

Organizer and Chair: **Bell, Claudia**, The University of Auckland, New Zealand
Material Culture and the Everyday

Issues concerning the private ownership of personal possessions and their display are explored in this session. People attach meaning to objects; everyday consumption practices include the selection of items for self expression in the domestic environment.

The presenters in this session consider how goods and things are used and valued. Building on material from the established fields of cultural anthropology, consumer studies and popular culture, the presenters investigate new socio-political understandings of the meaning of objects in diverse societies: those that honour heritage; post-colonial; throwaway. Each of the presentations addresses the meaning of things in the quest for cultural capital, in the construction of the personal autobiography, in social relationships, and in stating references to place.

Possible topics: mementoes, souvenirs, collectors, hoarders, family heritage objects, fashion, style, trash, garbage, recycling, interior design.