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Counterculture Studies - Contents, Editorial & Contributors 2(1) 2019

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Abstract

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Counterculture Studies



Counterculture Studies is an open access journal with both refereed and non-refereed material, published twice yearly and dedicated to studies of the counterculture.

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Editorial

Welcome to the second issue of *Counterculture Studies*. In this issue we highlight a workshop held at the University of Wollongong on 30 November 2018 to acknowledge the fiftieth anniversary of 1968. Most of the presentations on that day were filmed and are included here so that the journal can engage a wider audience with the personal reflections and intellectual provocations on that day. There are also a wide range of other items: traditional scholarly articles, recollections, archival notes and an interview with the sister of Phil Ochs, Sonny Ochs. While conducted many years ago, that interview has never been published in full and we believe it to be a fitting tribute to one of the iconic figures of Sixties radicalism. It should be remembered that Ochs was a founding member of the Yippies, even though he is not usually thought of as a countercultural figure. Speaking of the Yippies, another founding member, Paul Krassner, died recently.

Krassner was editor of *The Realist*, a pioneering alternative magazine that paved the way for later underground newspapers he also worked with like *The East Village Other*. Along with Ed Sanders' *Fuck You / A Magazine of the Arts*, *The Realist* combined irreverence with biting satire and established cultural criticism as a central feature of protest in the 1960s. *Vale* Paul Krassner (1932-2019).

We are in another year of memorials and tributes as the fiftieth anniversaries roll on. The dialectic

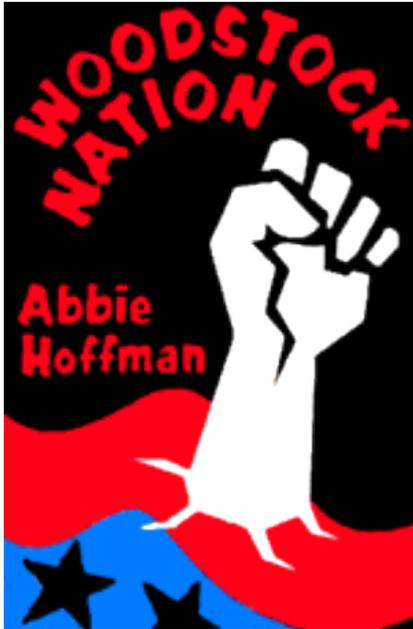


of the Sixties is danced graphically in 1969. Woodstock highlighted the collective potentialities and festive imagination of a tribe that was confronting the war machine. Yet Altamont exploded in an orgy of mayhem and violence that seemed to announce the end of the Sixties. People's Park brought the War home to Berkeley, California, and highlighted significant issues of power and control over urban space. The Manson murders, however, revealed that the cultural style of dissident groups can always be harnessed by cultish figures for their own demonic purposes. For many the moon landing shone a (false) ray of hope but the first year of the Nixon Presidency signalled a descent into darkness. The spirit of defeat at Chicago in 1968, so keenly felt by Phil Ochs and others, intensified in 1969 despite the positive moments at Woodstock and at the famous Memorial Day March in Berkeley where tens of thousands gathered in peaceful solidarity to mourn the death of People's Park.



Woodstock music and arts festival, Bethel Green, New York, 16 – 18 August 1969.

Yet the Sixties lived on and the memories of Woodstock remain strong to this day – of Richie Havens improvising on the theme of freedom, of Joan Baez singing ‘Joe Hill’, of Country Joe imploring the virtual city to sing stronger to stop the war, of Arlo Guthrie bringing together drugs, humour and



politics, of Jimi Hendrix making the American national anthem a powerful plea for peace and civil rights. The utopian imagination of Abbie Hoffman encouraged him to craft the book / talk-rock album *Woodstock Nation* (1969). While riffing on Norman Mailer’s contract to write a book about the moon landing, Hoffman observed: “If I had to sum up the totality of the Woodstock experience I would say it was the first attempt to land a man on the earth. It took an awful lot of people to pull it off, but pull it off we did. Welcome to the Aquarian Age.”

Anthony Ashbolt

Notes on Contributors

Jim Anderson is an author, artist, photographer, dancer, inveterate attendee at exhibition openings, former editor of *OZ* magazine, London and one of the (in)famous *OZ Three*, alongside Richard Neville and Felix Dennis. Though he originally trained in Australia at Law, his subsequent travels from the mid' Sixties to England, Europe and the United States distracted him from this career. He eventually returned to Australia and currently resides in Sydney.

Anthony Ashbolt lectures in Politics and International Studies at the University of Wollongong. He has published widely on the counterculture and the 1960s and is the author of *A Cultural History of the Radical Sixties in the San Francisco Bay Area*.

Meredith Burgmann is a former activist and parliamentary member of the Australian Labor Party. She was arrested and imprisoned 21 times in association with her protests against issues such as Apartheid. She served as a member of the New South Wales Legislative Council from 1991 through to 2007, and for a long period was President of the Council. She has also served on the City of Sydney Council. She remains active as President of the Australian Council for International Development.

Rowan Cahill is an Australian radical historian, journalist and author, with a background as a farmhand and teacher. During the 1960s he wrote for the University of Sydney student newspaper *Honi Soit* and was a member of the editorial board of *Australian Left Review*. In 2010 he published, with Terry Irving, *Radical Sydney: Places, Portraits and Unruly Episodes*.

Roger Foley, also known as Ellis D. Fogg, was a pioneer of lightshows in Australia during the late 1960s, performing at numerous music concerts and with rock bands such as Tully. Roger was also a member of the Yellow House 1971-3 and since that time has continued to work in the field of luminokenetics.

Ross Grainger is a former sail maker, teacher, musician and London Head Shop owner and operator. Following his departure from Sydney in 1968 he worked as a musician before operating Sunflower in Portobello Road, London, where between 1972-81 he sold books, records, implements and apparel such as canvas shoulder bags. During that period he met many significant figures in the English counterculture. Following his return to Australia Ross worked as a teacher in his home country and China.

Phillip Frazer co-founded Australia's most influential music magazine Go-Set in 1965 and was its publisher for most its seven year of weekly publication. In the 1970s he published Revolution, High Times, The Digger and the Australian edition of Rolling Stone. He subsequently worked in the United States on many collaborative and collective non-profit organisations and published the environmental newsletter News on Earth, the political Hightower Lowdown and, with Ralph Nader, the Multinational Monitor. Phillip currently writes for the Byron Bay Echo, dailyreview.com.au, and on his own blog.

Mark Gregory is a musician and historian of Australian protest and union songs, many of which are to be found at his *Union Songs* website.

Maurie Mulheron is a musician, school teacher and writer. He is also an active unionist and President of the New South Wales Teachers Federation. In 2002 he released a recording entitled *One word wE!* Being a musical biography of Peter Seeger and friends.

Michael Organ is a professional archivist and Manager Repository Services at the University of Wollongong. He has published in the area of library and archival science, Australian history, literature, and film. In recent years Michael has also produced numerous blogs on aspects of the art of Martin

Sharp and participated in a project to digitise the complete run of OZ magazine Sydney and London, 1963-1973.

Chloe Rafferty is a student, writer and president of the University of Wollongong Students' Union (2019). She is an active activist and Socialist. In July 2019 she published 'The liberation of women is bound up with the liberation of all' in *Red Flag*. She has led numerous student campaigns around social justice, political and environmental issues.

Pete Steedman was, from 1965, editor of student magazines at Monash University and the University of Melbourne, alongside *OZ* (London) for a brief period during the early 1970s. He subsequently worked extensively in the Australian publishing industry. Pete is also a one-time member of the Australian parliament House of Representatives, serving within the Hawke government.

Julie Stephens is a social theorist with a wide interest in contemporary social and political debates. Her research is informed by feminist theory, social movement theory, memory studies and the emerging area of maternal studies. Her publications include two books and numerous articles investigating: cultural activism and memory, changing meanings of the maternal, the social dimensions of mothering, feminist oral history and the reshaping of emotions and care under neo-liberalism. She also has a research interest in the theory and clinical field of psychoanalysis.

Barry L. Stiefel is Associate Professor at the College of Charleston, where he is a member of Department of Art and Architectural History, Historic Preservation & Community Planning Program, and the joint Graduate Program in Historic Preservation with Clemson University. He earned his Ph.D. in Historic Preservation from Tulane University, Master of Urban Planning from the University of Michigan, Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University, and a B.S. in Environmental Policy (with a minor in Anthropology) from Michigan State University. Stiefel's

research interest are in how the sum of how local preservation efforts affects regional, national, and multi-national policies within the field of cultural resource management and heritage conservation.

Nadia Wheatley is an Australian author whose work includes picture books such as *My Place* (1987), novels, biographies and historical works. She is best known for her biography of fellow writer Charmian Clift. She has recently published a memoir entitled *Her Mother's Daughter* (2019). During the Sixties she was a prominent activist in Sydney.