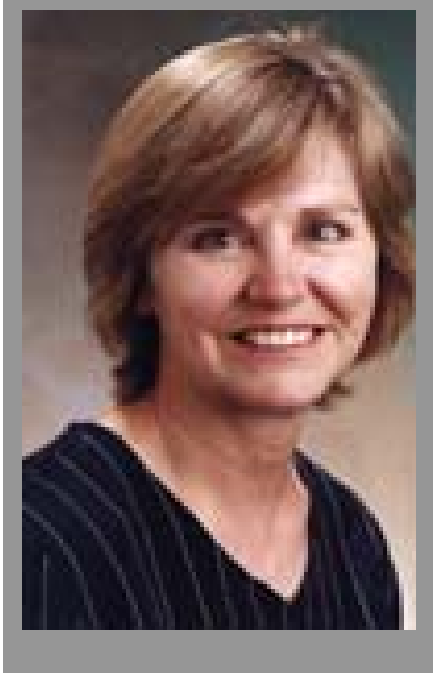




School of Historical and European Studies



History Program

Professor Diane Kirkby

Professor

Qualifications BA UNSW, PhD Calif.

Professor Kirkby currently teaches USA Art and political cultural history; Australian history centuries; history of Food and Drink; film in history. Her research interests include: Labour history and gender; Women's work and popular culture; law and history; feminism.

Research Projects

Projects in progress

Marriage women and property in 19th century Australia

A study of the Fulbright Program in Australia 1949-2009 with Professor D Altman, Professor D walker and Dr A Garner (ARC Linkage Project)

Professor Kirby has recently begun this history of the Fulbright Program of educational exchange between Australia and the USA that will explore a significant and undervalued aspect of the post-war relationship between the two countries. It will enhance our understanding of the sources of innovative ideas and their transfer, by investigating whether the 2600 Australian Fulbright scholars since 1949 were influential in re-orienting local research practice and public policy initiatives along US models. It will broaden awareness of the Fulbright Program's place in the Australian experience of globalisation, and continue to a critical understanding of cultural diplomacy as a key feature of foreign policy.

History of the Seamen's Union of Australia

Professor Kirkby has recently completed a history of the Seamen's Union of Australia with a particular focus on the decades immediately prior to the SUA's affiliation with the Waterside Workers Federation to form the Maritime Union of Australia (1993). The SUA was a major organisation of workers in a vital industry in Australia's history as a maritime nation. It was not only a major player in the labour movement but was one of those unions in the forefront of social and political activism on key issues,

"I never cease to be amazed at the discoveries I make teaching at La Trobe. Students bring a fresh approach and it is always a challenge to find new ways to present our research and ideas. It can be exciting at times, especially when you realise there are new questions being asked and therefore new research problems to be solved."

most notably the opposition to the Vietnam War, and support for Australian athletes during the 1980 Olympics boycott.. This is a history of political activity, industrial struggle and social and economic significance. It draws heavily on the oral history of past members and officials.

Research Publications

Selected Publications include:

Voices From the Ships: Australia's Seafarers and Their Union, UNSW Press, 2008

Co-editor with Tanja Luckins, Dining on Turtles; Food Feasts and Drinking in History, Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

Alice Henry: The Power of Pen and Voice: The Life of an Australian-American Labor Reformer, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1991. Alice Henry was the winner of the WK Hancock Prize, 1995.

Barmaids: A History of Women's Work in Pubs [1790-1990s], Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1997.

Editor of Sex, Power and Justice: Historical Perspectives on Law in Australia, Melbourne, Oxford University Press, 1995.

Co-Editor of Law History Colonialism: The Reach of Empire, Manchester, Manchester University Press, and N.Y. Palgrave, 2001.

Dealing With Difference: Essays in Gender, History and Culture, Melbourne, Melbourne University, 1997.

Graduate Supervision Areas and Topics

Two previous PhD students have won the Australian Historical Association Serle Prize for the Best Thesis in Australian History:

Tanja Luckins, (in 2001) for her thesis "Gates of Memory: Loss Memory and the Great War in Australia " and Marina Larsson, (in 2008) for her thesis, "The Burdens of Sacrifice: War Disability in Australian Families 1914-39."

Currently supervises students working on the New Left in US history; Australian women's history; histories of art; economic and social history of wheat farming in Victoria; gender and education history in Australia

Research Grants

Professor Kirby was recently awarded an ARC Linkage Grant, with Professor D Altman, Professor D walker and Dr A Garner, of \$235,773 over three years (2009-2011) for their project A study of the Fulbright Program in Australia 1949-2009. Collaborating Partner - Australian-American Educational Foundation (Fulbright Commission), National Library of Victoria.