

AAI 2 POSTGRADUATE WORKSHOP
27 JUNE 2007
ANU HOUSE, MELBOURNE

GEORGIE BOUCHER:

The AAI2 postgrad workshop was a refreshing, more supportive alternative to presenting a straight paper at a conference. The process of the workshop was that postgrad students were allowed to submit up to 10,000 words (a chapter-length) of work to a panel of expert Asian-Australian identity academics who would also attend the workshop. You would then give a paper during the workshop that 'talked to' the ideas in the wider thesis.

I felt this environment and set-up was very relevant to the needs of postgrads - receiving detailed feedback in an open forum on a deeper dissemination of ideas rather than only those you could fit into a ten minute slot. Jacqueline Lo, Dean Chan and David Walker provided insightful, encouraging responses in an intimate, comfortable environment.

The gathering of students from disparate areas meant I remained interested all day, and sparked moments for debate. I left feeling like the issues and methodologies of Asian-Australian studies are a burgeoning, exciting field to inspire my later work. Thanks again for having me AAI2.

HOA PHAM:

The workshop opened by a short introduction by Jacqueline Lo tying together the disparate disciplines of Asian Australian Studies. She pulled together the commonalities between all our research highlighting the deconstruction of Asian-Australian identity and its expression through literature, photography and performance. The work of Asian theorists such as David Eng, Kam Louie, and Lisa Lowe was drawn on throughout our papers and discussed. Dean Chan and Jacqueline Lo gave focused constructive feedback to our papers and we were entertained by mutual conversations during lunch and afternoon tea. Overall, the day was a sustained conversation about aspects of Asian-Australian identity and representation.

The AAI 2 postgraduate workshop was an initiative of the

AASRN

Asian Australian Studies Research Network

<http://www.asianaustrianstudies.org/>