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BATTLE FOR THE FLAG

AMELIA JOHNS



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Amelia Johns will be available
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For more information please contact:

Perri Palmieri at MUP
on 03 9342 0322 or 0406 998 030
or email perri.palmieri@unimelb.edu.au

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BATTLE FOR THE FLAG

by Amelia Johns

Ten years after the Cronulla riots, the events of that day continue to inflame discussions about race relations in Australia. The violence, racism and branding of young bodies with symbols of Australian nationalism, along with the reprisal attacks by Lebanese–Australian youth, was a blow to Australia's self-perception as an easygoing multicultural society. It marked a shift in public debate away from ideas of multiculturalism and cultural diversity, towards patriotism, localism, security and fear of the (predominantly) Muslim 'Other'.

Battle for the Flag contextualises this historical shift. It draws on original interviews conducted with residents of Cronulla and Lebanese–Australian residents of Western Sydney to highlight the influence local youth culture and intercultural encounters had on this contest for space and a sense of national belonging.

Dr Amelia Johns is a Research Fellow at the Alfred Deakin Research Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University. Her research explores experiences of intercultural contact between youth in multicultural urban space, and how these encounters produce racism and violent conflict alongside 'hybrid' identifications and expressions of belonging.

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