

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Friday 6 June 2014

Snapshot exhibition captures untold stories

The stories of migrant women will be the focus of a new exhibition opening at the University of Tasmania today (**Friday 6 June**), “Snapshot Photography and Migrant Women: A Tasmanian Experience.”

Through this unique display, visitors will be able to see the stories of migrant women told through their own family snapshots from 1945-1970 and hear their voices retelling their experiences.

The exhibition, curated by Senior Lecturer in Journalism, Media and Communications, Dr Nicola Goc, includes a display of snapshot cameras and local Tasmanian newspaper coverage from the time period.

The exhibition space also features a recreation of a 70s sitting room, to reflect the home environment in which migrant women and their families interacted with family photography.

Dr Goc said for the first time migrant women’s stories are being told.

“We aren’t always the best, in our society, at telling women’s stories, let alone migrant women’s stories.

“As a visual scholar, I’m interested in how these women used their family photographs to make sense of their migration.

“Their visual communication was complex and designed to create the appearance of a successful life in Australia. What might seem like clichéd family snapshots actually have poignant stories of family migration.

“They may look like benign family snaps, but they all have potent stories to tell.”

Dr Goc said one woman who participated had never seen a photo of herself as a child. The first photo of herself she ever saw was her passport photo when she came to Australia.

“There are women who literally have only about three photos of their childhood and early adulthood, because the rest of their photos were destroyed.

“It is hard for us to conceptualise this in contemporary society, where we have hundreds of images on our phones alone,” Dr Goc said.

“This project is about capturing the voices of those women and sharing their stories.”

The women who provided photos and their families will attend the exhibition opening.

This exhibition is open to the public daily from 6 June – 31 July 2014. (The Morris Miller Library will be closed on the weekends of 5-6 June and 12-13 June.)

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