“Rock Art and Identity”

Both on and off the rocks, pictographs and petroglyphs are powerful tools. In many countries, cultural and socio-political identities are shaped, manipulated, and presented through rock art. In this talk, I present results from recent fieldwork in southern Africa, northern Australia, and west Texas. I focus on heritage centres concerned with conservation, job creation, promoting community archaeology, and – above all – challenging visitors’ preconceptions of rock art and of the Indigenous peoples who made it. I also consider re-contextualised rock art images, in commercial settings, in academic publications, and as integral components of national symbols.

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