world where anything was possible. As aviation technology has advanced over the years, it has enabled us to imagine far-reaching possibilities and SF stories have been at the forefront of this exploration, with their authors leveraging the advancement in aviation technologies to create captivating tales of space travel with an underlying Satiric Socio-political commentary. The article aims to explore how flying has meant a lot more than just flying while examining, how SF authors used it politically as a tool for world-building.

*Biography*

Sayan is a Ph.D. Scholar from Adamas University, Kolkata, India. He holds a Master's degree in English Literature and is a two-time University Topper. He researches in the field of Science Fiction Literature. He has keen interest in understanding the changing perspectives of postmodern concepts focused upon the "assumed" politicised Science Fiction of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century. His papers on Dystopian and Utopian concepts, Postanimalism and Politics in SF have been selected for presentation at multiple National and International conferences including the PopCRN 2022, SUS Conference 2022, etc. His publication includes research articles in Elsevier, MLA and EBSCO. [sayanphd11@gmail.com](mailto:sayanphd11@gmail.com)

## *Portugal's WWII Sunken Plane Wrecks*

*Carlos Tomaz*

Being Portugal a neutral country during WW2, it had nevertheless, quite a share of aviation history during those years. Warbird air crews were briefed, during missions between England and North Africa, if in the presence of unforeseeable circumstances, to land in Portugal. That main reason for that was the proximity to national government policies to the Allies, and because of that, to help aircrew to return quickly to their squadrons, in case they had to divert from the mission. There are stories of last minute boarding of those military, in the Casablanca famous air route. But there are also stories of drama, survival and loss when other aircraft did not make it to land. Some of these historical aircraft are still underwater, though there are a fair set of reports of most of them. Vintage Aero Club is a non profit organisation with the goals of restoring, educating and promoting the history of aviation. And among some other projects, we plan to explore those aircraft and aircrew stories including future underwater diving operations.

### *Biography*

Carlos Tomaz an airline captain and instructor flying for a European national airline. I should say I do actually love all aspects of aviation history. As a result, I'm also the president for Vintage Aero Club, a Portuguese non-profit organisation dedicated to restoring, educating and promoting aviation history. Along with a group of volunteers, we share our passion through air shows presences, restoration projects, public talks and making new generations more aware of what happened in aviation so far. I do also fly vintage aircraft, love the movies and a good book. Married and father of two lovely girls.

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## *Flights of Fancy: aviation fiction for girls in comics and novels*

*Nina Baker, independent historian, Scotland*

Everyone had probably heard of Biggles and Dan Dare and the similar 'ripping yarns' produced in novel and comic formats for boys in the mid-20th century. However there was a 'parallel universe' of stories for girls in the same period, in the same styles and often even by the same authors. This paper will look at some of the commonalities and differences in the themes and imagery of the stories aimed at the two genders. Whilst girls' novels are a rich field for academics in 'girlhood studies' this paper will focus on the technical accuracies in texts and images and the level of involvement of the girl heroines in actually piloting or maintaining aircraft as features of the plots. The sources will mainly be Girl and Eagle comics and the aviation books by W.E. Johns and Eileen Marsh (and her other pen names).

### *Biography*

Dr Nina Baker has had a varied career, having become a merchant navy deck officer on leaving school and later taken an engineering design degree in her 30s, from the University of Warwick. She then gained a PhD in concrete durability from the University of Liverpool. She has lived with her family in Glasgow since 1989, working variously as a materials lecturer in further education and as a research administrator and as an elected city councillor. Now retired from all that, she is an independent researcher, mainly specialising in the history of women in engineering. She is Deacon of the Incorporation of Hammermen of Glasgow for 2022-2023, is a Deputy Lieutenant in the Glasgow Lieutenancy and was appointed an OBE in the 2023 New Year's Honours' list, for services to the history of women in engineering.

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*End of Day one!*

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## *Day Two*

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### **Build your Own Saturn V at home! Model kits as expressions of the popularity of space travel**

*Guillaume de Syon, Albright College, USA*

This paper proposes to discuss a specific representation of the space adventure in the form of scale models that became popular in the 1950s and have continued to draw a following to the present day, as evidenced by the sale of replicas online in various materials, and the eager collecting of earlier iterations of such models. In so doing, it seeks to show how the public welcomed a familiarization with the potential of space travel, but also came to confuse potential realities with the associated fantasies of science fiction that also capitalized on model making. Even as video games and other forms of role play came to replace model kit building in the 1990s, the fascination for a precise representation of both real and hypothetical space vehicles remained, perhaps as a reflection of an additional longing for mechanical reproductions. These allowed the layperson to express their artistic fantasies and a technological understanding of their era, or even a sense of belonging to an imagined space community.

#### *Biography*

Guillaume de Syon teaches History at Albright College in Reading, PA, and researches various facets of the aerospace culture, from children's books to airline advertising. He is the author of *Zeppelin! Germany and the Airship, 1900-1939* (Johns Hopkins, 2002)

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## *"I've Always Dreamed about Flying": Flight and Self-Actualization in Animated Disney Films*

*Brennan Thomas, Saint Francis University, USA*

Flying is depicted in various animated films produced by Walt Disney during his lifetime. While some realistically portray birds and insects in flight (*Bambi*), others feature humans and earth-bound animals flying via supernatural means (*Peter Pan*), as well as fanciful creatures such as fairies, winged horses, and even extinct pterosaurs taking to the skies (*Fantasia*). Although flying serves practical purposes (e.g., to escape danger), underscoring its utility are enticements of freedom, fulfillment, and joy. Flight is relished by natural and supernatural fliers alike and is frequently associated with euphoric states triggered by reciprocated love or other positive changes in one's fortune. For Disney protagonists who improve their situations through bravery (*Dumbo*) or education (*The Sword in the Stone*), flight becomes the visible manifestation of self-actualization. Defined by psychologist Scot Barry Kaufman (2018) as the synthesis of drive, growth, compassion, and genuineness, self-actualization culminates with individuals' realization of their full potential. This presentation examines how Disney's romanticized depictions of flight reinforce self-actualization as the achievement of one's predestined fate—be it love, an exciting adventure, or a powerful leadership position. An analysis of aviation sequences from feature length films released by Disney studios from 1937 to 1967 is also included.

### *Biography*

Dr. Brennan Thomas is a professor of English at Saint Francis University (Loretto, Pennsylvania), where she directs the university's writing center and teaches courses in composition, pedagogy, and novel writing, as well as first-year and advanced seminars on the animated films of Disney and Pixar Studios. Her research interests include writing center administration and popular media studies. She has published scholarly articles on the social, political, and consumerist elements of the films *Casablanca*, *Changeling*, *A Christmas Story*, *Bambi*, *Pocahontas*, *Rope*, and *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*, as well as the television series *South Park*.

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*“So Young, So Brave:” The March 1971 Hijacking Incident and Air Piracy in the  
Philippines*

*Rafael C. Romero, Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology, Philippines*

On March 30, 1971, six university students in the Philippines managed to pull off one of the country’s rare instances of aircraft hijacking. Driven by ideology and a sense of adventure, these students took control of a Philippine Airlines jetliner and had it flown to China, at the height of the Cold War, in a successful bid to defect to the communist nation, with practically no injury to all parties involved. The hijacking partially led to the swift enactment of an anti-hijacking law in the Philippines.

Relegated since then to near obscurity as a historical footnote, the incident has attracted newfound interest among Filipinos through popular social media references, not only for the seemingly legendary feat from mere college students. This paper examines the 1971 incident in light of textual narratives in traditional media, as well as references to it in social media. The paper also attempts to analyse the event as well as the response towards it in terms of air safety regulations in the Philippines.

This paper also offers a comparison of the March 1971 hijacking incident with other high profile incidents of hijacking, albeit less successful, in the Philippines: the bloody storming of Philippine Airlines 116 in 1976; and the tragicomic, D.B. Cooper-style hijacking of Philippine Airlines 812 in 2000.

*Biography*

Rafael C. Romero is a July 2022 graduate of the Master in History (MIH) Program of the Department of History, Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology, Mindanao, the Philippines. A Filipino of Visayan descent, he is a native of General Santos City, on the same island of Mindanao, and obtained his baccalaureate degree in history at the Mindanao State University campus in General Santos.

Among his fields of research interests include aviation history, the precolonial history of the Philippines, Southeast Asian history and paleography, as well as Mindanao studies. He is also an avid photographer and enjoys the hobby of plane-spotting wherever possible.

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## *The Spectacle of a Crash: Prosthetic Acquisition and Synaptic Pruning in*

### *Contemporary Film Narratives*

*Manodip Chakraborty, Raiganj University, India*

The impregnation of the probable and improbable is the driving nostalgia of the contemporary film industry. The same is applicable to the portraiture of aeroplane crash narratives. On the one hand, films like *Memphis Belle* (1990) augment the horror of the Second World War, and on the other *Sully: Miracle on the Hudson* (2016) mirror the improbable error of the environmental factors within a domestic factor. At a superficial observation, these films (with their real-life cinematography) are trying to evoke an emphasis on the possibilities that remain outside of human cognition. However, at a deeper level, they enumerate a prosthetic consciousness. The pilot(s) sudden realization of an 'error' (which may or may not culminate in the destruction of 'life') parallels his or her evocation of an anti-human prognosis. Every action is being guided by the ecphory recall of an already existent stimulus inside the cognition of the pilot. The amygdala bypasses the need of 'flight' with a need of 'fight'. Though this paradigm is merely an exterior one, captured and portrayed for the purpose of cultural remuneration, yet its impact on the viewer is far from being a spectacle. The steady progression with which these narratives appear in the progression of human civilization, made the viewer accept them in the authenticity. As almost in every narrative, the prosthetic objective calculation is what saves the pilot (and the others); viewers slowly comprehend objective knowledge's superiority over subjective definitions. This paper thus proposes to analyse the impact of 'survival instinct' as portrayed by the 'pilot' on the 'viewer'. As these narratives are immersive, the viewer loses his/her temporal and spatial justifications and acquires semantic impulses which are not his/her own – leading to a prosthetic existence.

#### *Biography*

Manodip Chakraborty has completed his M.A. in English Literature from Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University. He is presently an assistant prof. of English (Department of Applied Science and Humanities) in Teegala Krishna Reddy Engineering (Autonomous) College and a research scholar at the Department of English, Raiganj University. He has been participating in various national and international seminars/ webinars, also is contributing to journals and in books. His research interests include Cultural Studies, films and advertising, Memory Studies, and Media Studies.

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*What can be learned in “just three days”: Aviation archaeology as presented in Channel 4’s Time Team series, 1999-2005*

*Daniel J. Leahy, The University of New England, Australia*

Time Team was a popular archaeology documentary series that ran on Channel 4 in the United Kingdom from January 1994 until September 2014. During that time the team investigated archaeological sites dating between the Palaeolithic era and the late twentieth century in a series that spanned over 200 episodes. The series has been praised for raising public awareness about archaeology in Britain and has been responsible for influencing at least one generation of archaeology students, professionals, and academics worldwide while also gaining an almost cult following in the process. Between 1999 and 2005, three Time Team episodes were dedicated to the excavation of Second World War aircraft wrecks in Britain and France. This was at a time when aviation archaeology was still being accepted as a legitimate form of archaeological inquiry. As such, some of the questions asked and methodologies employed by the professional archaeologists were shown to differ greatly from the more antiquarian styles used by the “aviation enthusiast” guests. This paper will re-examine these three episodes of the Time Team series with an emphasis on what approaches may have improved the ways in which aviation archaeology could have been explained to the general public at the time.

*Biography*

Daniel is a PhD candidate at UNE investigating the archaeology of WWII air power in Australia. He has had an interest in wartime aviation particularly of that used in the South West Pacific for over 20 years and has visited numerous aircraft wrecks and air power infrastructure sites in Australia and PNG during that time. In 2017 Daniel completed a Bachelor of Arts majoring in both Archaeology and History at UNE, and in 2018 he was awarded First Class Honours for his project investigating the archaeology of airfields utilised by schools of the Empire Air Training Scheme during WWII.

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*When the world stopped flying: A case study of the impacts of COVID19 on aviation travel for offshore Australian citizens.*

*Simona Lisa Strungaru, University of New England, Australia*

In early 2020 the world witnessed the global outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID19). In response to the outbreak, governments around the world implemented, with varying degrees of success, various measures to curb the spread of the virus. One of the most notable measures implemented were restrictions to travel and mobility that caused significant long-term impacts to transport industries, specifically, aviation. In Australia, immediately following the Morrison Government's declaration of COVID19 a medical emergency in March 2020, the decision was taken to close Australia's international border to all non-citizens and non-residents for almost two years. While Australian citizens who were resident overseas could return to Australia during this period under certain conditions, in reality, Australian citizens were largely inhibited from returning to Australia due largely to the impact the border restrictions had on the aviation industry. While there is greater focus in scholarly literature about the broader health and socio-economic effects of airline travel restrictions during the pandemic, the precise effects of these restrictions on the livelihoods of individuals remain relatively unknown. Using a case study approach, the focus of this paper is to, therefore, explore the effects of limited aviation travel by presenting the lived experiences of Australian citizens adversely effected by the government's decision. A central finding of this research reveals that participants' inability to return to Australia caused substantial impacts on Australians' physical and mental health due to factors such as flight expenses and cancellations, and prolonged family separation.

*Biography*

Simona Strungaru is a Doctoral Candidate in Sociology at the Department of Social and Philosophical Inquiry at the University of New England, Australia. Her thesis critically explores the prevalence of sexual exploitation and abuse within UN peacekeeping through a power elite framework. Simona is broadly interested in human rights and children's rights, international law, and Middle Eastern studies, however, she also shares a love of film and popular culture which allows her the opportunity to engage in expansive and interesting research spaces.

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***"It's not flying, it's falling with style": Demystifying a child's psychological development with aviation through select Fantasy and Sci-Fi texts***

*Debraj Biswas, St. Xavier's College, India; Sayan Chattopadhyay, Adamas University, India*

The idea of flight has always been a source of enthrallment for the human consciousness, especially through Science Fiction texts for children. However, with the progression to adulthood, the charm of flight and its ecstatic imagination is overturned by various power struggles through the child's developing personas, forcing them to grow up by being christened in the political consciousness. However, the seeds of such education can be traced back to children's literature and contemporary works as evident in popular Science Fictions such as DC's "Superman", "Shazam", Pixar's "Buzz Lightyear", then in Fantasies such as "The Little prince" by Antoine de Saint-Exupery and "How to Train Your Dragon" by Cressida Cowell or even "Captain Underpants" by Dav Pilkey which can be traced to a metaphorical political education via the 'Sublime Thrill' element inherent to spectacular representations of flight. Our query arises as to whether implementation of the mythical/fictional characters, like the dragons, superheroes with the abilities to fly, allows for a mirroring of power imbalance as witnessed in the non-fictional world. Thus, this paper aims at re-evaluating how fictional and fantastical narratives of Children's literature utilizes the concept of flight as an apparatus to prepare the budding generation for the politics of the world by providing them a comparative basis and to study the development of this very "Flight" from a trivial issue to something more politically submerged.

*Biography*

Debraj is an M.A. student, from the department of Arts and Science at St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, India. He has an interest in the changing contemporary literary scenes of academic and popular cultural works, focusing upon 20th and 21st century literature, drawing comparative analyses with classical works of art and myth to 'trace' the progression of the cannon academia.

Sayan is a Ph.D. Scholar from Adamas University, Kolkata, India. He researches in the field of Science Fiction Literature and he is absorbed with keen interest in understanding the changing perspectives of postmodern concepts focused upon the "assumed" politicised Science Fiction of 20th and 21st Century. His papers on Dystopian and Utopian concepts, Postanimalism and Politics in SF have been selected for presentation at multiple National and International conferences including the, Solarpunk Conference 2023, SASA Conference 2023, The Uniform 2023, SUS Conference 2022, PopCRN 2022, etc. His publication includes research articles in Elsevier, MLA and EBSCO.

*'I wanted wings.' Donald Duck, Pilot Officer Prune, and a motorbike: the popular culture of  
Stalag Luft III*

*Kristen Alexander, University of New South Wales*

Captivity was an alien state. Stalag Luft III's airmen prisoners of war (POWs) needed to accept their newly 'wingless' state, make sense of incarceration, and learn to cope with it. Donald Duck was one icon of popular culture which helped them do this. Although an American army draftee, Donald desperately wanted to fly. Following a series of misadventures, he had his chance but, after falling from an aeroplane, the hapless bird became, like the POWs themselves, a downed airman. Trapped behind bars in wartime logbook illustrations, wearing wings insignia and displaying the artist's own POW number, Donald represented the fallen airmen. 'I Wanted Wings!', he wailed. This paper highlights the significant place of popular culture in Stalag Luft III's wartime history and post-war memory. It discusses how the airmen POWs appropriated Donald Duck and other cartoon icons such as Pluto Dog, Bugs Bunny and their very own Pilot Officer Percy Prune to make sense of their experience by reframing capture and captivity as a humorous interlude. But the airmen did not just embrace existing popular culture. They created their own as they negotiated life behind barbed wire. Ultimately, aided by Hollywood and Steve McQueen's motorbike, they entered it.

*Biography*

Dr Kristen Alexander is a visiting fellow at UNSW Canberra. In 2021, she received the Australian War Memorial's Bryan Gandevia Prize for Australian military–medical history. Kristen has written five books on Australian aviation history (published in Australia, Britain, and Japan), won a number of awards including twice appearing on Chief of Air Force readings lists, and her articles and book reviews have been published in enthusiast magazines and scholarly journals. Her sixth book is about the wartime and post-war experiences of Australian airmen prisoners of Stalag Luft III and their families. For more details, and full bibliography, refer [www.kristenalexander.com.au](http://www.kristenalexander.com.au)

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## *Hollywood's Greatest Aviator: Jimmy Stewart's Two Lives of Flying*

*James Kightly, Aviation Cultures*

James 'Jimmy' Maitland Stewart was a top Hollywood star throughout the middle of the twentieth century. He not only received two Oscars, but was widely regarded as exemplifying the best of American life and manhood in film. Like many of his generation he saw combat in World War Two. His service was exceptional, not because of his Hollywood fame, but sometimes despite it. Stewart flew in command, in combat, leading Consolidated B-24 Liberator heavy bombers in the European Theater of Operations, facing Nazi flak and fighters. The US Army Air Forces also had Stewart narrate several documentaries and propaganda works, a role he continued into peacetime. Here I consider the remarkable reality of Jimmy Stewart's flying career from peacetime to war, and contrast with the films where he portrayed a remarkable range of aviators. From Lindbergh, the all-American hero in 'The Spirit of St Louis' to a broken-down pilot in 'Flight of the Phoenix'. From the neurotic aircraft designer in the accidentally prophetic 'No Highway in the Sky' to his real life, bizarrely in 'Airport 77' as well as 'Strategic Air Command' – and more! He flew a lot in film, so why did he decline more flying in real life?

### *Biography*

James is a professional writer and editor, predominately working on aviation preservation and history, worldwide, for journals and books. He currently is Commissioning Editor for Vintage Aviation News and a feature writer for Aeroplane Monthly. He has researched and published on aviation in films in numerous aspects. Along with Dr Brett Holman, James has live tweeted screenings of several aviation related films for Historians at the Movies, Australia (#HATMAus). James has presented at Aviation Cultures Mk.II to Mk.VI, and the Heritage of the Air conference in 2019, as well as being on the organising team for Aviation Cultures since 2020.

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*Panel three*

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*“A Screaming Comes Across the Sky”: Major Charles Black, the V-2 and Gravity’s Rainbow*  
Prudence Black, the University of Sydney and the School of Humanities, University of Adelaide,  
Australia

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of Thomas Pynchon’s perplexing novel *Gravity’s Rainbow* (1973). The narrative is set primarily in Europe during the aftermath of World War 11 and the central character is the German supersonic V-2 rocket that terrorised London. This rocket has a place in my family’s history as my grandfather, Major Charles Black, was part of a British Army special unit known as Operation Backfire, which went to Germany in 1945 to learn about the technology and logistics. With the assistance of German technicians, Operation Backfire launched three V-2 rockets. It is no surprise that Major Black would end up at Woomera rocket range in South Australia in 1953. This paper is an attempt to track one man’s career along the trajectory of powerfully evocative new technologies, a kind of parallel with Pynchon’s character Tyrone Slothrop whose life was tied up with the rocket. Pynchon’s innovation was to make an encyclopaedic system out of all the social/psychic/sexual effects of these cutting-edge scientific technologies. Making sense of them is more than the sciences allow for, especially when one finds that one’s own existence is caught up in the global historical and gravitational pull of the V-2.

*Biography*

Dr Prudence Black is a Research Associate in the Department of Gender and Cultural Studies at the University of Sydney and the School of Humanities, University of Adelaide. Her award-winning book *The Flight Attendant’s Shoe* about the design history of the Qantas flight attendant uniforms was published by New South Books, 2011. Her latest book, *Smile, Particularly in Bad Weather* (UWA Publishing, 2017) is about the gendered and industrial relations history of flight hostesses and flight attendants. She is currently working on an Australian Research Council project *Heritage of the Air* which investigates how aviation has transformed Australian society over the last 100 years.

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## *Flying to Exotic Conferences in 2023: The costly presentations of Dr. Dorian Grey*

*Nicholas Rowe, Independent scholar, Finland*

In the 1960s, airline deregulation allowed 'affordable' long-distance travel, and as a consequence, conferences went from being select closed affairs, to commonplace events that attract thousands of delegates. Conference presentations now exceed current estimations of journal article production, making them the numerically major form of scientific communication. Despite being undertaken by an 'elite', this level of conference engagement has led conferences to become part of the 'popular culture' of academia, much in the same way that cheap air travel changed the way we take holidays and see the world. So while glossy ads offer us bargain flights to exotic places to unwind, conference advertisers entice us to jump on a plane and mix with 'exotic' academics in far-flung places. But doing so comes at a hidden and undiscussed cost. The meaningful knowledge exchange and impact of conferences is unreliable and temporal. The cost to the tax payer is significant, and the cost to the planet is disproportionate to the returns we get for our activity. So although a journey of a thousand miles has been made easy and convenient through funded flight, our storytelling of effective academic engagement should not be allowed to disguise the negative impacts of conference travel.

### *Biography*

Nicholas Rowe is a realist researcher, and did his PhD in Education in Finland. His main academic field is scientific communication, with a focus on academic/scientific conferences as sites of knowledge transfer and continued professional development. He first looked at academic flying in 2019 during his study on 'The Economic Cost of Attending Educational Conferences', and has since written and presented on sustainable conferencing for the British Medical Journal and the Flying Less campaign.

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# *“Breaking through the Glass Ceiling: Exploring the Experience of Women Pilots in the Nigerian Aviation Industry”*

*Olajide Stephen Ogunmakinju and Oluwatomilola Ayeni,*

*The Institute of African Studies (Gender Studies), University of Ibadan, Nigeria*

The aviation industry, like many other STEM fields, is considered male-dominated, with women comprising 127 active females out of 2,958 pilots in Nigeria. This reflects in global representation, as there are over 4,000 female pilots compared to 130,000 male pilots, according to the International Society of Women Airline Pilots. Over the years, women would rather opt for career paths as flight attendants and hostesses than pursue careers as pilots, and this is due to the gender stereotypes that have been built around the role of women. However, there is growing evidence showing the involvement of women in STEM fields, which signals the possibility of challenging such gender-biased stereotypes. The qualitative study therefore aims to explore the experience, challenges, and prospects of female pilots in Nigeria. It adopts in-depth interviews with 10 female and male pilots in Nigeria and stakeholders, as well as analysing existing literature and data using thematic analysis techniques. This study sheds more light on the experiences and challenges faced by female pilots in Nigeria and contributes to an understanding of factors impacting gender inclusion in the industry. It also identifies effective strategies for breaking through the "glass ceiling" and promoting greater gender equality in the aviation industry.

## *Biography*

Ayeni Oluwatomilola is a graduate student at the University of Ibadan's Institute of African Studies. a research assistant who had worked with TETFUND on different projects that cut across gender-based violence, politics, and security, as well as issues affecting people living with disabilities in Nigeria. She also recently submitted an abstract for the Birkbeck SHaME Project, which was favourably approved. She had a bachelor's degree in philosophy at the University of Ibadan and is currently wrapping up her programme in gender studies at the Institute of African Studies.

Olajide Stephen Ogunmakinju is a graduate student at the Institute of African Studies, where he works as a research assistant. He is also the student president of the institute's student association. He has a M.A. in African studies (gender unit) from the University of Ibadan. His research focuses on African masculinity, power dynamics, and sexuality. He has a paper read at the University of Dar es Salaam's 2nd international conference. He has received a Dr. Martin Fellowship Grant for gender research for a Master's programme from the University of California. He is also excited to present this research at the PopCRN (the popular culture research network) symposium.

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## *'The End of the World': British aerial warfare literature before the First World War*

*Michael Terry, The Open University, UK*

During the First World War, a new form of combat literature emerged: the story of the fighter pilot. But this genre did not appear from nowhere. It was a development of a vibrant body of literature about aerial warfare that had existed for decades. Such stories had a particular presence in British literature, where the books were able to reflect fears that an attack from the skies would undermine the safety of the British Isles, ending a sense of security that had underpinned the Victorian era. Whether literally, as in H. G. Wells' *The War in the Air* (1908), or metaphorically, as in George Griffith's *The Outlaws of the Air* (1895), these books portrayed the coming of the weaponised skies as heralding the end of the world. This presentation examines this pre-war genre and its tales of terrorists, anarchists, heroic inventors and malevolent supervillains. It examines how the genre was able to present Germans with airships as being far more dangerous than Martians with heat rays. But it also examines the significance of the absence in these stories of the idea of the fighter pilot, the figure that was destined to stop the genre being about the feared apocalypse.

### *Biography*

Michael Terry is an English Literature graduate and early career researcher currently writing a PhD thesis for the Open University on the Representation of First World War Aerial Combat in Literature. His work involves examining all forms of writing by and about First World War airmen in order to examine how this body of work confounds our general expectations of what First World War literature should be like, and how it helped form a mythology that persists to this day. He regularly presents online and in person about various aspects of his work.

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*Closing Remarks*

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Thank you for sharing our love of aviation, planes, flight, history, wonder, pop culture and scholarly thought!



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Password: 223308

SIP: 84200268329@zoom.aarnet.edu.au

Password: 223308

### **Skype for Business (Lync)**

<https://une-au.zoom.us/skype/84200268329>