

2025 VCE HISTORY CONFERENCE

Friday 21 February 2025, 9:00 am–3:10 pm
Hawthorn Arts Centre, 360 Burwood Road, Hawthorn

Earlybird registrations close Friday 7 February 2025

All registrations must close Thursday 13 February 2025

This HTAV professional learning conference is structured to support VCE History teachers to expand their own content knowledge, pick up classroom-ready tips and resources, think deeply about VCE assessment, and catch up with peers and mentors from all over Victoria.

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I VCE UNIT

G GENERAL

C CONTENT KNOWLEDGE

T TEACHING IDEAS

 BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE

9:00 AM **REGISTRATION**

9:50 AM **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS / WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING**

10:20 AM **SESSION 1: Please choose one workshop from this session.**

1A **Ra-ra-Rasputin**

I G C

Stephen White, Oxley Christian College

Rasputin: holy man, mad monk, Russian mystic, or, as seventies disco group Boney M. put it, 'Russia's greatest love machine'? The truth can be hard to nail down, but Rasputin is definitely one of the most enigmatic figures in Russian history, which is saying something. In this session, learn how Rasputin contributed to the downfall of Tsarism and come away with teaching resources and assessment ideas.

UNITS 1 AND 2 | MODERN HISTORY | CONTENT KNOWLEDGE

Stephen White is an experienced VCE History teacher from Oxley Christian College. He is a regular conference presenter for HTAV and a contributing author to the HTAV Modern History textbook series.

1B **The Enlightenment and the French Revolution**

C 3 4

Emeritus Professor Peter McPhee AM, The University of Melbourne

In a series of pathbreaking books across his long career, American historian Robert Darnton has changed the way we understand the Enlightenment and its impact by investigating the reading choices of Parisians on the eve of the revolution. In this workshop Peter McPhee will introduce Robert Darnton and play a recent interview he recorded with him about his latest book, *The Revolutionary Temper: Paris, 1748–1789*.

UNITS 3 AND 4 | REVOLUTIONS: FRANCE | CONTENT KNOWLEDGE

*Emeritus Professor Peter McPhee AM was appointed to a Personal Chair in History at the University of Melbourne in 1993. He was the university's first Provost in 2007–2009 and is now an Emeritus Professor. Peter has published widely on the history of France since 1770, most recently *Robespierre: A Revolutionary Life (2012)* and *Liberty or Death: The French Revolution (2016)*. He is currently the Chair of the History Council of Victoria, the state's peak body for History, and Patron of HTAV.*

1C **A Toolkit for Teaching the Russian Revolution**

C 3 4 T

Ian Lyell, Mentone Girls' Grammar School

This workshop is intended for teachers who have limited experience teaching VCE History: Revolutions. Ian will share a range of resources and sample classroom activities to assist teachers in planning, teaching and assessing the Russian Revolution.

UNITS 3 AND 4 | REVOLUTIONS: RUSSIA | TEACHING IDEAS

Ian Lyell is a History and Humanities teacher at Mentone Girls' Grammar School. He is particularly passionate about how a better understanding of modern history equips students to understand and respond to injustice in the contemporary world, and he aims to support teachers in making History an accessible, rigorous and empowering discipline to explore. Ian is a contributing author to HTAV's Study and Exam Guides.

1D Using Sources for Area of Study 1 Australian History

3 4 T

Bill Lewis, Haileybury

This workshop will unpack the outcome statement for Area of Study 1 in VCE Australian History, considering the foundations for change and how historical sources can be used for both in-class activities and potential SAC formats. Bill will demonstrate how to link source use to the characteristics of the study of VCE History, with ideas drawn from all four investigations.

UNITS 3 AND 4 | AUSTRALIAN HISTORY | TEACHING IDEAS

Bill Lewis is an experienced teacher of VCE History, having taught both Revolutions and Australian History. He is a frequent contributor to HTAV conferences and has co-authored the textbook Analysing Australian History: Power and Resistance (Cambridge University Press).

1E Let's Learn about the Land Between the Rivers1 2 C *Geoff Trevaskis, Carey Baptist Grammar School*

This workshop will cover the key knowledge for Unit 1: Ancient Mesopotamia and provide both useful resources for teacher learning and activities that can be used in the classroom. This workshop aims to get you and your students excited to learn about life in the Fertile Crescent!

UNITS 1 AND 2 | ANCIENT HISTORY: MESOPOTAMIA | CONTENT KNOWLEDGE | BYOD

Geoff Trevaskis has taught VCE Unit 1: Ancient History many times over his 16 years as a teacher. He has invested much of his own time learning as much as possible about early civilisations in Mesopotamia.

1F Unlocking the Past: Metacognition in the History Classroom

1 2 3 4 G T

Siobhan Dwyer, Blackburn High School

Have you ever wondered how to get students more engaged in the content of your lessons? Have you ever wanted to increase student collaboration in your classes? Have you ever wondered how you can improve their metacognitive skills? This workshop will explore how you can build your students' capabilities in the classroom. While this workshop will focus on how to increase student involvement in a VCE History: Revolutions context, the approaches covered will also be practical for History classes at any level.

UNITS 1-4 | GENERAL | TEACHING IDEAS

Siobhan Dwyer has been teaching English and History in Victorian state schools since 2007. In her VCE History: Revolutions classes she has been developing students' metacognition by using primary sources to begin lessons, among other strategies. The outcomes of using these strategies include improved student engagement, increased collaborative practice, more meaningful exploration and understanding of sources, more focused written responses, and better use of evidence to support their analysis. Students have found this useful when preparing for the source analysis components of their assessment.

1G Teaching Empires through Historical Images and Maps1 2 T *Professor Darius von Güttner, Australian Catholic University*

This workshop offers practical strategies for teaching the concept of empires using historical images and maps. Focusing on engaging classroom activities, this workshop will demonstrate how visual sources can enhance students' understanding of the political, economic and social dimensions of empires. By examining historical images and maps, educators will learn techniques to guide students in analysing the rise, consolidation and decline of empires, as well as the impact of imperial power on various regions. This workshop will provide adaptable resources and methods for incorporating these visual tools into lessons, directly supporting the VCE curriculum's focus on developing historical thinking skills and content knowledge.

UNITS 1 AND 2 | EMPIRES | TEACHING IDEAS | BYOD

Professor Darius von Güttner is a historian and Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (United Kingdom). His work centres on the cultural aspects of European history and the transmission of ideas. His publications include academic books on religiously motivated warfare and historical writing. Darius is the author of The French Revolution: The Basics (Routledge) and HTAV's French Revolution Study and Exam Guide. He has taught VCE Revolutions, served as a VCE Revolutions Assessor, and contributed to the development of both Australian and Victorian curricula. He currently teaches History and History education at the Australian Catholic University.

11:15 AM **MORNING TEA**

11:50 AM VCAA Advisory Session – 2025 VCAA Update

Adam Brodie-McKenzie, Curriculum Manager (History and Civics), VCAA

Adam will reflect on the first three years of implementation of the VCE History Study Design 2022–2026 and outline what the VCAA has in train for 2025.

Adam Brodie-McKenzie is the Curriculum Manager (History and Civics) at the VCAA. In this role he leads, manages and supports the production, review and development of curriculum and assessment for the Victorian curriculum and VCE. He is also currently studying a Doctor of Education at the University of Melbourne. Prior to this he was the inaugural Master Teacher of the Humanities at the Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership, a lecturer, school leader and a high school teacher for over a decade.

12:20 PM SESSION 2: Please choose one workshop from this session.**2A More details forthcoming.**

3 4 T

UNITS 3 AND 4 | REVOLUTIONS: AMERICA | TEACHING IDEAS

Chris Hart has been teaching VCE History: Revolutions for over a decade at Yarra Valley Grammar. He co-wrote the third edition of HTAV's Forging America, has presented numerous times at HTAV conferences, and serves as a Director and Vice-President on the HTAV Board. Chris is passionate about History and loves to discuss events that occurred in his native United States.

Natalie Shephard is a History and Humanities educator with over two decades of experience and is currently teaching at Hume Anglican Grammar. As an active contributor to the HTAV, she not only presents at HTAV events and conferences but also enhances educational resources through her involvement in HTAV publications. In addition, she co-authored the Good Humanities 9 and 10 series. Beyond the classroom, Natalie serves as a mentor through HTAV, offering support to colleagues across Victoria. Committed to enriching History education, she provides accessible resources and innovative teaching ideas. Natalie also serves as a Director on the HTAV Board.

2B Communism Before McCarthyism: Origins of Australia's Red Scare

1 2 3 4 C T

Matthew Allanby, Xavier College and Robert Menzies Institute, and Dr Zachary Gorman, Robert Menzies Institute

In this workshop, Zachary will provide an in-depth historian's perspective of the background context, events and legacy of 'Communism in Australia' in the 1940s–1960s. This will trace the evolution of communism as a domestic issue, from the 1940 ban on the Communist Party of Australia, to the 1951 referendum, the Petrov Affair, and more. Matthew will show how this content is beneficial in the VCE History classroom and meets the curriculum requirements of both Modern History and Australian History. He will also demonstrate how resources from the Robert Menzies Institute can be used to support and extend VCE teachers' and students' knowledge and skills.

UNITS 1 AND 2 | MODERN HISTORY | UNITS 3 AND 4 | AUSTRALIAN HISTORY | CONTENT KNOWLEDGE | TEACHING IDEAS

Matthew Allanby is an experienced History educator who currently teaches at Xavier College and works part-time as the Education Manager at the Robert Menzies Institute. He also serves as a Director on the HTAV Board.

Dr Zachary Gorman is the Historian and Research Manager for the Robert Menzies Institute at the University of Melbourne. The Institute is a prime ministerial library and museum dedicated to furthering knowledge of twentieth-century Australian history and the Menzies era, in particular. Dr Gorman is currently editing a four-volume history of the Menzies period, produced by Melbourne University Publishing.

2C Liberty, Equality and Engaging Activities: A Teacher's Revolutionary Toolkit!

3 4 T

Olivia Heaton, Carey Baptist Grammar School

Are you a dedicated, passionate teacher who wants to develop more engaging activities on the French Revolution but simply don't have the time (or energy) to do so? Of course you are! Designed for more experienced teachers, this workshop will offer tried and tested activities to engage students in the joy—yes, you read that right—of learning the French Revolution and to avoid death by PowerPoint, while focusing on the key understandings and skills students need to develop to see success.

UNITS 3 AND 4 | REVOLUTIONS: FRANCE | TEACHING IDEAS

Olivia Heaton is an experienced History teacher who has taught VCE Revolutions and Modern History for almost a decade. Olivia has experience as a VCAA History: Revolutions Assessor and has contributed to HTAV conferences and publications.

2D Writing and Structuring Historical Essays

1 2 G T

Joshua Cukierman, McKinnon Secondary College

While content knowledge is vital to a sound historical essay, ultimately it is students' understanding of how to write an essay that will allow them to showcase their skills, emphasising this as an important area of focus for teaching. (Did you like that contention?) This workshop will scaffold how to write a historical essay and give you the resources with which your students can practise and receive feedback every step of the way. The 'historical essay builder' will be used to demonstrate the steps required to write a great essay!

UNITS 1 AND 2 | GENERAL | TEACHING IDEAS

Joshua Cukierman has an underlying philosophy that he communicates to his students at the start of the year: learning about the past is not going to change their life, but being able to write about it will. Having taught Levels 7–12, as well as being involved in assessment and exam development, Joshua has had lots of opportunities to read great essays.

2E Unravelling the Threads of Revolution: Thematic Parallels Between the French and Russian Revolutions3 4 C *Professor Darius von Güttner, Australian Catholic University*

This workshop examines the common themes of the French and Russian revolutions, focusing on social inequality, economic hardship, political discontent, revolutionary ideas, radical movements, and efforts at reorganisation. It delves into the forces that shaped these revolutions, exploring their impact on the collapse of monarchies and the establishment of new political orders. By comparing these revolutions, the workshop provides a comprehensive analysis aligned with key VCE curriculum content, offering a deeper understanding of these transformative historical events.

UNITS 3 AND 4 | REVOLUTIONS: FRANCE AND RUSSIA | CONTENT KNOWLEDGE | BYOD

*Professor Darius von Güttner is a historian and Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (United Kingdom). His work centres on the cultural aspects of European history and the transmission of ideas. His publications include academic books on religiously motivated warfare and historical writing. Darius is the author of *The French Revolution: The Basics* (Routledge) and HTAV's French Revolution Study and Exam Guide. He has taught VCE Revolutions, served as a VCE Revolutions Assessor, and contributed to the development of both Australian and Victorian curricula. He currently teaches History and History education at the Australian Catholic University.*

2F Cold War Australia: From Allies to Upheaval

3 4 C

Dr Nicholas Ferns, Monash University

In the decades after World War II, Australia was a loyal member of the anti-communist bloc led by the United States. The Cold War exerted profound influence over Australia's foreign and domestic policies, and these impacts ranged from involvement in wars in Korea and Vietnam to political upheaval, including a failed anti-communist referendum and Labor Party split. This workshop will examine recent scholarship on Australia's experience of the Cold War, connecting it to broader themes in Australian history and to the content outlined in the VCE Study Design for Australian History.

UNITS 3 AND 4 | AUSTRALIAN HISTORY | CONTENT KNOWLEDGE

*Dr Nicholas Ferns is an Australian Research Council DECRA Research Fellow in History at Monash University. He is a historian of postwar Australia, with a particular emphasis on Australia's postwar economic boom and its regional role in the Pacific. His research has been published in Australian and international journals, and his first book, *Australia in the Age of International Development, 1945–1975*, was published by Palgrave in 2020.*

2G Tips and Tricks for Small VCE Classes1 2 3 4 G T *Marcus Parker, St Joseph's College, Mildura*

This workshop will cover a variety of issues that History teachers of small classes and in rural and regional areas confront. While it may be difficult to run debates, excursions and traditional learning activities, this workshop aims to introduce teachers to a range of pedagogical practices that they can implement in their own History teaching.

UNITS 1–4 | GENERAL | TEACHING IDEAS | BYOD

Marcus Parker is the Director of Learning and Teaching at St Joseph's College. He is also a Learning Pedagogy Leader and a VCE Revolutions, Modern History and past Australian History classroom teacher. Marcus has taught small classes both individually and in shared modes over the past five years and has developed a range of techniques and strategies that work within a smaller teaching environment.

2H **Adding Complexity with Ancient Literary Sources**

1 2 3 4 T

Joel Cripps, Peninsula Grammar School

Ancient poetry and literary texts offer rich resources to explore the perspectives of key figures, and on key events, in ancient societies. Moreover, the role of storytelling (oral, performance and written) in civilisations allows students to deeply consider the context, genre and purposes of these sources. In this session we will examine how to fruitfully evaluate literature against historians and other texts. Practical examples will range from the *Epic of Gilgamesh* and *Prophecy of Nerferty*, to Aristophanes's *Peace* and Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, and present a framework applicable to many texts.

UNITS 1–4 | ANCIENT HISTORY | TEACHING IDEAS

Joel Cripps has taught VCE History Units 1, 2 (Egypt), 3 (Greece) and 4 (Rome). He has had a lifelong passion for ancient texts and history, with a focus on how they communicate meaning both directly and indirectly. Prior to teaching, he was Vice-President of the Debaters Association of Victoria for four years.

1:15 PM **NETWORKING LUNCH**

2:20 PM **SESSION 3: Please choose one option from this session.**

3A **VCE Australian History – Examination Reports**

3 4

James Jacobs, VCAA Chief Assessor

This session will report on students' performance in the 2024 VCE Australian History examination.

3B **VCE Ancient History – Examination Reports**

3 4

Jeremy Daly, VCAA Chief Assessor

This session will report on students' performance in the 2024 VCE Ancient History examination.

3C **VCE Revolutions – Examination Reports**

3 4

Sam Cavnoudias, VCAA Chief Assessor

This session will report on students' performance in the 2024 VCE Revolutions examination.

3D **VCE Units 1 and 2 – History Workshop**

1 2

For those not attending the Examination Reports, HTAV staff will facilitate a fast-paced professional learning workshop that will enable VCE Units 1–2 teachers to:

- share teaching strategies
- build assessment skills
- discover high-quality resources
- expand their professional network.

3:20 PM **SOCIAL HOUR**

NETWORKING DRINKS FOR CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

Join colleagues, catch up with old friends, meet new people, harvest good ideas, and enjoy a complimentary drink and a selection of canapés at the HTAV Social Hour.

Social Hour will take place at the Hawthorn Arts Centre conference venue.



**SCAN THE QR CODE
TO REGISTER.**