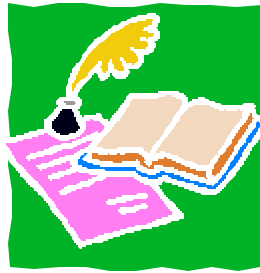


ARTS research news & events

Number 5, Spring 2003

*This newsletter is produced by the Faculty of Arts at the University of Wollongong
Enquiries should be addressed to June Aspley email: june@uow.edu.au*

Forthcoming Seminars, Book launches, Conference/Symposiums:



Friday 10th October 2.00 - 3.30 pm Room 19.1080

Guy Davidson: "Microscene, Minor Literature: Fiona McGregor's *Chemical Palace*"

Fiona McGregor's novel *Chemical Palace* (2002) focuses on Sydney's queer dance party culture, a scene hitherto little represented in literature - if at all. This paper explores the political and aesthetic dimensions of McGregor's project by bringing her novel into dialogue with the work of Deleuze and Guattari, especially their theory of "minor literature."

In particular, Guy will attend to the novel's engagement with the issues of linguistic, bodily, and spatial deterritorialisation; the formation and deformation of communities; and the significance of the ephemeral.

Monday 13th October, 12.30 in Room 2061
Associate Professor Paul Kauffman from the University of Canberra (Management & Law) will be presenting his paper "Australia's Indigenous crisis and lessons from Canada".

The First Nations of Canada and Australia's Indigenous people have different backgrounds and histories, but share similar concerns and in some respects have similar social profiles. Whereas Canada (and other comparable countries) have a six year gap between Aboriginal life expectancies and the life expectancy of the general population, and that gap is closing, in Australia there is a twenty year gap, between the life expectancy of Indigenous people and all Australians, mainly because of premature Aboriginal death in early adult years. Yet there are case studies of significant improvements in Aboriginal communities in Australia, where appropriate support exists and where economic opportunities have been sensitively and intelligently made available to Indigenous people.

Particularly in Canada, and also in Australia, some Indigenous groups have created successful tourism and cultural businesses, and have also negotiated employment and environmental protections from mining, cultural tourism and agriculture. The paper concludes that it is time for a wide-ranging reconciliation movement in Australia, which includes greater support and Indigenous involvement in governments, education, cultural programs and businesses.

Questions regarding research matters in the Faculty of Arts should be addressed to:
Associate Professor Adrian Vickers, Associate Dean (Research & Graduate Studies) and/or
Professor John Bern, Director, Institute of Social Change & Critical Inquiry and/or
June Aspley, Faculty Research Development Officer

Dr Paul Kauffman is a Visiting Professorial Fellow with the Institute of Social Change and Critical Inquiry. He advises government on Indigenous issues, and has held appointments at the University of Canberra, Konstanz University in Germany and with the OECD in Paris. His books include: *Wik, Mining and Aborigines* and *Travelling Aboriginal Australia: Discovery and Reconciliation*.

Wednesday 15 October 5.00pm in Room 19.1047 **Book Launch** of '*Globalization, Culture and Inequality in Asia*' co-edited by **Tim Scrase**, Todd Holden and Scott Baum.

The Faculty is extremely happy to have **Emeritus Professor John Western** of the University of Queensland visiting us to officially launch Tim's co-edited book. Professor John Western is renowned world-wide for his research efforts in areas such as class and stratification in comparative perspective (comparative analyses of class structure); social planning (development studies); environmental impact studies (social impact assessment); the professions and work in Australian society (career training for the professions and employment analysis); survey design and analysis; the mass media in Australia (marketing surveys, opinion polling; structure, use and evaluation of Australian mass media); and the criminal justice system.



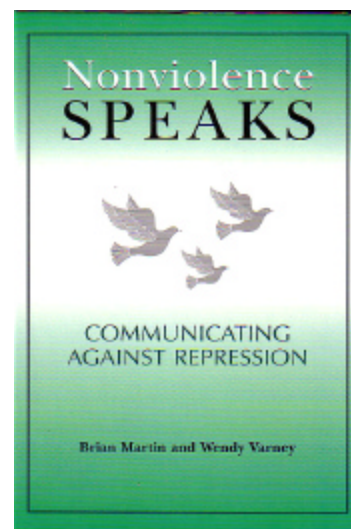
Globalization, Culture and Inequality in Asia
ISBN 1 876 843 888

Contemplating globalization from a sociological perspective, it is without doubt that a major site for social, political, economic and cultural change in the new millennium lies in the Asian region. The underlying theme of the book is the multi-dimensional way in which globalization - in the form of ideas, practices and technology - have introduced social inequalities in specific contexts. The book draws on studies from several countries in the region and covers such areas as gender, class, labor, media, identity, cities and urbanization.

Apart from being a co-editor, Tim has sole-authored the chapter '*Producing on the Margins: Asian Artisans in the Global Economy*', and co-authored the chapters: '*Asia's Globalization: A Sociological View*' and '*Social and Cultural Transformation in Asia: A Critical Assessment*'.

Ruchira Ganguly-Scrase also has the chapter "*Globalization, Modernity and Gender Equality*" published in the book.

Tuesday 21 October 5.30pm in Room 1047 **Book Launch** of **Brian Martin** and **Wendy Varney's** book: ***Nonviolence Speaks: Communicating Against Repression***



The Hampton Press, Inc.,
New Jersey, USA, ISBN 1-57273-485-X.

Brian & Wendy's book addresses the power of popular non-violent action against repression, aggression, and oppression. A crucial aspect of effective nonviolent action is communication. Activists need to be able to contact each other and to mobilize support from other parts of the world. However, within the nonviolence literature, communication has been almost entirely neglected, while within the communication literature, nonviolent action is seldom mentioned. This is the first major study to focus on the joint dynamics of nonviolence and communication.

Three cases studies are examined in the book: the popular action that forced the resignation of Indonesian President Suharto in 1998, the successful people's resistance to the Soviet coup in 1991, and the successful internationally coordinated campaign against the Multilateral Agreement on Investment in 1998. In each case, special attention is given to the role of communication in the struggle.

Martin & Varney's research for this book involved the analysis of surveys made of nonviolence and communication theories, and probed for insights relevant to the nonviolence-communication nexus. Gradually they develop a model for analyzing people's communication. The insights from theory are used to pose a set of steps by which activist groups can analyse communication and develop effective communication strategies.

Identity & Cultural Difference Research Group seminars continue as follows:

Friday, 24th October 2.00 - 3.30 pm Room 19.1080
Nicky Evans: *"Size Counts"*

Friday, 7th November 2.00 - 3.30 pm Room 19.1080
Monique Rooney: *"Destructive Creation: Representing Gangs in South Central LA"*

Friday 14th November 2.00 - 3.30 pm Room 19.1080

Gaetano Rando: *"Elements & Influences of popular Italian Culture & Language in Italo-Australian Literature"*.

2 Day Postgraduate Conference 27th & 28th November

***Contesting Boundaries* Call for papers**

ISCCI and CAPSTRANS are pleased to present a 2-day Postgraduate Conference on 27th & 28th November.

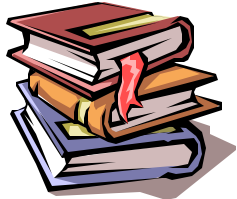
The organisers of the conference are interested in exploring the ways in which state and non-state actors, as well as communities and individuals, contest a range of boundaries in political, social and cultural life. These boundaries may be imagined or actual, and could include national, state and geographical borders, as well as cultural and symbolic borders (eg, gender, sexuality, ethnicity/race). We encourage participants to question the stability (contest the boundaries) of concepts such as nation, community and identity, and to interpret the theme as broadly or narrowly as you like in the context of your current thesis work.

If you are a Postgraduate student with the Faculty of Arts/ISCCI/CAPSTRANS and interested in presenting a paper at the conference please forward your 150 word abstract to Robyn Foster at rfoster@uow.edu.au by **Friday 17th October**.

A panel including postgraduate representatives will assess abstracts and you will receive a response by Friday 24th October. People who are in the mid to late stages of their research are particularly encouraged to submit an abstract.

An exciting line up of guest speakers is also being planned. A Conference program and venue details will be advised in November.

Enquiries regarding the conference should be directed to Kylie Smith (ISCCI Postgrad rep) on kms12@uow.edu.au or Susan Engel (CAPSTRANS Postgrad rep) on sne99@uow.edu.au



Congratulations to colleagues who have recently had their work published and/or accepted for publication: i.e.

Rose Melville has recently been successful with the following publications:

- "Giving Peaks a Voice: conceptual challenges, mapping and analysis of advocacy organisations in policy research," (Special Issue: Researching the Third Sector) Third Sector Review, vol 10 (2) 2003.

This special issue celebrates 10 years of third sector research in Australia. Edited by Wendy Earles (JCU), Sue Kenny and Kevin Brown (Deakin Uni) it will be publicly launched at CACOM, by the PVC Research at UTS on 24th Noember, 2003;

- and with Perkins, R., 'Community-Sector Peak Bodies in a Neo-Liberal Environment in Australia': An ARC Funded Study (2000-2002) Final Report, published by the University of Wollongong, Arts Faculty, ISCCI, September 2003 (113 pages & tables), ISBN No 1 74128 080 6.

This monograph will be launched at the Australian Council of Social Services National Congress in Canberra in November.

Faculty staff presenting conference papers at International conferences in the coming weeks, i.e.:



David Mercer will be presenting his paper "The rise of corporate epistemology and the vertical integration of expertise" at the **Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)** conference being held in Atlanta, Georgia from 13th – 17th October.

Paul Sharrad will be delivering his paper "Fallen Signposts? Emergent texts in Pacific literature" at the **FILLM Congress** (Federation Internationale des Langues et Litteratures Modernes) in Noumea at the end of October.

Gaetano Rando will also be presenting his paper "Sociocultural context and code choice in literary texts produced by first generation Italian Australian writers" at the **36th Annual Conference of the American Italian Historical Association**, at the Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida on 6th November 2003.

Commodity Fetishism and Everyday Life
Susan Dodds, Ben Maddison and Andrew Wells have recently had papers accepted for the

Re-Thinking Marxism Conference "Marxism and the World Stage" University of Massachusetts in Amherst, USA 6th – 8th November.

The Re-thinking Marxism conference session will explore the historical, cultural and subjective dimensions of commodity fetishism in a variety of social settings. In so doing it seeks to illuminate the multi-dimensionality of commodity fetishism, by delineating how it works itself out, is culturally interpreted, and gets resisted at different levels of human experience, from popular myth to biological research. An overarching theme of the session is the "phenomenology" of commodification as it manifests itself at the level of everyday life in capitalist society.

The title of papers are as follows:

Susan Dodds, "*Commodification Beyond selling embryos in stem cell research*"

Ben Maddison "*Holding onto the Human: Working Class Resistance to Commodity Fetishism in Early 20th Century Australia*"

Andrew Wells "*Commodification of Colonial Labour*"

Karen Daley presenting her paper "*Mapping Christianity onto the East in the Embajada a Tamorlán*" at the **International Medieval Congress**, May 6-9, 2004, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA.

Research Bits & Pieces

Georgine Clarson recently presented a paper "*The Redex Trials: Critical Narratives from the Margins*" at the **RoundAbout: Mobilities, Narratives and Journeys in 20th Century Australia** conference held at The University of Sydney.

The Faculty of Arts made an impressive contribution to the **8th National Labour History Conference** in Brisbane from 3rd – 5th October. Five papers were delivered by six members of the Faculty, who represented the strongest contingent at the conference of any university Australia-wide. The papers given by **Michele Ford, Jim Hagan, Ben Maddison, Julia Martinez, Kylie Smith, and Andrew Wells** illustrate the continuing strength of labour history research in the Faculty, and the national reputation of the Arts Faculty as a centre for innovative labour history. The conference was organised by ex-UoW labour history PhD, Bradley Bowden.

Susan Dodds recently presented her paper "*Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research and the Global Biotech Industry*" at the **Medicine and Industry: Changing Paradigms in Law, Ethics and the Health Professions Symposium** held in Sydney in September.

Port Kembla Heritage Project

Congratulations to **Kylie Smith** and her colleagues from the Port Kembla Heritage Park Committee on the final report and unveiling of the blueprint for the Pt Kembla heritage park plan.

The Pt Kembla research project, made possible by a \$43,350 IMB Community Foundation grant, will be the key to the development of the unique Heritage Park project.

Kylie has been working on the project as a Research Assistance this year and with more than 500 articles, artifacts, photographs, research papers and stories has brought together

a history of the Pt Kembla area to help create a blueprint for the park.

Having recently been interviewed by the *Illawarra Mercury* and local *WIN TV*, Kylie advises that the project highlighted the diversity of the area's history.

The Heritage Park will detail the Port's Aboriginal, environmental, maritime and military history, exploring everything from its role in Aboriginal society 20,000 years ago to its part in World War II. The Park will look at specific incidents and inventions, from the infamous Dalfram industrial dispute to the development of the Owen gun. It will also explore the role of the port including how it shaped Australia's relationship with Japan. The Park is destined to provide an educational and cultural resource for schools and community groups.

Recent successful Faculty research events



On 1st September, the Faculty (through the SSMAC School) hosted a video viewing and talk by **Alexandra Halkin**, the International Coordinator of the **Chiapas Media Project**.

The Chiapas Media Project is a bi-national partnership that provides video equipment, computers and training enabling marginalized Indigenous and Campesino communities in Southern Mexico to create their own media.

For many people who live in the developed world use of video cameras, VCR's, TV's, and computers is a daily occurrence. But when one speaks with indigenous peoples about access to this technology they say it is only a dream. For

centuries indigenous people and their cultures have been represented by people from the outside. Recently over the past few years there has been an effort to get new communication technology into the hands of indigenous people so that they can represent themselves with their own words and images. This is what the Chiapas Media Project (CMP) is attempting to do in Southern Mexico.

Alex Halkin presented excerpts from a selection of videos discussing the role of indigenous and campesino produced alternative media in the context of the current political situations in Chiapas and Guerrero.

While at the Faculty of Arts, Alex was interviewed by reporters from the local ABC Radio station, WIN TV and the *Illawarra Mercury*.

Thanks are extended to Brian Martin for arranging the visit by Alex Halkin.

The Faculty hosted the launch of **Paul Sharrad's** latest book "*Albert Wendt and Pacific Literature: Circling the void*" on 18th September.



Paul Sharrad



Paul and Brij Lal

The Faculty was extremely pleased to have Professor Brij Lal (Head of Pacific and Asian History, ANU) visit again for the specific purpose of launching Paul's book. Brij was here earlier in the year presenting a paper for the ISCCI seminar series.

Peacekeeping in the Asia Pacific

A conference on **Peacekeeping in the Asia Pacific** was held on 23-24 September and explored the diversity of international action in preventing war. The papers addressed peacekeeping operations in East Timor, Bougainville, the Solomon Islands and Cambodia, as well as questioning why peacekeeping occurs at all and why it is not being used to settle conflicts in West Papua and Mindanao. A distinguished group of speakers was invited to present papers, including the co-chair of the Africa Caribbean Pacific Group (and possible future president), and former PNG government Minister, Sir John Kaputin; the former diplomat, advocate of an independent East Timor and author James Dunn; Professor Peter King from the Centre for Peace and conflict Studies; UoW's own Professor Edward P Wolfers who has been working as adviser to the PNG government on the Bougainville Peace Process; the former Australian Ambassador to Cambodia, Tony Kevin; DFAT officers of the Peace Monitoring Group on Bougainville and the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI); an Australian Federal Police (AFP) officer who had completed a tour on the Solomon Islands; the former Director of Intelligence for the AFP; and academics from the School of History and Politics.

The conference provided a multi-tiered view of the problems of modern day peacekeeping and created several ideas about a future research agenda for the War and State Development Group, the most obvious of which is to create a typology of peacekeeping operations and then examine their relative effects on the fluid notion of state sovereignty. Conference organiser **Charles Hawksley** is now preparing the papers for publication.

Olivieri incident at the University of Toronto and Sick Children's Hospital

Professor Jocelyn Downie (Director, Health Law Institute at Dalhousie University, Canada)

visited the Faculty on 30th September and presented her seminar paper on the Olivieri case. The seminar focussed on research ethics, conflicts of interest, industry, universities and policy-making in light of Jocelyn's experience as a member of the Canadian academic union's board of inquiry into the Olivieri incident at the University of Toronto and Sick Children's Hospital where research ethics, institutional responsibility and industry sponsorship of clinical trials came into clear conflict.

The Olivieri case involves issues of research ethics and academic freedom so important to the public interest that it has attracted national and international attention. It occurred in a context that quickly developed from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s of increased pressures on universities, teaching hospitals and individual researchers to seek corporate sponsorship for projects. Public institutions were not conscious of the inadequacy of their policy infrastructures for protecting the public interest in this new environment, and policies and practices had not been changed to take into account the new circumstances. It was possible for clinical investigators to sign contracts with industrial sponsors for research trials containing provisions that protected the sponsors' interests, but not the public interest or the safety of trial participants. This meant a dispute could arise between the ethical and legal obligations of an investigator to inform participants of unexpected risks, and the contractual right of a sponsor to insist that information on risks not be communicated and to terminate a trial without prior notice. The academic freedom of an investigator to publish adverse findings and inform the scientific community could be at issue.

---from the Summary of the Report of the Committee of Inquiry on the Case Involving Dr. Nancy Olivieri, the Hospital for Sick Children, the University of Toronto, and Apotex Inc.

While visiting the Faculty Professor Downie as interviewed by reporters from the *Illawarra Mercury*.

Jocelyn is one of five partner investigators on the pending ARC application "Big Picture

Bioethics: Policy Making and Liberal Democracy" along with partners Susan Dodds, R., Ankeny, J. Grossman, and F. Baylis.

Many thanks to Susan Dodds for organizing the visit by Jocelyn Downie.

Call for Research News items

Should you have any item of news relating to your research (i.e. forthcoming conference/seminar events and/or papers; recently published materials; invited visiting speakers etc.) please contact June (june@uow.edu.au or Ext 5581/4082) and your news item can be included in forthcoming editions of this Newsletter.

Distribution of newsletter:

The Arts Research newsletter will be photocopied and distributed to all staff, postgraduates, and Honours students in the Faculty of Arts. It is also available on the UoW Faculty of Arts website.