

Time Layered Cultural Map of Australia

2023-4 LIEF project (LE230100079)

First Nations Research Fellowships

The Time Layered Cultural Map of Australia (TLCMap) is an open-access platform for mapping cultural and historical data. It has an extensive gazetteer of historic Australian settler placenames, and an expanding listing of First Nations place names, along with a growing range of other mapping tools. Users can combine new map layers with existing ones, visualise them as timeline maps and journeys and share them via stable URLs or embed them in external websites. The platform accommodates users new to digital research methods. All that is required to create a map is one or more items with a title and latitude and longitude.

As TLCMap aims to map the meaning and cultural value of locations on the Australian continent, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander involvement and collaboration is essential. One of the avenues for this partnership is a Fellowship scheme for Indigenous PhD students, a key part of our 2023-4 LIEF project. This will provide collaborative opportunities for the development team to learn from Indigenous researchers, and for the Indigenous Fellows to steer development and use TLCMap systems for projects of their own choosing. Two \$10,000 Fellowships will be offered.

This is an opportunity for TLCMap to benefit from genuine collaborative input, and for experimentation and skill-building on the part of the Fellows. Proposals for work under the scheme can be broad-brush and exploratory, and assistance will be provided with technical aspects of digital mapping.

We are open to applicants from any humanities and social science discipline. Possible projects under the scheme could include:

- connecting landscape with cultural activity;
- making an interactive timeline map to visualise a series of events in time and space;
- mapping locations of cultural significance;
- mapping a journey or multiple journeys;
- embedding links to stories, images or videos in a map;
- combining new maps of significant locations with existing maps, e.g. maps of missions and their years of operation, historical town populations, Government stations, rail lines with years of operation, or sites of frontier conflict; and
- putting significant places on a map to see patterns in their location.

Materials for mapping could be a handful of items, if created from scratch, or a large collection, if taken over from an existing source.

Eligibility:

Fellows will be confirmed PhD candidates at any Australian University and identify as Aboriginal or as Torres Strait Islanders.

Duration and structure:

The Fellowships will run from 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2024. Fellows will interact with TLCMap staff through fortnightly Zoom meetings.

Stipend:

\$10,000 for each of two Fellowships, in two instalments, one at the beginning and one at the end of the Fellowship, to be paid on receipt of invoices from the Fellow's home university.

Expressions of interest:

Expressions of interest should be sent to the project academic lead, Professor Hugh Craig (hugh.craig@newcastle.edu.au) by 15 September 2023.

Expressions of interest should include

- name, institution and email address;
- name of principal supervisor and confirmation that this supervisor has approved the candidate's participation in the Fellowship scheme;
- a declaration of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander identity;
- a declaration that the applicant is a confirmed PhD candidate;
- a paragraph on the applicant's PhD topic; and
- a paragraph with ideas for possible work under the scheme, which may be highly speculative at this stage.

Applicants should familiarise themselves with the capabilities of the TLCMap platform (tlcmap.org). A good place to start is the Guides page (<https://tlcmap.org/help/guides/>).

Anyone contemplating an expression of interest is invited to email Hugh Craig at hugh.craig@newcastle.edu.au as soon as possible to discuss eligibility, possibilities for research using the TLCMap platform, and potential synergies between TLCMap and the applicant's own research.

Selection:

A committee chaired by an Indigenous academic member of the University of Newcastle, Australia, will select the two fellows based on expressions of interest received by the deadline.

Announcement:

The committee will email all applicants with the outcomes of the selection process in late September.

Hugh Craig
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