



Centre for Workforce Futures

SEMINAR SERIES

Time and Space — The Visual Atlas of Australian Co-operatives

4 June 2019

2:00–3:30 PM

Associate Professor Nikola Balnave,
Professor Olivera Marjanovic and
Professor Emeritus Greg Patmore

LOCATION: Finance Decision Lab (4EaR 110), 4 Eastern Road, Macquarie University NSW 2109

ABSTRACT

Co-operatives have existed in Australia since at least 1833. The Visual Atlas of Australian Co-operatives History Project aims to explain the fluctuations in co-operatives over time by combining the skills of business school historians and business information researchers.

The Atlas covers a variety of co-operative and mutual organisations including credit unions and building societies, transport co-operatives and co-operatives formed by small business to collectively bargain to reduce wholesale prices and lobby governments to protect their interests.

The Atlas is based on Tableau software which allows researchers to chart the development of Australian co-operatives over time and space with a 'time machine' thereby providing insights into questions such as the average life span of co-operatives and demutualisation. This seminar will outline early findings and be valuable not only for those interested in co-operatives, but also for researchers interested in disseminating their findings in an innovative way.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Nikola Balnave (PhD) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Management and a member of the Centre for Workforce Futures at Macquarie University. Her research since 2005 has focused primarily on consumer co-operatives in Australia and New Zealand. Her other research interests include union renewal strategies, and social media at work. Nikki was the President of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History from 2009–2018. She has also been an executive member of the Academic Association of Historians in Australian and New Zealand Business Schools in many capacities since its inception in 2009, and has been President since 2016. Between 2009–2011 and 2011–2017 she was Associate and Deputy Editor, respectively of the Society's journal *Labour History* and is on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Management History*. She is the current Macquarie Branch and NSW Division President of the NTEU.

Olivera Marjanovic (PhD) is a Professor of Information Systems at the University of Technology Sydney and a former Director of the Cooperatives Research Group, University of Sydney. Olivera has completed numerous industry-based research case studies and action design projects with companies worldwide and has published over 150 fully refereed conference and journal publications. She has held Visiting Professor positions at the Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et Automatisation (INRIA), Laboratoire Lorrain de Recherche en Informatique et ses Applications (LORIA) Institute in France, the University of Duisburg, Germany, the Arizona State University, the Big Data and Analytics Research Center at the University of Tennessee and Queensland University of Technology, Australia.

Greg Patmore (PhD) is Professor Emeritus of Business and Labour history and chair of the Business and Labour History Group and the Co-operative Research Group in the University of Sydney Business School. He previously served as president of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History and editor of its journal, *Labour History*, and he continues to serve on the journal's editorial board. He has held visiting positions at the University of California (Berkeley), Georgetown University and Cardiff Business School. His current research projects include an ARC-funded history of Australian co-operatives, with Nikola Balnave (MQ) and Olivera Marjanovic (UTS). His publications include *A Global History of Co-operative Business* (Routledge, 2018, with Nikola Balnave) and *Worker Voice: Employee Representation in the Workplace in Australia, Canada, Germany, the UK, and the US, 1914–1939* (University of Liverpool Press, 2016).

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CONTACT CENTRE FOR WORKFORCE FUTURES

Lynne Cousins

T: +61 (2) 9850 7732

E: lynne.cousins@mq.edu.au

Jason Antony

T: +61 (2) 9850 8533

E: jason.antony@mq.edu.au

W: <https://goto.mq/83> [or scan the QR code]