

Editorial

JOHN FROW AND KATRINA SCHLUNKE

Welcome to *Cultural Studies Review* as it now appears in its free and paperless form. We are now supported by a consortium of five institutions: the School of Media, Culture and Creative Arts at Curtin University of Technology, the Centre for Public Culture and Ideas at Griffith University, the School of Culture and Communication at the University of Melbourne, and the Faculties of Law and Communication at the University of Technology Sydney. Their generous support means that we are able to make the journal available free of charge to anybody who's interested in reading it. Members of the Cultural Studies Association of Australia will automatically receive notification of each new issue; anyone else who's interested can register with the journal at <http://utsescholarship.lib.uts.edu.au/epress/journals/> or contact the managing editors on csreview@unimelb.edu.au. The journal continues to be edited by John Frow and Katrina Schlunke. Submissions are peer-reviewed.

We're particularly pleased to initiate this new phase of the journal's life with a themed issue on Rural Cultural Studies: an issue that explicitly challenges the urban bias of much work in cultural studies, and that does so not by turning to a mythical bush past (an Australian past that was already mythical in its heyday in the *Bulletin* of the 1890s), but by addressing a rural context which is fully embedded in modernity and which is in many ways a key site of social transformation in Australia. The 'country' that you will find in play here is in part the 'country' of Aboriginal Australians, in part the 'resource' of the extractive and agricultural

industries, in part the 'regions' of bureaucratic intervention, and in part the 'place' of those who live here. It is informed by the tyranny of distance and the closeness of community.

Taking something as heterogeneous as the 'country' as an object of knowledge raises crucial issues of methodology: how do you define this thing, how do you get at it, who are your respondents and informants, and how are you placed in relation to them? These questions, falling on both sides of the divide between the social sciences and the humanities, are at the heart of the papers that follow, and indeed they're questions that are integral to the project of cultural studies.

We think it's significant that this issue was planned and assembled by early career researchers who first came together in workshops supported by the Cultural Research Network. CRN has now come to the end of its funded life, but many of the projects it initiated continue. We'd like to pay tribute to the role the network has played in supporting cultural studies in Australia, and especially to its director, Graeme Turner. Younger researchers in particular were the beneficiaries of its work.

Finally, we'd like to extend a warm welcome to the new members of our Editorial Board and our newly formed Editorial Committee. A full list of members of both can be found through the 'People' link on the journal's website <<http://utsescholarship.lib.uts.edu.au/epress/journals/index.php/csrj/about>>. We look forward to working productively with them in taking *Cultural Studies Review* into its electronic future.