



# Faculty of Arts | Research Newsletter

## Issue 1

### May 2009

#### IN THIS EDITION ...

page 1

News from the Associate Dean  
(Research & Graduate Studies)  
Prof Wenche Ommundsen

page 2

Congratulations!  
success and recognition for  
our staff and HDR students

page 3

Research News  
New CAPSTRANS board & more

page 4

CAPSTRANS & Research  
Priority Area News

page 6

Calls for Papers + Seminars,  
Conferences & Workshops

page 8

Dates for the Diary  
don't miss out on these Faculty  
and UOW seminars, workshops  
and training courses

page 9

Academic Staff Profiles  
find out more about new  
lecturers Andrew Whelan  
and Jason Wilson

page 10

HDR Student Profiles  
meet Jenn Phillips  
and Katie Freund

page 11

Looking for Research Funding?  
where to find sources of funding  
and get help with grants

#### Welcome and News

#### Associate Dean (Research & Graduate Studies) Professor Wenche Ommundsen

Welcome to the first Faculty of Arts Research Newsletter. We will use this regular newsletter to highlight research achievements, introduce researchers and research projects and alert you to important opportunities. Please send your news and other items of interest to David Kemmery ([dkemmery@uow.edu.au](mailto:dkemmery@uow.edu.au)).

The trial ERA (Excellence in Research for Australia) exercise is under way for the HCA (Humanities and Creative Arts) clusters. All research clusters will be assessed in 2010. We are currently finalising our collection of publications and assigning Field of Research codes to each. The next step is to identify 20% of the total output for peer review. Throughout this process we rely on the co-operation of academics. It may be a trial, but it is important that we get it right! If contacted by our ERA co-ordinator, Dr Robyn Morris, please give her all possible assistance.

The ARC Discovery application process has been reviewed and we are putting in place a number of measures aimed at improving the Faculty's success rate. Applicants for the 2010 round will be identified this month, and offered support in the form of research assistance in the development of their applications. We will also organise workshops with external experts, and an editorial service for mature drafts will be available at a later stage.

On Monday 18 May I attended a briefing session at UTS on the new International Linkages grants to be offered through the Academies of Humanities and Social Sciences. This is a first for Arts as this scheme (International Sciences Linkages) were previously only available to the 'hard' sciences. It is encouraging that Arts disciplines now seem to figure on the agenda of the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research ('social and cultural knowledge is "in"', a member of his department said), but sobering to know that a mere \$1 million has been set aside for the initial round (a fraction of the funds available to the sciences). Calls for applications will be sent out by the academies shortly. They hope to get large numbers of applications: even if they won't be able to fund all in this round they will use it to demonstrate to the Government the high unmet need of the sector and argue for more generous future rounds.

Prof Wenche Ommundsen  
Associate Dean (Research & Graduate Studies)  
& Chair, Faculty Research Committee

## NEXT EDITION

the next edition will be out in July – to contribute or suggest a story,  
email David Kemmery in the Research Support Team, [dkemmery@uow.edu.au](mailto:dkemmery@uow.edu.au)  
deadline for submissions and ideas: Monday 13 July

# Congratulations!

## HDR Thesis Submissions

Congratulations to a number of our HDR students who recently submitted their PhD thesis and are now waiting to hear the outcome. **Yoko Harada, Joakim Eidenfalk** (both pictured below) and **Claire Lowrie**, all from the School of History & Politics, submitted their PhDs in late March/early April, with Claire sending her thesis from Auckland, NZ, where she is currently finishing up a teaching position.



The submitted theses once again highlight the diversity of research being conducted by our HDR students –

Yoko's thesis is intriguingly entitled "Floating Between the Orient and the Occident: Japan, Australia and their Inferiority Complex"; Joakim has been looking in to Australian foreign policy change towards East Timor and the Solomon Islands; and Claire's research has focused on domestic service and colonial mastery in Singapore and Darwin, at the end of the 19th and start of the 20th centuries.

## CAPSTRANS Researcher to give UOW Research Strength Lecture in May

**Neoliberal Globalisation, women, work, and forced migrations: Towards an Ethnographic understanding of Indian Society**

**Dr Ruchira Ganguly-Scrase, CAPSTRANS**  
**Wednesday 27 May, 12.30-1.30pm, 20.2**



The UOW Research Strength lecture series provides an opportunity to showcase the research conducted within each of the University's Research Strengths, and introduce the researchers involved to the general

campus and community. CAPSTRANS researcher **Dr Ruchira Ganguly-Scrase** will be giving the next UOW Research Strength Presentation on Wednesday 27 May, and provides a preview of her presentation below:

Since its independence in 1947, India pursued inward-looking development strategies comprising state-regulated policies that were largely protectionist. In 1991 this approach was reversed in favour of greater integration with the global economy through market liberalisation. This discussion will outline some of the consequences of this dramatic reorientation for various segments of society that my research has examined. I will highlight the centrality of ethnographic analysis that characterises my research. In doing so I will focus on the transformation of gender relations, the nature of work and most importantly draw attention to the ways in which aggressive pursuit of neoliberal agendas has led to massive displacements of people while simultaneously giving rise to exclusionary politics. While globalisation conjures up a vision of a borderless world, as a result of free flow of goods, increasingly the Indian nation state has hardened its attitudes towards cross-border migrants and refugees, often becoming mired in debates around 'foreign infiltration'.

All are welcome to attend the presentation, which will be held in building 20, lecture theatre 2.

## NGOs and the ethical questions they face: Philosophy lecturer signs book contract

The Faculty's new lecturer in the Philosophy program, **Dr Keith Horton**, has just signed a book contract for a volume he has co-edited with Chris Roche, Director of Development Effectiveness at Oxfam Australia. The book,



*Ethical Questions and International NGOs*, derives from a workshop held in Melbourne in July 2007 which brought reflective NGO practitioners together with moral and political philosophers to discuss some of the pressing ethical questions international NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations) face. The book consists of papers written for the workshop, revised in the light of

discussion at the workshop, as well as a substantive introduction and afterword co-written by the editors. It explores honestly some of the current challenges and dilemmas that INGOs (specifically INGOs working in the fields of relief and development) face, and also suggests some new ideas for meeting those challenges.

The editors feel that this volume is important and timely. In recent decades, it has become increasingly clear that INGOs face many difficult ethical questions. To date, though, there has been surprisingly little sustained examination of those questions, and virtually none based on collaborations between INGO staff, who must address such questions in the course of their work, and moral and political philosophers, who spend their working lives studying such questions. This book will help to fill that gap.

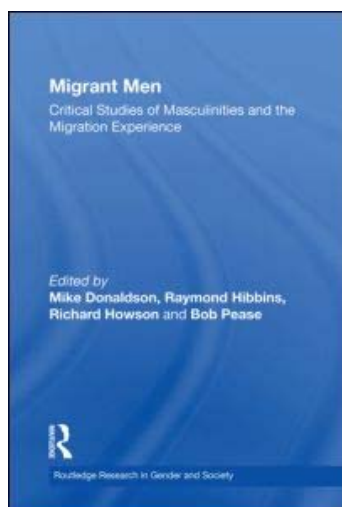
The book will be published by Springer in their 'Studies in Global Justice' series, with publication anticipated by the end of 2009.

## Hot Off the Press

### Men and migration: release of new book co-edited by Sociology lecturers

#### Migrant Men: Critical Studies of Masculinities and the Migration Experience

Edited by Mike Donaldson, Raymond Hibbins, Richard Howson, Bob Pease  
part of the Routledge Research in Gender and Society series



CAPSTRANS researcher **Dr Mike Donaldson** and CAPSTRANS board member **Dr Richard Howson**, have teamed up with Dr Raymond Hibbins (Griffith University) and Dr Bob Pease (Deakin University), to edit a new publication which is being released in early June.

This edited volume contributes an important collection of chapters to the growing theoretical and empirical work being undertaken at the international

level on men and migration. The chapters presented here focus on what we might call 'migratory masculinities': the experiences men have of masculinity upon immigration into another national, ethnic, and cultural context. How do these men (re)construct their conceptions of masculinity? Where are the points of tension, ambivalence or assimilation in this process? Featuring interviews and data drawn from migrants working and living in Australia, this book explores how the gender identity of men from non-English-speaking backgrounds is influenced by the experiences of migration and settlement in an English-speaking culture, across various cultural spheres such as work, leisure, family life and religion.

## Research News

### New CAPSTRANS board to map out next era of research excellence



(back) Tim Scrase, Richard Howson, Mark McLelland;  
(front) Wenche Ommundsen, Julia Martinez, Leonie Clement

The Centre for Asia Pacific Social Transformation Studies (CAPSTRANS) is celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2009. To mark the occasion, the ARC Centre of Excellence is relaunching its research agenda with a strong emphasis on innovation, interdisciplinarity and collaboration.

From its basis in UOW's Faculty of Arts, the centre invites input from researchers across the University whose work has the potential to contribute to the study of social transformation across the Asia Pacific region, a research area for which the University of Wollongong has a well-established national and international reputation.

A new board has been formed to drive CAPSTRANS' research and planning agenda and provide strategic advice to the centre's Director. The board is chaired

by Professor Wenche Ommundsen, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies in the Faculty of Arts, and an international expert on postcolonial and diasporic literatures.

The board includes Interim Dean of Arts Professor John Patterson; CAPSTRANS Director, Associate Professor Tim Scrase (with expertise on globalisation in Asia); Associate Professor Mark McLelland (Japanese, gender and media studies); Dr Julia Martinez (Asia, Australia and diasporic histories); Dr Richard Howson (gender and masculinity studies); and Faculty of Arts Manager, Ms Maureen Dibden. They will be joined by Professor Luke McNamara (Dean of Law), Professor Phillip Ogunbona (Dean of Informatics) and Professor Louise Edwards (Professor of China Studies and Director of the UTS China Centre).

A call for research proposals from current and new CAPSTRANS members will be issued shortly. Questions about future research directions, membership, and seed funding for new projects should be directed to Tim Scrase at: tims@uow.edu.au

## Immigration Deterrence policies: Arts casual tutor releases PhD findings

**Dr Roslyn Richardson**, a casual staff member in the Faculty, recently released the findings of her doctoral thesis, following the conferral of her PhD at Charles Sturt University earlier this month. The thesis, entitled "Sending a Strong Message? The Refugee's Reception of Australia's Immigration Deterrence policies", is the first study to examine how refugees interpret Australia's deterrence 'message' before and after they come to Australia as irregular migrants.

Roslyn interviewed 27 refugees in 2005 and found that refugees rejected Australia's deterrence message for reasons unexpected by policy makers. For example, some of her respondents had an inherent faith that Australia would deal with them humanely so they were not deterred by the prospect of being placed in immigration detention. Some also believed that detention was unavoidable as many countries detain refugees - as such detention was seen as a necessary step towards lasting freedom from persecution and was not a deterrent.

Roslyn was interviewed on ABC's Radio National *Life Matters* program on 23 April, which can be found on the ABC website. Roslyn will also discuss her research on an upcoming episode of SBS TVs *Insight* program.

## Controlling Protest Crowds: Arts PhD researcher presents in the Faculty of Law

Faculty of Arts ELPL PhD researcher, **Kylie Bourne**, took to the floor of the Moot Court in the Faculty of Law building earlier this month, to present a paper on controlling protest crowds.



As part of the Legal Intersections Research Centre Seminar Series, Kylie gave a paper entitled 'Commanding and Controlling Protest Crowds: APEC, G20 and Beyond' to Faculty of Law staff and students on Wednesday 13 May.

The paper discussed the moral role of crowd controllers and authorities in the policing of protest crowds. Kylie argued that recent moves to a more paramilitaristic approach fail to acknowledge participation in protest crowds as both a democratic right and as a form of community participation. The paper was informed by Kylie's thesis research, which focuses on building a philosophical account of crowds that distinguishes between types of crowds and that identifies features necessary for some crowds to bear moral blame.

Kylie commenced her HDR study with Arts in 2007.

## CAPSTRANS & Research Priority Area News



Centre for Asia Pacific  
Social Transformation Studies

### CAPSTRANS

May has seen the arrival in CAPSTRANS of Professor Christoph Antons, Director of the Centre for Comparative Law and Development Studies in Asia and the Pacific (CLDSAP). Researchers in the Centre combine socio-legal and interdisciplinary approaches with classical comparative and international law analysis to explore a range of law-related issues faced by developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including issues relating to

intellectual property and technology transfer, the regulation of financial markets, and environmental management. Christoph and his CLDSAP team – Marjam Ita and Gabriel Garcia – are now safely housed in the CAPSTRANS corridor, and we welcome them all to the Faculty.

For details about upcoming CAPSTRANS seminars and workshops, take a look at the Seminars, Conferences & Workshops calendar under the Research News heading on the Faculty website, [www.uow.edu.au/arts](http://www.uow.edu.au/arts)



CAPSTRANS  
**Literature, Identity & Culture**  
RESEARCH GROUP

## **Animals, Public Writing Cultures and Travel Writing: Seminar news from the CAPSTRANS Research Group LIC**

Following the success of the Literature, Identity & Culture (LIC) seminar series on animals in Spring 2008, the emerging, interdisciplinary field of Animal studies is still on the agenda. Professor Una Chaudhuri, Professor of English and Drama at New York University, will be visiting UOW as a LIC research fellow in July this year. Prof Chaudhuri, a leading researcher in the areas of Performance theory and Animal studies is visiting Australia to speak on the topic of 'The Contemporary Petropolis' at the Minding Animals Conference in Newcastle, 13-18 July. Here at UOW, Prof Chaudhuri will give a paper in the LIC seminars series on 22 July and will also run a workshop with postgraduate and Honours students from the Faculties of Creative Arts and Arts on the intersection of performance and animal studies. Denise Russell and Melissa Boyde are also presenting at Minding Animals, on the RAAT project ([www.uow.edu.au/arts/research/raat](http://www.uow.edu.au/arts/research/raat)), and Melissa will be giving a paper on the live export trade and Baz Luhrmann's film *Australia*.

For more info about Una's visit or if you would like to attend the workshop, contact either Melissa Boyde ([boyde@uow.edu.au](mailto:boyde@uow.edu.au)) or Anne Collett ([acollett@uow.edu.au](mailto:acollett@uow.edu.au)).

As for 2009, the LIC seminar series this year has two key themes – Public Writing Cultures in Autumn session and Travel(ling) Writing for Spring. This session, interstate speakers have included Professor David Carter from UQ and Kerry Kilner, Managing Director of AustLit, also from UQ. Two speakers from

the BlakWrite Festival, Anita Heiss and Jared Thomas, are also part of the seminar series, speaking on the topic 'Am I Blak enough for you'.

The program for Spring is still being finalised but will include Dr Margaretta Jolly, Director of the Centre for Life History and Life Writing research at the University of Sussex.

The LIC seminars are open to everyone across campus. LIC also invite all postgraduates with research interests which broadly fit with their current focus on Australian Literature, Life Writing and Postcolonial/ Transcultural/Diasporic Literatures to become postgraduate members of LIC. For further information please email either Melissa ([boyde@uow.edu.au](mailto:boyde@uow.edu.au)) or Anne ([acollett@uow.edu.au](mailto:acollett@uow.edu.au)).

The next CAPSTRANS Research Group LIC Seminar is:

**Thursday 28 May  
12.30-1.30pm, 19.1003**

Australian novels since the 1950s,  
and the changes that have occurred in that time

Dr Katherine Bode  
University of Sydney

## **ICR: INNOVATION IN CULTURAL RESEARCH Research Group**

### **ICR Research Seminar Series**

The 2009 ICR research seminar series was launched and lunched on 30 April 2009 with new ICR member, **Dr Andrew Whelan**, presenting the talk "The communication of the inappropriate". Dr Whelan, from the Sociology program of SSMC, produced a fascinating paper on two forms of inappropriate communication, one emerging from online Irish openly racist discourse and a second study of the musical subculture of grind metal with its unintelligible lyrics combined with paratextual communication of death, bodily mutilation and sexual violence. Dr Whelan dealt with the different social purposes and disjunctures in their form of communication.

Dr Jason Wilson is coordinating the seminar series for 2009. The next event will be a panel discussion on social media and its value in work and research. The event is scheduled for the last week in May and panel members will include **David Marshall, Jason Wilson, Chris Moore and Kate Bowles**.

## Virtual Worlds and Pedagogy



On 27 March, CEDIR and the ICR group organised the Virtual Worlds Colloquium, which allowed a diverse group of academics and staff from across the University to discuss the role of virtual worlds, such as Second Life and World of Warcraft as well as other innovative virtual teaching methods, in an institutional setting for pedagogical

related research and teaching. This event spawned a Virtual Worlds working group which is currently exploring further uses of this technology and its suitability to the University of Wollongong.

This group hosted a second event on 8 April where members were invited to explore the virtual world Second Life in the computer lab to examine how it might be applied to different forms of learning.

Further events will be held over the course of the year. If you are interested in attending, contact Dr Chris Moore at [chrism@uow.edu.au](mailto:chrism@uow.edu.au) or Katie Freund at [kfreund@uow.edu.au](mailto:kfreund@uow.edu.au)

Picture: PhD candidate Katie Freund gives a demonstration during the Virtual Worlds colloquium

## New Emerging Projects in ICR

ICR members have been successful in receiving two more grants from the Cultural Research Network. There will be a follow-up Research Planning Day in August related to what is called the Broadband Vistas project. Broadband Vistas emerged from the February 2009 international workshop hosted by ICR, the Faculty of Arts and the CRN dealing with the Australian roll-out of broadband Internet to rural and regional Australia. The follow-up research planning day is designed to work on how the group can advance and intervene in the development of the national Broadband Network. Key ICR members involved in this initiative include **David Marshall, Kate Bowles, Gordon Waitt, Jason Wilson, Becky Walker, Stephanie Hanson, Mark McLelland** and **Chris Gibson**.

A second CRN application from ICR member **Dr Jason Wilson** to run a workshop on the concept of Obsolescence was also successful. The workshop is scheduled to run in September.

## Rural Cultural Studies

With the University of Wollongong representing a hub of activity related specifically to rural cultural studies, ICR has decided to add a fifth node to its organisational structure. Rural Cultural Studies will engage in studies of rural and regional Australia and will intersect with other nodes in terms of the practices it explores. Key members in the Rural Cultural Studies node include **Kate Bowles, Gordon Waitt, Chris Gibson** and **Stephanie Hanson** along with others engaged in rural research.

## Visiting Research Fellow and Self, Place and Broadband Connectivities

During the month of February, ICR had the pleasure of hosting Professor Robert Burnett from the Karlstad University in Sweden. Dr Burnett is widely known for his study of the popular music industry as well as his extensive research of Internet culture. Dr Burnett also was a key participant in the February workshop entitled *Self, Place and Broadband Connectivities – Making and Making Do*. He presented on *Broadband and the Internet in Sweden*.

Other international participants hosted by ICR at the February workshop included: Professor Richard Smith from Simon Fraser University, Dr Kwang-Suk Lee from Songkroh University, and Dr Robert Phillips from the University of California, Irvine (who is also a visiting writing fellow with CAPSTRANS this semester).

Professor Smith presented the compelling paper entitled *Broadband in rural and remote communities in British Columbia, Canada: Research on recent policies*. Dr Phillips discussed *Homosexuality, Internet Technology, and the Reconfiguration of the Singaporean Public Sphere*, while Dr Lee presented on *The Dynamics of the IT Development in Korea during the Periods of the Civilian Governments, 1993–2008*.

## Calls For Papers

### **CAPSTRANS Workshop – Capital in Crisis: Implications for Labour and Society** July 9-10, University of Wollongong

This workshop is for all those engaged in critical and emancipatory scholarship in political economy and the social sciences. It is seeking theoretical and empirical papers, particularly those relevant to the labour and other progressive movements, that

examine the regional, national and international transformations of capitalism and capitalist societies, particularly in light of the Global Financial Crisis. A session will consider ways of developing the work of the Australian Political Economy Movement, and a master class will be held for postgraduate students.

Deadline: 200 word abstracts must be submitted by 2 June 2009 to [hmasterman-smith@csu.edu.au](mailto:hmasterman-smith@csu.edu.au). Abstracts already received need not be re-submitted. Publication of selected papers in a peer-reviewed special journal edition is under negotiation. Attendance is free.

Hosted by: Gramsci Society (Asia-Pacific) and CAPSTRANS Research Group Citizens, States and Power in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Wollongong.  
Sponsored by: Work, Organisations and Welfare Centre and the Centre for Policy, Culture and Ideas, Griffith University.

## **CAPSTRANS Workshop – Gender and occupations and interventions in the Asia Pacific, 1945-2009**

**Proposals due: Friday 17 July**

Arts staff members **Rowena Ward** (ELPL) and **Christine de Matos** (CAPSTRANS/H&P), along with co-organisers **Mark McLelland** (SSMAC), **Emma Dalton** (CAPSTRANS PhD student), Katherine Clapham (Woolyungah) and Miyume Tanji (Curtin University), were awarded a grant of \$9942 from the Asia Pacific Futures Research Network (APFRN) to host a workshop focusing on issues of gender in occupations and interventions in the Asia Pacific region since 1945.

Military occupations and interventions, increasingly common in regions of the Asia Pacific, have a gendered impact on both those engaged in occupying or intervening, and those whose lands have been occupied or are undergoing an intervention. Yet little is known about this gendered impact, in terms of both masculinities and femininities, either historically or in more contemporary times.

The workshop will bring together for the first time established scholars, ECRs, postgraduates and community members and activists to discuss issues related to gender, occupation and intervention. The renowned activist on issues related to women and the military, Takazato Suzuyo, of the group Okinawa Women Act Against Military Violence, will be a keynote speaker, and scholar of the Japanese 'war brides' in Australia, Keiko Tamura, will also contribute. Selected presenters may have the opportunity to publish their work in an edited book of papers and/or a special

edition of the peer-reviewed e-journal *PORTAL Journal of Multidisciplinary International Studies* in late 2010. Faculty members who wish to participate in the workshop need to send proposals by **17 July 2009**. Postgraduates and ECRs are especially encouraged to apply. The full Call for Papers is available from the CAPSTRANS website at: [www.capstrans.edu.au/resources/conferences/2009/gender\\_occupation\\_workshop.html](http://www.capstrans.edu.au/resources/conferences/2009/gender_occupation_workshop.html)

For further information, please contact the workshop organisers: Rowena Ward ([roward@uow.edu.au](mailto:roward@uow.edu.au)) or Christine de Matos ([cdm@uow.edu.au](mailto:cdm@uow.edu.au)).

## **Seminars, Conferences & Workshops**

### **Upcoming CAPSTRANS Workshop – Asia-Pacific Transculturalisms: New Theoretical Perspectives Monday-Tuesday 8-9 June**

A two-day workshop being held in the Faculty of Arts on 8-9 June, 'Asia Pacific Transculturalisms: New Theoretical Perspectives', will have as keynote speakers three internationally prominent scholars, Professor Sneja Gunew (University of British Columbia), Professor Robbie Goh (National University of Singapore), and Professor Vijay Mishra (Murdoch University). With the support of CAPSTRANS and APFRN (Asia Pacific Futures Research Network), postgraduate and early career researchers working in the field of cultural analysis involving Asia Pacific cross-cultural relations will participate as panelists and discussants. Three are from the University of Wollongong and 14 from Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney, and Perth.

Participants in the workshop will explore current theoretical discourses in transcultural studies, and debate the relevance of these to research dealing with the Asia Pacific. In keeping with the aim of the workshop to develop interdisciplinary approaches to transcultural analytical practice, the disciplines represented are diverse but related (including literary studies, cultural studies, media and cinema studies, and art history). Working as an intimate group, the participants will explore some of the more recent concepts and ideas developed in this area (such as vernacular cosmopolitanism, cultural citizenship, border discourse, and transnationalism) and put them to the test in the context of the participants' research projects, all of which deal with aspects of Asia Pacific cultural exchange.

## Dates for the Diary

Don't miss these Research events in the Faculty and involving Faculty staff ...

### **CAPSTRANS Seminar Series**

**Wednesday 20 May, 12.30-1.30pm, 19.1003**

Sadistic women and masochist men:  
The fad for *ryōki* or 'curiosity hunting'  
in Japan's early postwar press

Dr Mark McLelland, Faculty of Arts, UOW

**Wednesday 3 June, 12.30-1.30pm, 19.1003**

"And I am also gay":  
Non-normative Sexualities, Internet Technology, and  
the Reconfiguration of the Singaporean Public Sphere

Dr Robert Philips, Visiting Fellow, CAPSTRANS

### **CAPSTRANS Research Group Literature, Identity & Culture Seminar Series**

**Thursday 28 May, 12.30-1.30pm, 19.1003**

Australian novels since the 1950s,  
and the changes that have occurred in that time

Dr Katherine Bode, University of Sydney

### **UOW Research Strength Presentation**

**Wednesday 27 May, 12.30-1.30pm, 20.2**

Neoliberal Globalisation, women,  
work, and forced migrations:  
Towards an Ethnographic understanding  
of Indian Society

Dr Ruchira Ganguly-Scrase, CAPSTRANS

and outside the Faculty ...

### **Uni in the Brewery – next presentation**

**Wednesday 20 May, 5.30-6.30pm,  
Five Islands Brewery (WIN Entertainment Centre)**

Surfing the green wave:  
clean energy from ocean waves and currents

Assoc Prof Paul Cooper  
School of Mechanical, Materials and  
Mechatronic Engineering, UOW

### **PODS**

#### **Professional & Organisational Development Services – 2009 Training Courses**

#### **RIS (Research Information System) training for Academic Staff**

**July** – Thursday 9 July, 9.30-11.00am

**August** – Friday 21 August, 9.30-11.00am

**October** – Monday 26 October, 9.30-11.00am

**December** – Thursday 3 December, 9.30-11.00am

#### **Research Grant Management series**

A series of stand-alone workshops for academics with research grants and general staff who administer them. Upcoming workshops include:

#### **Where To Publish**

Tuesday 2 June, 11.00am-12.00pm

#### **Networking and Initiating Research Partnerships**

Friday 17 July, 11.00am-12.30pm

This session will focus on the benefits of effective networking, and how to use networking to support your research career, with a panel discussion with experienced UOW researchers who will give tips on becoming a successful networker.

#### **Supervising HDR Students series**

For academic staff supervising postgraduate research students. Taught in 3 modules over 3 weeks:

##### **1. Policies & Procedures**

Monday 31 August, 9.30am-12.30pm

##### **2. Roles & Responsibilities**

Monday 7 September, 9.30am-12.30pm

##### **3. Assisting Completion**

Monday 14 September, 9.30am-12.30pm

#### **Developing Your Research Grant Writing Skills**

(recommended for Early Career Researchers)

**October session** –

Day 1: Friday 9 October

Day 2: Friday 30 October

9.00am-12.30pm both days (Day 2 is optional)

go to: [intranet.uow.edu.au/pods](http://intranet.uow.edu.au/pods) and click on **Staff Development Calendar** for more information.

**For information about all Arts research events, check out the [Research Events Calendar](#) ... go to [www.uow.edu.au/arts](http://www.uow.edu.au/arts) and click on **2009 Seminars, Conferences & Workshops** under Research News**

# Academic Staff Profiles

## Andrew Whelan Lecturer in Sociology



**Andrew Whelan**, who arrived from Ireland in April as a lecturer in Sociology and researcher with CAPSTRANS, is navigating his way around his new home of Wollongong the hard way – by bike. Despite not

having had any close calls, he's sure that our roads weren't built with cyclists in mind, and is still being "cautious" when riding. In contrast, he's liking the weather ("in Ireland it rains all the time of course") and in his short time here has been surprised by the strong engagement Australians have with sport.

Before he joined SSMC, Andrew was working as a researcher with the Internet Research Group in the Sociology Department at Trinity College, Dublin. He received his PhD in sociology from the same department in 2007, having previously studied Philosophy, Politics and Economics as an undergraduate in Somerville College, Oxford. He took some time out to fill us in on his research and an unfulfilled desire to be a musician ...

*My collaborative work with the Internet Research Group was mainly focused on migrant use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), with an interest in political potentials, and in how ICT use is spatialised (for instance, in internet cafés). My research centers primarily on online interaction, musical subcultures, masculinities, and the linguistic and discursive performance of identity. All of these areas are drawn together in my book, Breakcore: Identity and Interaction*

## Jason Wilson Lecturer in Digital Communication

One of the other newcomers to SSMC is **Jason Wilson**, who arrived earlier this year. Jason was excited about UOW's reputation for innovation and the prospect of moving to a "beautiful part of the world", as well as working with the colleagues he now shares a corridor with. Jason gave us the lowdown on his research ...

*I research digital culture and the online public spheres - I've published extensively on the growth of the online public sphere via blogs and online e-democracy initiatives, and the aesthetics and history of early videogames. I am concerned with not just the "bleeding edge" of new technologies, but with giving digital*

*on Peer-to-Peer, which was published in 2008. The book addresses textual interaction online, primarily exploring the intersections between subcultural affiliation and gender in file-sharing chatrooms dedicated to electronic dance music. I'm currently conducting research on discourses of national identity on 'anti-immigration' blogs and online fora, and the relations between gender representation and grotesque realism in contemporary heavy metal.*

*My research started with an interest in music and the ways technology seems to be changing music at the moment (peer-to-peer music distribution, like Napster; sampling and copyright, these sorts of issues). A canonical sociologist by the name of Max Weber had a line on the 'rationalisation' of music, and I wanted to investigate whether we might be able to suggest instead that technology is democratising music production (this is the argument commonly espoused about the emergence of hip-hop, that technology facilitated the development of new forms of music and increased access to participation in music production). Of course, it turns out the picture is a bit more complicated than either of these perspectives suggest: what I found was that online subcultures are like their offline counterparts in that they tend to restrict access to maintain their exclusivity and their 'subcultural capital'.*

*It's safe to assume that I'm quite an obsessive music listener! Right now I'm working on heavy metal and my previous research was on electronic dance music, but at the moment I'm enjoying investigating a couple of other genres: 60s psychedelic rock and garage rock, 70s funk, 80s synth pop and new wave ... it's always great to stumble into some seam of music which has mostly been forgotten, and I'm always blown away by the diversity of all the music out there.*



*communications technology a history, and teasing out their political impacts.*

*I am collaborating with colleagues at QUT, University of Sydney, and the University of Queensland, and I hope to work with other researchers of digital culture here - like David Marshall, Mark McLelland, Chris Moore and Andrew Whelan - to make Wollongong even more of a beacon for research that helps us understand the transformations that digital communications technologies are bringing about.*

You can find out more about Jason Wilson's research at: <http://gatewatching.org>

## Jenn Phillips

LIC PhD candidate, started Spring 2007



Jenn Phillips is a modest PhD candidate, claiming she is a student of English Literatures because reading books and thinking about how they're constructed is

the only thing she's any good at. However, further questioning reveals that she plays guitar and piano, her first job was at Toys R Us when she was 15, and that she used to adjudicate at high school debating competitions, before quitting when a parent threatened her because they disagreed with her decision. Oh, and last winter she tried to knit a scarf.

So what made this musical, hard hitting debate adjudicator and potential future knitting wiz, take up a PhD on unreliable narration? Jenn sees it as the literary equivalent of a 'twist ending' in a film, citing a belief that *The Usual Suspects* was the greatest film of all time when she first saw it, as a good reason to spend a few years of her life researching other 'Keyser Sozes' (Keyser Soze is the shadowy criminal mastermind feared by other criminals in Bryan Singer's acclaimed 1995 film).

Noting that she can't think beyond her PhD at the moment because "it's like a large mountain obscuring

any vision of her future", Jenn tells us more about what brings her to this point in her postgraduate research:

*My PhD thesis looks at unreliable narration: texts in which it is revealed that the narrators have misled their readers throughout the course of the narrative. I am analysing the use of this technique in the works of Bret Easton Ellis (American Psycho), Chuck Pahliniuk (Fight Club), Margaret Atwood (The Handmaid's Tale) and Jeanette Winterson (The Passion). All four of these writers are excluded from dominant discourses by gender, sexuality or nationhood. I hope to demonstrate that the subversion of the narrative norm (reliability) is used by these authors to undermine normative assumptions surrounding discourses that they themselves have been excluded from.*

*In addition to my PhD work, I work as a research assistant for Professor Wenche Ommundsen's ARC Discovery Project: examining Asian diasporic literature in Australia. In Autumn semester, I have also had the opportunity to teach in ENGL120 (An Introduction to Literature & Screen Studies).*

*I've been a student at the University of Wollongong since 2001, graduating from Creative Arts (Creative Writing), attempting a Law degree and completing a coursework Masters in English Literatures. At the moment, I am approximately half-way through my research, and I hope to submit my thesis by June 2010.*

## Katie Freund

ICR PhD candidate, started Autumn 2008

ICR postgraduate **Katie Freund** left behind the cold climate of Toronto, Ontario in Canada and arrived in Wollongong at the start of 2008 for a Master of Arts Research degree, and has recently extended her stay after upgrading to a PhD – in her words, "Any country where I don't have to shovel snow definitely gets my stamp of approval. I like it so much that I've agreed to stay for another two years!"

Before joining the Faculty, Katie completed a 4-year Bachelor of Arts Honours degree at the University of Toronto and on the side has been studying capoeira (the Brazilian martial arts/dance crossover) for the past two years, giving her the ability to walk on her hands and play a mean tambourine solo.

Katie gave us a quick rundown on what her research is about and what sparked her interest in it, and also let us

know that in the future she's hoping to get away with studying YouTube and remix videos as an academic ...



*My research describes the online fan community of "vidders", a group of (mostly female) editors who appropriate television and film content and edit it to music. These "vids" are a unique new media form that combine pre-existing audio and visual content in creative ways and often convey meanings not intended by their original creators and dynamically demonstrate the gendered reading practices of this audience.*

*Rather than analysing television as a text, I greatly enjoy discovering how this unique audience plays with television and manipulate it to suit their needs. It's also a great excuse to watch television and call it "research".*

# Looking for Research Funding?

## Research grant information for Faculty of Arts staff and HDR students

This page will help you identify possible research grant sources. We hope this is a helpful tool in your efforts to locate research funding opportunities from a variety of sources. The research support teams in the University and Faculty are here to help facilitate your research, please don't hesitate to make contact with them.

- Research Services Office - Arts Grants Officer - Elizabeth Philips, x4522, [eliza@uow.edu.au](mailto:eliza@uow.edu.au)
- Faculty of Arts - Research Support Team Coordinator - Leonie Clement, x5581, [leoniec@uow.edu.au](mailto:leoniec@uow.edu.au)

## Search for funding opportunities at the following sites:

### In the Faculty

**Faculty Research Committee (FRC) Support** – a number of funding opportunities are supported:

<http://www.uow.edu.au/arts/fundingsupport/index.html>

### University of Wollongong Research funding

A number of University grants are listed including URC Small and International Links Scheme:

<https://intranet.uow.edu.au/raid/rso/internalfunding/index.html>

### External Grant Dbase

The Australian Competitive Grants Register is a dbase which provides information relating to grants opportunities and how to access them:

<http://www.uow.edu.au/research/rso/UOW009251.html>

### External Support

Australian Research Council, NHMRC, Australian Learning and Teaching Council schemes can be found at:

<http://www.uow.edu.au/research/rso/grants/opportunities/external/index.html>

## Need support or help in finding or applying for funding?

### Grant Application Support

The **University's Research Services Office (RSO)** administer external grants and provide support and resources to assist researchers in identifying, applying for grants as well as helping to develop grant writing skills.

The link below will take you to guidelines on applying for grants, External Research Grants Submission form, Guide to Fields of Research Codes (FoR) as well as timetables and information on Grant workshops and presentations.

<http://www.uow.edu.au/research/rso/grants/assistance/index.html>

For General enquiries - x3386, <http://www.uow.edu.au/research/rso/index.html>

Arts Grants Office - Elizabeth Philips x4522, [eliza@uow.edu.au](mailto:eliza@uow.edu.au)

The **Faculty's Research Support Team** can provide you with general compliance checks and budget preparation and advice. They can also take the pain out of obtaining the relevant approvals and signatures you need prior to submitting the application. The red tape is there to ensure your application is recognised in the UOW records, you are covered by insurance and legal support if it all goes pear shaped and the grant is properly administered when you receive it.

When you apply for an external grant you will need to fill out the form available at

<http://www.uow.edu.au/research/rso/grants/UOW009250.html>

The Faculty research support team can assist you with this too.

If you have any questions or would like some assistance please don't hesitate to contact Leonie Clement x5581 or Elizabeth Philips x4522.