

Jawun Research Centre

SEMINAR SERIES

Communication, Health, and Social
and Cultural Well-Being

Cairns Linguistic Anthropology Seminar
Series (CLASS)



Seminar 38: Paratexting Patrol Reports into the Intertextuality of Situation Reports: toward a history of colonial texts in PNG.

This multidisciplinary seminar series aims to create a forum centered in Jawun. It is for researchers at CQUniversity, across Queensland and all over the world, as a forum to share their research findings and establish potential synergies, leading to joint grant applications, and partnerships that endeavour to advance knowledge in various disciplines.

Location

Room **3.06**, CQUniversity Cairns Campus
Corner Abbott Street and Shields Street
Or via [Zoom](#) Passcode: 624459

Date and Time

Thursday, 21 March 2024
4:00pm – 5:30pm QLD time
Light refreshments provided

RSVP

JRC Administration via email:
irc@cqu.edu.au or phone: 07 4923 2672

Further seminars upcoming in 2024 – [watch this space!](#)

Speaker

Dr Michael Wood, Adjunct
Research Fellow at the
Jawun Research Centre



Bio

Michael is an anthropologist whose research interests are primarily located in Papua New Guinea. He is currently developing, **with Rosita Henry and Simon Foale**, a project on how patrol officers helped prepare PNG for Independence. He has recently worked on describing some of the cultural components of the World Heritage values of the Nakanai Ranges in New Britain and has finalised co-editing **with Anna Hayes and Rosita Henry** a collection of articles on the Chinese in PNG that will be published by ANU Press.

Abstract

The patrol report is an important source of data concerning the history of colonialism in PNG, yet the patrol report as a specific set of documents with their own history has not itself been subject to much analysis. The textual analysis outlined in this paper is one approach to developing such a history of patrol reports from around 1958 to 1973. It relies a lot on accounts of texts developed in narrative studies by Bakhtin, Kristeva and Genette which seem to open up some possibilities of a history of texts like patrol reports. But is it enough to repeat for over 60 years Kristeva's claim that 'any text is the absorption of another' and to note, a bit reductively, the politics, inequalities, and power in the colonial uncertainties of what is relevant knowledge? Are our current uncertainties any better than the post structuralists at rethinking a history of colonial texts?