

## **KATE BAGNALL**

### **Title**

Finding your Chinese roots: Tips for tracing your Australian family's Chinese origins

### **Summary**

In this talk, aimed at people with some Chinese heritage, historian Kate Bagnall will look at how we can use Australian sources to find family connections back to China – from clues in how Chinese names were written down to working out what's recorded on a Chinese headstone – and what to do when the connection is made.

### **Abstract**

This talk is aimed at people with a Chinese ancestor who arrived in Australia in the nineteenth or early twentieth century. It will help them understand how to go about locating details about their ancestor's Chinese origins and information about visiting their ancestral home in China. Most people with Chinese Australian heritage start their research here in Australia, with what they know from families and from Australian records, but many are unable to locate details of their ancestor's Chinese name or place of origin. In this talk Kate will discuss various sources that can be used to try to locate this information (such as immigration records, temple records and headstones) and research strategies to use when the more obvious sources draw a blank. Kate will further discuss some of the practical aspects of visiting the ancestral home once a connection is made. The talk will be richly illustrated with slides of relevant archival and photographic material, including of fieldwork visits Kate made to ancestral homes in the Pearl River Delta region of Guangdong, China.

### **Audience**

Intermediate

Australian family historians with some Chinese background and others interested in the history of the Chinese in Australia. Many of the concepts and strategies discussed will also be relevant for people with Chinese heritage from New Zealand and other countries, but the focus will be on Australian records.