

MEDIA RELEASE

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Exploring the explorer, Robert Falcon Scott

How would we judge Robert Falcon Scott if he led his fatal South Pole expedition today? Have we changed our attitude towards the heroes of the past?

These are some of the topics that will be explored by UK historian and Scott expert, Max Jones, during a free public talk at the University of Tasmania next Tuesday.

In 1912 Scott led an expedition to the South Pole, only to discover that the Norwegian explorer Amundsen had reached it a month earlier. Scott's party perished on the return journey.

Max Jones is the author of *The Last Great Quest: Captain Scott's Antarctic Sacrifice* and a new edition of Scott's journals for the Oxford World's Classics Series. He will be in conversation with Carl Murray, a Research Fellow working in the School of Government and the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre at the University of Tasmania.

"This public discussion is presented by UTAS as part of an international, interdisciplinary conference called *Antarctic Visions: Cultural Perspectives on the Southern Continent*," said Dr Elle Leane, Senior Lecturer from the School of English, Journalism and European Languages.

"More than 60 delegates will be in Hobart for the three-day conference early next week, discussing the different ways that the Antarctic is culturally significant.

"The conference will focus on the representation of the Antarctic in the arts, its history and heritage, and contemporary challenges such as climate change and tourism."

Other keynote speakers include Christy Collis, Senior Lecturer in Media and Communication in the Creative Industries Faculty at the Queensland University of Technology, and William L. Fox, a noted Antarctic researcher and author, whose work includes *Terra Antarctica: Looking into the Emptiest Continent*.

The conference is a follow-up to the 2008 Imagining Antarctica conference, held in New Zealand and co-presented by UTAS. This was the first academic conference to focus on Antarctica as a site of significant cultural meaning, as well as scientific importance.

The free public talk will be held between 6-7pm on Tuesday 22 June 2010 at the Dechaineux Theatre, University of Tasmania, Hunter Street, Hobart.

For more information, or to arrange interviews, contact Elle Leane at the School of English, Journalism and European Languages on 03 6226 2347.

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