

WRITING THE BIOGRAPHY OF VERE GORDON CHILDE

Biography Workshop

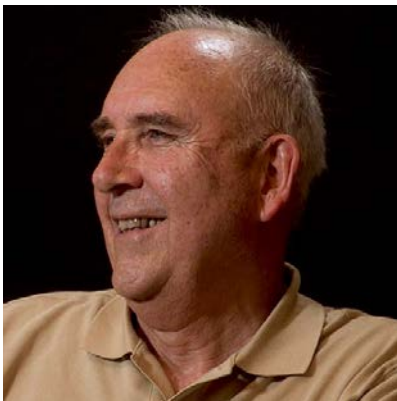
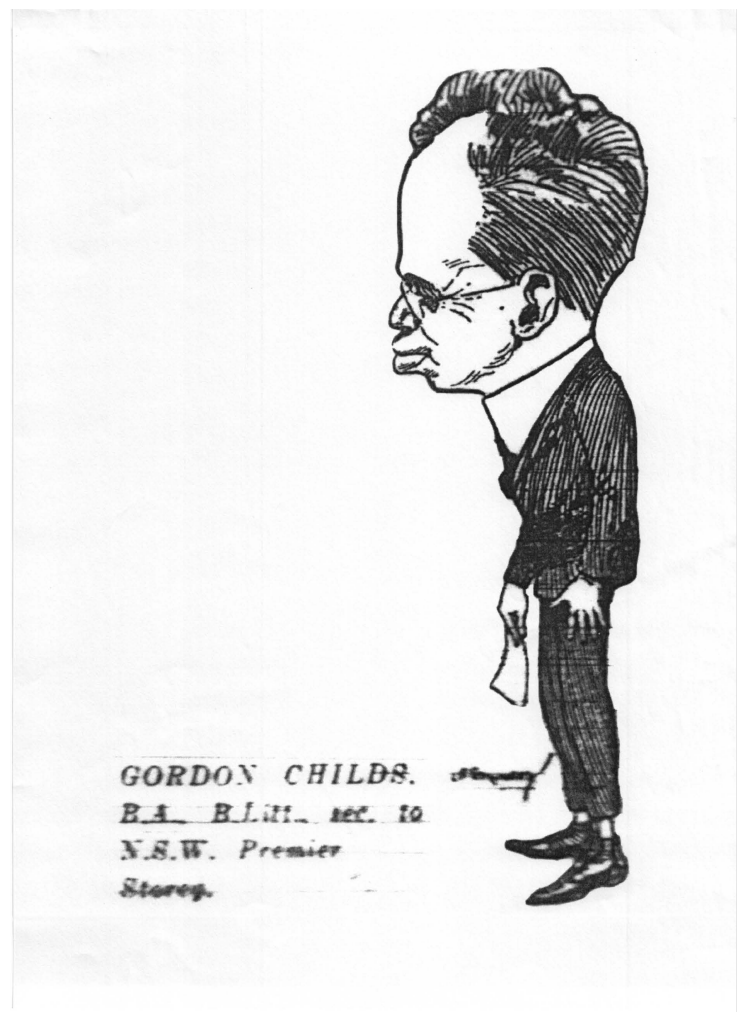
National Centre of Biography (ANU) 11am - 12:30 pm, Thursday 26 August 2021

Zoom Only Event

Meeting ID: 849 0058 9945 Password: 630803

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://anu.zoom.us/j/84900589945?pwd=eHNDcTVxZmNZNiBmNnBOeEh0VW94Zz09>

I think of Marxist biography as an example of Ray Monk's assertion that biography produces not truth but a way of seeing connections. But how does the biographer articulate the relationship between individual consciousness and social being? How does a Marxist biography differ from a 'life and times' approach? I will be talking about my 2020 book, *The Fatal Lure of Politics: The Life and Thought of Vere Gordon Childe*? After explaining how I became interested in Childe, I will talk about the research and writing process, the difficulty of writing about the intersections of consciousness and social being, authorial identification with the subject, and intellectual biography as a political act.



Terry Irving, radical historian and educator, is Honorary Professorial Fellow at the University of Wollongong. His books include *The Fatal Lure of Politics: The Life and Thought of Vere Gordon Childe* (2020), *Radical Sydney* (with Rowan Cahill), *Childe and Australia* (with Peter Gathercole and Gregory Melleuish), *Class Structure in Australian History* (with Raewyn Connell), *Youth in Australia* (with Geoffrey Sherington and David Maunders) and *The Southern Tree of Liberty*. He was editor of *Labour History: A Journal of Labour and Social History* and a founder of the Free University (Sydney). www.terryirving.net