

Research & Research Training Office

Faculty Seminar

November 13, 2007

Professor Bruce Bennett

Abstract:-

“The Spying Game: Midstream Reflections on Australian Cloaks and Daggers”

At a mid-point in my ARC-supported project *The Spying Game: Australian Constructions of Espionage*, I will describe a number of tentative incursions into foreign territory with variable results. Beginning with an assumption that understanding Australian intelligence and espionage requires some knowledge of the ‘dark arts’ in our chief source cultures Britain and the USA, I have spent useful time under cover as an academic in Cambridge, UK, and Washington DC. My main work though is in Australian archives, libraries and in conversation with writers, theorists and intelligence practitioners. My approach is that of a Humanities scholar seeking understanding of human motives, dramas and insights. Through fiction, biography, film, media reports, interviews and archives we can uncover some tantalising fragments of the lives of undercover agents and their work.