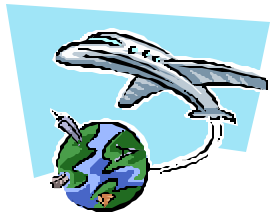


ARTS research news & events

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*This newsletter is produced by the Faculty of Arts at the University of Wollongong
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2004 Visiting/Honorary Fellows

The Faculty is very pleased to welcome **Professor David J. Hess** as a Professorial Visiting Fellow for two weeks in May 2004. David is a professor in Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's (Troy, New York) Department of Science and Technology Studies, where he is currently department chair. He holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Harvard University and a master's and doctorate in anthropology from Cornell University. He is the recipient of two Fulbrights, a Social Science Research Council fellowship, the Diana Forsythe Prize, an NSF scholar's award, and other grants and awards.

David's research focuses on the anthropology, history, and sociology of science and technology in religious, health, and environmental movements.

His first major research project involved a study of the understandings of science, health, and medicine in the relations between the Brazilian religious movement known as Kardecian Spiritism and other major institutions in Brazilian society, such as the Catholic church, state, and medical profession. His second major fieldwork-based project, beginning in the early 1990s and continuing to the present, has involved the study of science and politics in alternative health movements. David's most recent work is on the policy issues of stronger versus weaker integration, a synopsis of which was published in the *American Journal of Public Health*, and on the question of how the analysis of the CAM social movements can contribute to a broader understanding of social movements, the sociology and anthropology of knowledge, and globalization. This work is connected to his emergent interest in sustainability and local economies through the politics of food.

In the mid 1990s, with support from the Ethics and Values program of the National Science Foundation, Prof Hess interviewed clinicians, researchers, and advocacy leaders on the public understanding of science and the politics of complementary and alternative cancer therapies in the U.S. Also with support from the same grant, and working with Margaret Wooddell, a doctoral student in Rensselaer's program, David

interviewed a group of women who have demonstrated leadership in the movement for greater choice and complementary/alternative therapies for cancer. Prior to this work, David had written an historical analysis of the lost research tradition on bacterial vaccines and cancer, as well as several essays in various publications. This body of work combines long-term ethnographic and archival research on complementary and alternative cancer therapies with policy analysis and patient advocacy.

David's current research is a book project that is intended to utilize and contribute to theories of globalization, social movements, and science, technology, and society.

Dr. Debra Dudek was awarded her PhD in 2001 from the University of Saskatchewan (in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada). Her dissertation is entitled "Creative Displacement and Corporeal Defiance: Canadian Feminist Modernism in Margaret Laurence's Manawaka Novels." Debra has been teaching in the English Department and the Women's Studies Program at the University of Winnipeg for the past four years (1999-2003).

Debra was the recipient of a prestigious Visiting Canadian Studies Fellowship offered by the International Council for Canadian Studies and awarded to the Centre for Canadian-Australian Studies in 2003. Debra took up her Fellowship in August 2003. She spent her first three months collaborating on the pedagogy of Critical Race Studies in a Comparative Canadian and Australian Literature subject with Gerry Turcotte. At present, she is working with Gerry to expand the "Performing the Nation" project that was the feature of a major research symposium in June 2003.

The current project will see two universities in Canada linking up with a University of Wollongong research team to develop institutional, student, and research linkages. Debra will co-coordinate the Australian end of this project that will include the preparation of a major grant application and the co-organising of a follow-up conference in Canada.

Concurrently, Debra is working on a manuscript in which she conducts a rhetorical analysis of a semiotics of blood by studying the ways in which Australian and Canadian nation-states rely on metaphors of blood to culturally enact and textually perform versions of homogeneous, ethnic, and global nationalisms.

Dr Nancy Huggett is a Visiting Fellow with the CCS Program within the SSMAC School until the end of 2004. Nancy holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in American and Commonwealth Arts from Exeter University (UK) and a PhD from the University of Wollongong. Her doctoral thesis, "A Cultural History of Cinema-going in the Illawarra 1900-1950", draws on oral history interviews co-produced with Illawarra residents to explore cinema-going from the point of view of local audience members. Nancy is coordinating the "Memories of Cinema" project with Dr Kate Bowles in the Arts Faculty, which is gathering an archive of oral history interviews about cinema-going to inform our knowledge of cinema-going in Australia. This project is linked to related local cinema research in Massachusetts, Chapel Hill, Williamsburg and Utrecht. The collection of interviews will be made accessible to the public via an online database.

Annalisa Pirastu is a Visiting Fellow with the Modern Languages program of the School of ELPL until the end of 2005. Annalisa has a degree in Foreign Languages & Literatures from the University of Cagliari (1980); post-degree Diploma in Modern Foreign Languages & Literatures from the University of Urbino (1983); and is presently enrolled in her PhD at UoW with a thesis on "Italian characters in the novels of Australian writers in the Thirties".

Dr Richard Harland continues his long-standing relationship with the Faculty as a Visiting Fellow until October 2004.

Richard's research highlights includes three books on language theory and related topics: *Superstructuralism; The philosophy of structuralism and poststructuralism* (Methuen, UK); *Beyond Superstructuralism: The syntagmatic side of language* (Routledge, UK); and *Literary Theory from Plato to Barthes* (Macmillan, UK).

Richard's current research involves writing articles and reviews on fantasy literature. He is also kept busy writing SF and fantasy novels, of which six have already been published by Pan Macmillan and Penguin.

Dr Melissa Boyd is an Honorary Fellow with the English Program in the School of English Literatures, Philosophy and Languages. Over the past 12 years she has taught at several universities in the areas of literature and media theory, most recently in the School of Communication at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst.

Melissa is a graduate of the University of

Wollongong, with first class honours in English. She has an MA (Communication and Cultural Studies) from the University of Western Sydney. Her doctorate, on the *roman à clef*, experimental writing and cultural secrets, is from the department of Critical and Cultural Studies at Macquarie University.

Melissa recently curated an exhibition of the work of Mary Alice Evatt, a Modernist painter, which is touring this year to Canberra Museum and Art Gallery and Mornington Regional Art Gallery after successful shows at SH Ervin Gallery in Sydney and Heide Museum of Modern Art in Melbourne.

Dr Boyd was awarded the 2003 NSW Premiers History Fellowship for which she will write a biography on Mary Alice Evatt.

Currently she is developing an exhibition of the work of four contemporary Australian artists which explores diverse representations of the Australian bush. The exhibition, *Out on a Limb*, opens at Bathurst Regional Art Gallery in April. One focus of this project is on research into innovative ways of interpreting the work for audiences.

Chenxiang Zhang (Vicky) is an Associate Professor of the Central South Forestry University, P. R. China. Her academic interests include translation theory and practice between English and Chinese; cultural consideration in translation, literary translation; applied linguistics; and cross-cultural studies.

Vicky's current research focuses upon the influence of culture on second language production in Australian international students. Her study aims to answer questions related to L2 oral and writing ability development of Australian

international students (i) How might the cultural influence on the development of L2 English oral and writing ability as revealed by Australian international students be described? (ii) Why does the learners' oral and writing ability develop the way it does? The purpose of the research is twofold: first, find out to what extent culture influences the route of L2 oral/ writing development in both naturalistic and instructed learning environments; second, find out how the factors central to the processes of speech/writing production and of oral /writing ability development interact to determine teaching strategies so as to enhance the communicative competence of Australian international students.

Hak Soo Kim, Visiting Fellow February – November 2004.

Professor Hak Soo Kim joins us from the Samcheok National University in Korea where he is Professor and Dean of the College Humanities and Social Studies. Dr Kim gained his PhD in Applied Linguistics from the University of Dankook – he has a M.S in English Linguistics from the University of Chungnam and a BA in English Education from the Kongju Teacher's College in Korea. Dr Kim's research interests are in second language acquisition, interlanguage, and multimedia and English education.

Michelle Harris joins us for six months until the end of July 2004. Michelle comes from the Dept of Sociology/Anthropology at Wheaton College, MA. She gained her PhD from the University of Michigan and has a MA and BA from the University of South Florida. Michelle's research interests are social psychology, immigration and migration, stress and social support, medical

sociology, race and ethnicity, deviance and society.

Wendy Varney - After completing her PhD on the social shaping of children's toys, Wendy extended her research into other areas of technology and leisure, mainly to do with sport. While she has written about various issues in sport, including cricket and the Olympics, her main area of research is women's gymnastics. Already she has had published articles on the Opie Report into women's gymnastics at the Australian Institute of Sport; the gendered nature of gymnastics technology; and issues in the history of Russian women's gymnastics. Other areas she is following are: the question of how gymnastics techniques are negotiated through gender filters and other social priorities; the tensions between pleasing the public and satisfying "expertise" expectations in women's gymnastics; and media influences on the development of women's gymnastics.

Wendy has given numerous conference papers on social and political aspects of women's gymnastics and is currently preparing a paper on the media representations of female gymnasts since 1972 for the Australian Historical Association Conference in Newcastle in July. She also continues to do research on toys and is intermittently interviewed on television and radio on this area of her research. Most recently she was interviewed by, and quoted in "Icon" in the *Sydney Morning Herald* about "smart toys." She has attended, and given papers at, the last three International Toy Research conferences in Europe.



Chris Gallagher is visiting the Centre for Canadian-Australian Studies until the end of August 2004. Chris is here as a Canadian Studies Fellow – the fellowship is sponsored by ICCS (International Council for Canadian Studies), and is a 6-month assignment. Chris previously attended Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario (MA), and The University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario (Hon BA) - his hometown is Newmarket, Ontario.

We trust all of our Visiting/Honorary Fellows will have a productive and enjoyable stay with the Faculty of Arts.



The Faculty will be hosting an official welcome to our 2004 Visiting/Honorary Fellows on Wednesday 17th March at 5pm in the Arts Common Room - please come along to meet our visitors and to introduce yourself.

Forthcoming Conference/Symposiums:



Wednesday, 21st April at 5.00pm in Room 19.2061

Dr P.Thirumal * *“The Imagined Kannadiga”*

Abstract: The proposed paper seeks to map out a post-colonial regional historiography through an interpretative study of a regional newspaper “Deccan Herald”. It engages with the term “region” as an abstract space and as a concrete place, known as Mysore before 1972, and Karnataka later. The analysis of the editorials of the regional English language newspaper during the post-colonial period (1958-1983) reveals a connection between a (abstract) people and a concrete place ‘Karnataka’. The connection is made through the ideology of development. In the editorials, the people of the region become visible in the building of dams, roads and large industries. Since the newspaper is a non-linear medium and the events are juxtaposed, it is through an act of imagination that the people and the region get constituted.

The editorials are classified under seven thematic categories. The thematic categories are boundary disputes, language policy, industrial projects, food policy, river water disputes, communication infrastructure and

prohibition. The analyses of the thematic categories 'boundary' and 'language policy' disclose the non-primacy of territory and language in the construction of regional community. The interpretation of the rest of the categories show that capital and community are not antithetical to each other but supplement and complement the idea of Mysore initially and Karnataka later. While the editorials imagine the region as a community, the interests of the region bears a close resemblance to the Nehruvian model of nation building and to the public vision of early twentieth century Princely State of Mysore.

* Dr P.Thirumal is a Senior Lecturer with the Department of Communication at the University of Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India. Hyderabad University is a premier institute of postgraduate teaching and research, established by an Act of the Parliament of India in 1974 as a Central University. Over the years, the University has emerged as a top-ranking institute of higher education and research in India.

Thursday, 20th May at 4.30 pm in Room 19.1064

Professor **David Hess** will be presenting a paper concerning Suppression and Alternative Health (more details to be provided closer to the date). David is the Chair of STS at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York.

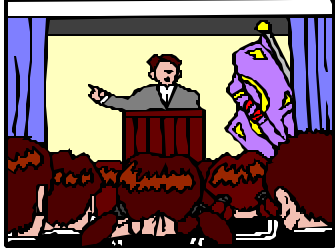


Congratulations to colleagues who have recently had their work published and/or accepted for publication: i.e.

Rob Sparrow had his paper "Borders, Community and Justice" published in *Arena* magazine, No. 66, pp.25-31. Rob also has a response to critics in the following issue, No. 67.

Gaetano Rando advises of three recent publications – a book chapter and a journal article: i.e. (i) 'Father and family: The "Padre Padrone" figure in Frank Paci's *The Italians* and Antonio Casella's *The Sensualist*' in Joseph Pivato (ed.) *F. G. Paci Essays on his work, Guernica*, Toronto, 2003, pp107-131; (ii) 'Dai monti della Calabria ai grattacieli dell'Australia. La letteratura calabrese in cammino,' *La Questione Meridionale*, 1(1), April-May 2003, pp34-38; and (iii) a refereed conference paper: 'The perception of locale in Italian Australian writing and oral histories' in Janet E. Worrall - Carol Bonomo Albright - Elvira G. Di Fabio, *Italian immigrants go west: the impact of locale on ethnicity*, Cambridge [MA], Italian American Historical Association, 2003, pp.134-148.

Some recent conference papers presented by members of Faculty:



Assoc Prof Chris Barker was in the UK in January presenting his paper "Redemption Song: Westernized Buddhism in the Identity Projects of White Australian Men" to the *Globalization, Discourse and Gender* symposium held at the University of Cardiff, 8-10 January, 2004.

Dr David Mercer presented two papers in December 2003, i.e.: (i) an invited presentation "STS advice and the Australian Committee on Electromagnetic Energy Public Health Issues" to the *Australian Academy of Science: National Committee for History and Philosophy of Science: One Day Symposium 'Science Studies and Public policy: A Sino-Australian Conversation'* at HPS, University of NSW on 2nd December 2003; and (ii) his paper "Torts, Junk Science and the Vertical Integration of Expertise" was presented to *21st Annual Law and Society Conference* at the Justice Policy Research Centre, University of Newcastle, 8-10 December 2003

More recently, David returns from an invited research trip to Austria where he presented his paper "Can STS Shape Policy in Controversial Areas of Science" to the *3rd Annual Conference for Advanced Studies on Science Technology and Society: Critical Issues in Science and Technology Studies* at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Graz,

22-24 February 2004.

Dr Glenn Mitchell presented two papers to the *Australia Historical Association* conference in Mildura (29th September – 3rd October 2003) - one co-authored with Henry Lee 'History noir: Wollongong's dark side 1900-2000' – the other 'Image & Region: The representation of the Illawarra 1830-2000'.

Glenn also presented a paper to the Australian & New Zealand Comparative & International Education Society conference held at UoW in December 2003.

Apologies are extended to Glenn for the administrative oversight and exclusion of details of these conference papers in the Arts Research Newsletter No. 6 produced in December 2003.

Assoc Prof Gaetano Rando presented his paper "*Cultural context and code choice in literary texts produced by first generation Italian Australian writers*" to the 36th American Italian Historical Association Conference at the Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, 6-8 November 2003.

Dr Rob Sparrow presented his paper "Revolutionary and familiar, inevitable and endangered: Rhetorical contradictions in enthusiasm for new technologies" to the *Computing and Philosophy* conference at the Australian National University on the 31st of October, 2003.



Congratulations are extended to two of our Postgraduate students:

Robyn Morris has just been awarded an International Council Canadian Studies Graduate Scholarship for her work on Asian-Canadian/Asian-Australian Writers; and

Wendy Pearson has just been awarded a prestigious SHHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship (the Canadian version of the ARCs) which will take effect after her PhD in English is submitted.

Farewell



Dr Catriona (affectionately known as Cat) **Elder** resigned from the Faculty of Arts early in the New Year to take up a position with the Department of Sociology at the University of Sydney. Cat has been the backbone of our Australian Studies major for a number of years and worked tirelessly developing subjects (particularly MEGA 300 with Cath Ellis) for the South Coast curricula. Cat also worked closely with postgraduates to ensure our Postgraduate

mid year and end of year conferences were organized professionally and attracted papers of high academic standing. Catriona will be greatly missed by colleagues and friends from the Faculty of Arts. We wish her well in all her future endeavours.

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.

Please remember that without your advice and information relating to research news this Newsletter cannot be produced.

Distribution of newsletter:

The Arts Research newsletter is photocopied and distributed to all staff and postgraduate students in the Faculty of Arts. It is also available on the UoW Faculty of Arts website.