

Re-imagining far-flung yet connected places: Australia and Chile in the Pacific Region (1990-2010)

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Abstract

As former far-flung European colonies, Chile and Australia have developed most of their socio-historical path in asymmetrical relationship to the Northern Hemisphere. Nevertheless, the advent of globalisation and the Pacific Region as a new site for strategic alliances with the end of the Cold War has decentred this prevailing asymmetry and given visibility to new settings of representation as well as the construction of meanings and identities.

By examining a selection of Australian and Chilean presidential and ministerial discourses between 1990 and 2010, this paper aims to shed light on how Chile and Australia have constructed their relationship in the context of the Free Trade Agreement signed in 2008, and the role of the Pacific Ocean in the geographical imaginations of both countries. This paper argues that the contours of globalisation and the constructed trajectories of Chile and Australia around the Pacific Ocean as a space where capital and people freely flow gave rise to the re-imagination of these two relatively distant countries as connected places.

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