Maintenance and repair beyond the perimeter of the plant: Materials, skills and household life in the industrial city

Researchers
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Project description
This project explores how cultures of thrift, care and making-do have flourished in the regional steelmaking city of Wollongong. The Port Kembla steelworks has operated in the Illawarra region continuously for almost 90 years. Maintenance and repair are central to the functioning of a large industrial plant, yet they are often rendered invisible within accounts of manufacturing. Through a close examination of the workers who keep the steelworks running, this project explores how methods, practices, skills and values spill out beyond the paid workplace, into the garage, shed and suburban backyard.

Funding
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Outcomes
Indicative publications