

For our first event for the year, we are showcasing the work of some of our junior colleagues who have recently completed (or are soon to complete) their studies.

Join us for a cuppa, discussions, and a local dinner afterwards.

May 2nd 5:30pm-7:15pm Curtin University Building 202, Room 122



Sophie Leipoldt

I graduated from UWA in 2023 with a Master of Research, in the area of Sociology. My research was a study of beauty cultures among middle class young women living in Perth.

One theme that emerged in my research into beauty cultures was the possibilities and limitations of framing beauty as a creative practice. I expand on this theme of creative beauty practice in my presentation, and the inherent tensions between structure and agency, and suggest that we need to move beyond simplistic 'either/or' explanations of beauty practice as either liberating or constraining.

Jake Chaloner

Jake Chaloner (he/him) is a Research Masters with Training (Asian Studies) student at Murdoch University. He has recently returned from six months of field work in Ainu Mosir (Hokkaido, Japan), where he was busy collecting data for his thesis focusing on contemporary Ainu self-representation in online spaces.



Here I will present one of the themes that I have identified in my reflexive Thematic Analysis of interview data with Ainu active on YouTube. I will explore how the Ainu that I interviewed situate YouTube in relation to other social media and whether they perceive YouTube as contributing meaningfully to contemporary Ainu cultural resurgence efforts.



Gracie Cayley

In 2023, I completed my Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Anthropology and Sociology from Curtin University which fostered my with specific interest in research around sex, sexuality and sex education. I work in public health research and the participant involvement sphere.

My research explored Purity Culture, a Western Christian subculture often associated with American Christianity, specifically Southern Baptist and Evangelical denominations, and whether this can be seen in Western Australia. From my research, themes of secrecy, taboo, and gendered violence emerged.