



Faculty of Arts | Research Newsletter

Issue 5

March 2010

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Welcome and News

Chair, Faculty Research Committee

Associate Professor Anne Collett

If it feels to you like the ERA exercise is the only game in town at the moment and all other acronyms have slipped from view (well almost), you would be right (more on that later), but in this first newsletter of 2010 I would like to begin with congratulating those who submitted ARC grant applications and to all those who supported the applicants through the process; and to acknowledge the energy, imagination and sheer hard work that goes into grant submission. If, on the other hand you are one of those who thought an ARC grant application was beyond you – that you didn't have the runs on the board, the track record or a big enough project – then think about applying for a URC Small grant. URC Smalls work well as pilot projects, and get your foot on the grant ladder. I will be holding a Smalls workshop in the week beginning 19th April, led by Prof Sara Dolnicar who has invaluable grant expertise being both a successful applicant herself and an experienced reader/assessor.

Congratulations also to **Alison Moore** and **Nicola Marks** who were selected to participate in the University Mentoring Program. This program pairs mentees with mentors from outside their faculty, and can be particularly useful for getting a sense of how you and your area of research fits in the bigger picture; sometimes it's useful to have an outsider's view of your work and to get used to explaining yourself to someone unfamiliar with the methodology, practice and discourse employed by your research discipline. Alternatively, it can be useful to draw on the discipline knowledge available to you from within the faculty (particularly when it comes to publication and networking), and to that end I am working with **Chris Barker** to set up a faculty mentoring initiative that will be accompanied by a series of professional development workshops. Emails will be forthcoming with regard to both the grant workshop and the mentoring program.

Applications for the first round of faculty research funding have been received, and applicants will be notified of the outcome before the Easter break. Finally, please don't forget to complete the Sustainable Excellence in Research survey, online at <https://intranet.uow.edu.au/raid/UOW073304.php>

And finally, finally, I would like to close with the observation that having spent many hours juggling the demands of ARC and ERA and SER, and despite the manic quality of the first couple of weeks of teaching session, I (re)discovered how enjoyable it was to teach, and found it salutary to be reminded that students are the lifeblood of our institution and our profession.

NEXT EDITION

the next edition will be out in May – to contribute or suggest a story, email David Kemmery in the Research Support Team, dkemmery@uow.edu.au deadline for submissions and ideas: Monday 10 May

In Memoriam

Yuki Oe

6 July 1969 – 12 February 2010



It was with great sadness that the Faculty of Arts learnt of the passing of PhD candidate and part-time tutor, **Yuki Oe**, on 12 February.

Yuki had been a postgraduate research student since 2006, starting an MA Research degree which she upgraded to a PhD. Prior to that, Yuki had completed a Bachelor of Arts degree with Distinction, and a Graduate Diploma in Education.

Aside from teaching Japanese here in the Faculty, Yuki taught at TAFE and WEA and privately tutored students. She also ran a business, ARET, with Pam Howard, providing Japanese students homestay in Wollongong with experience in learning English and participating in various activities.

Yuki was remembered at a memorial service on Tuesday 2 March, attended by her family, friends, staff and postgraduate colleagues, with an Illawarra flame tree planted in amongst the trees near building 21 on the UOW campus.

With Yuki's PhD close to completion, the Faculty of Arts have applied to have Yuki's PhD awarded posthumously at a graduation ceremony later this year.

Yuki will be sadly missed by many.

Congratulations!

HDR thesis submissions

Following the December graduation ceremony where 9 of our HDR students graduated, 2010 is shaping up as another successful year for our postgraduates. **John Shoebridge** has submitted his MA Research thesis for examination, while several other students are waiting to hear back from examiners, and a few more are getting close to submission.

Leonie's safe Xmas arrival

Congratulations to Research Support Co-ordinator **Leonie Clement** on the birth of her baby son Angus, just before Christmas last year on 22 December. Leonie and partner Matt have already taken Angus to the Illawarra Folk Festival in mid-January, so a musical career may be on the cards. Leonie is currently on maternity leave.

HDR News

Head of Postgraduate Studies

Associate Professor Sarah Ferber

Faculty HDR Orientation Day: The Faculty welcomed around 15 new HDR candidates on Tuesday 23 February with a lunch and information session. After formal information was provided, Prof Matt Allen gave the first of a series of new professional skills sessions for HDR candidates. Matt introduced new candidates to some of the joys, expectations, requirements and good work practices of successful academic research. The day was very enjoyable and thanks are due to all staff who were involved in preparations and presentations. Other seminars for 2010 will include: preparing for proposal reviews; writing for publication; life issues in HDR study; finding and presenting at conferences. Other ideas are welcomed. Staff from across the faculty will present at these sessions and HDR attendance at the relevant sessions will be expected.

The 2010 Arts Faculty HDR Conference: will take place this year on Tuesday 8 June and Wednesday 9 June. The format of the conference will differ from that of previous years. All candidates who have not presented at the HDR conference in the past two years will be asked to present a report, in one of three possible formats, on their research progress. **Posters:** candidates who have successfully completed their proposal reviews will be asked to provide a poster (enlarged one-page

account of the project on A5 paper) to form part of a poster session. (Attendees walk around reading posters over a 45-minute period and discuss the projects with candidates.) **Papers:** candidates who have completed between 18 and 24 months of FTE will be asked to give a formal paper of around 15-20 mins length. **Three-minute thesis competition:** candidates in their 3rd or later FTE year will be asked to present at a three-minute thesis competition, where the emphasis is on providing a lay audience with an insight into the project.

Research News

English Literatures staff and HDR students dominate Indian literary magazine

Dr Tony Simoes Da Silva, Assoc Prof Paul Sharrad and Dr Michael Jacklin, with Ingeborg van Teeseling and Jenn Phillips (PhD candidates) from the School of English Literatures were recently featured in a special edition of *Biblio: A Review of Books*. *Biblio* is "India's leading literary magazine" and is edited by Rukmini Bhaya Nair with the editorial assistance of Manisha Sethi. The November-December 2009 edition focused on writing from Australia and was supported by the Australia-India Council.

Tony reviewed *The Bath Fugues* by Brian Castro, finding that both "in its mood and in its structure it gives readers an estranging but distinctively embodied experience of the fugue as a moment of escape and entrapment, of luxury and misery".

Paul reviewed *Map of the Invisible World* by Tash Aw, a novel which extends a "love for lost possibilities and unfulfilled hopes into a delicate treading around the edges of 'big picture' history".

Michael reviewed *Bloke* by Bruce Pascoe, a novel which sees its titular "narrator's journey of discovery of his Aboriginal heritage" at the core, yet remains throughout "a work of humour".

Ingeborg reviewed *The Zookeeper's War* by Steven Conte, observing that the WWII setting allows Conte to represent protagonists who "do everything they can to survive" even though "they realise that this taints their sense of self and even their souls".

Jenn reviewed *The Danger Game* by Kalinda Ashton, a text which uses competing sections of narration to lead the reader to ponder "if history is the narrative by which national identities are formed, then personal

histories are the building blocks of a collective narrative".

The reviews can be found in full on the *Biblio* website (www.biblio-india.org/) though some pieces are only available to subscribers of the journal.

Rowan Cahill and Di Kelly explore the dark side of the Chinese toy industry

Co-authored papers by **Rowan Cahill** (History & Politics PhD candidate) and **Assoc Prof Di Kelly** were presented at recent conferences in Wollongong (January 7) and Sydney (February 5).

The Wollongong conference was a workshop organised by CAPSTRANS, 'Capital, Labour and Crisis' in the Asia region, attended by specialists from Australia, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Trinidad, the United States, while the Sydney conference was the 24th Conference of the Association of Industrial Relations Academics of Australia and New Zealand.

The papers were based on research by Cahill and Kelly into China's multi-billion dollar toy industry and the international recall in 2007 of China-manufactured toys found to be contaminated with lead; their research linked this recall with aspects of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) in China. The latter is a topic that has been neglected by non-Chinese scholars

Cahill and Kelly's papers depicted a China very much in the throes of change regarding OHS and the rights of workers to safe, socially just, workplaces. Overall their research indicates a more turbulent and dynamic China than that portrayed by China's rulers and echoed globally in the mass media.

Meanwhile, Rowan has also been busy putting the finishing touches to his new book, *Radical Sydney: Places, Portraits and Events*, co-authored with long-time colleague **Dr Terry Irving**, Visiting Professorial Fellow (History & Politics), due for publication by UNSW Press in July 2010.

Ben Morris gets permission to speak in Prague

The ever-busy **Ben Morris** (MA Research candidate, History & Politics) is presenting a paper at the 16th International Oral History Association Conference, "Between Past and Future: Oral History, Memory and Meaning," to be held in Prague in the Czech Republic, 7-11 July. Ben's paper, entitled *Permission to Speak, Sir –*

Official History, Whose Reality?, was amongst the more than 700 proposals received by the organising committee.

Ben is researching the oral histories of a platoon of soldiers from the Second Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment who served in Vietnam during 1967. His paper will be looking at the role and reliability of memory, the part played by the participant interviewer, and the effect of the ANZAC legend on what is remembered by participants and what is written by historians.

Max Lane discusses the situation in Indonesia in 2010

Recent Faculty of Arts PhD graduate **Dr Max Lane** was the focus of attention at an “in conversation” event flowing from his book *Unfinished Nation: Indonesia before and after Suharto* (Verso, 2008), held at Gleebooks in Glebe on Thursday 18 February. Max has recently returned to Australia after being based in Singapore and Jakarta for three years, and the conversation was led by University of Sydney’s Professor of Southeast Asian Studies (and former Faculty of Arts staff member), **Prof Adrian Vickers**.

Their conversation covered a range of topics and questions. Ten years after Suharto, the Indonesian government is still banning political films, such as *Balibo*. The police, prosecutor’s office and the courts are revealed as implicated in plots to frame rivals, including in the anti-corruption agencies, but nobody is arrested and tried. Books are still banned and even burned in public. Ministers claim that natural disasters are God’s response to moral decadence. Raising a flag in Papua still means jail. Are these anomalies in a new democratising Indonesia, or the results of unfinished business in an unfinished nation? What is going to happen politically in Australia’s largest Asian neighbour, Indonesia – the fourth most populous nation in the world?

Let us know your research news!

Email us about your book publications, conference presentations,

grant or scholarship successes,

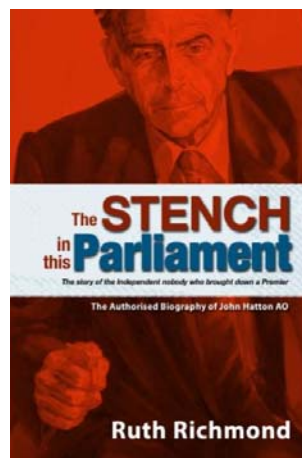
or any other news you might have ...

send us a contribution for the next

Arts Research Newsletter, due out in mid-May, to **David Kemmery** (dkemmery@uow.edu.au)

Hot Off The Press

The Stench in this Parliament The Authorised Biography of John Hatton AO by Ruth Richmond



The Stench in this Parliament is so great that I, as a citizen, can not stomach it any longer... Blind Freddy knows that crime is organised. Why is it protected?

-John Hatton, 1994

The Stench in this Parliament, written by Faculty of Arts MA Research graduate **Ruth Richmond**, and based on her thesis

about John Hatton, was launched at the UniShop on Wednesday 27 January, with Hatton himself in attendance.

This biography is the life-story of an honest politician. John Hatton AO was born in poverty but by his indomitable tenacity served seven parliamentary terms as Independent Member for South Coast, NSW and fought about the Wood Royal Commission which exposed endemic corruption in the NSW Police Force.

CAPSTRANS News



Centre for Asia Pacific
Social Transformation Studies

CAPSTRANS Report

Assoc Prof Tim Scrase
CAPSTRANS Director

Arts hosts Malaysian delegation

CAPSTRANS and the Faculty of Arts have recently been involved in a program of collaborative activities under the LEADHER grant program with a small team from the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). LEADHER is the Leadership Development for Higher Education Reform Program, an initiative of the International Association of Universities (UNESCO). The main purpose is for each institution to develop a broad understanding of each other's internationalisation strategies and to promote research linkages, particularly between CAPSTRANS and USM's Social Transformation Research Platform.

The visit consisted of three days of forums and presentations by senior UOW officers and key researchers from CAPSTRANS and the Faculty of Arts, as well as Creative Arts and Education. There was also the opportunity of brief tours of UOW facilities and of the region.

The USM delegation was: Professor Ambigapathy Pandian, Dean of SOLLAT (School of Languages, Literacies and Translation); Professor Badaruddin Mohamed, Director, Social Transformation Research Platform; Dr Aniswal, School of Humanities; and Dr Sohaimi, Deputy Dean, School of Humanities.



Faculty of Arts representatives pictured with the USM delegation during their February visit

The meetings have been extremely productive and at the final session of the program a number of research, staff and graduate and postdoctoral exchanges and projects were proposed along with a commitment to increase undergraduate student exchange via the study abroad program.

Under this grant scheme, a UOW delegation visited USM in January. The UOW delegation was: **Prof Wenche Ommundsen; Prof Kerry Dunne; Assoc Prof Peter Kell; Assoc Prof Tim Scrase; and Ms Robin Phillips** from the UOW Transnational Programs office. A similar range of presentations and visits to different USM facilities and programs occurred.

CAPSTRANS Acting Director for Autumn

CAPSTRANS Director **Assoc Professor Tim Scrase** is on leave for Autumn session, returning mid-year. In the meantime, **Assoc Professor Mark McLelland** will be the Acting Director for CAPSTRANS.

For more information about CAPSTRANS and upcoming events and seminars, go to: www.capstrans.edu.au

Christine de Matos' busy start to the year

CAPSTRANS Research Fellow **Dr Christine de Matos** is having a busy start to 2010, with the recent publication of a journal she guest-edited, and an upcoming two-month stint in Germany on an academic scholarship.



DAAD scholarship success

Christine has been awarded a scholarship from the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD), or German Academic Exchange Service. The scholarship provides a stipend of €3741 (approx AUS\$5620) to conduct research as a visiting fellow at a German institution. Christine will be conducting comparative research on occupied Japan and occupied Germany while based at the University of Potsdam. The project, titled 'British and US labour policies in occupied Germany and Japan: A comparative analysis', will compare and contrast labour policies, employment of occupied labour, and discursive representations of the occupied in each territory.

The DAAD scholarship adds to Christine's previously successful Ernst Keller European Travelling Fellowship, which funds travel costs between Australia and Germany, in order to carry out this research project. Christine will leave mid-April to take up the scholarship and return in mid-June.

Latest issue of *New Voices*

Christine was the guest editor of *New Voices 3*, the publication of which was recently announced by The Japan Foundation office in Sydney. This journal aims to bring to showcase exciting new research conducted by recent Australian Honours and Masters students in Japanese studies. The journal has an advisory board made up of many of the top scholars of Japanese Studies in Australia, and can be found online at: www.jpfa.org.au/newvoices/current.html

Volume 3 contains articles from a variety of disciplines including History, Sociology, Linguistics and Literature. There is also a call for papers for Volume 4 for researchers who completed their Honours or Masters degree between January 2007 and December 2009 at an Australian or New Zealand university. The full CFP can be found at: www.jpfa.org.au/newvoices/callforpapers.html

Workshop report:
**Capital, Labour and Crisis: implications for
the clothing industry in the Asia-Pacific**
6-7 January 2010

CAPSTRANS started the year by hosting an international workshop, "Capital, Labour and Crisis: implications for the clothing industry in the Asia Pacific", on 6-7 January, with sponsorship from the Australian Research Council's (ARC) Asia Pacific Futures Research Network. The workshop drew upon the views of scholars from a range of disciplines including both international and local scholars to examine globalisation and the current crisis in the context of the clothing industry in the Asia Pacific.

The workshop explored a number of topics, questioning the contraction in consumption in developed countries and the effect this is having on clothing production in developing countries, and examining how changes in South Asia and China affect the industry in SEA. It also brought together preliminary data and information on the impact of the crisis, so these inputs could be explored and investigated, and focused on identifying whether change is governed by processes that are internal to globalised chains of commodity production and consumption that move across national borders, or whether change is something that can be managed within national economies.

Seven of the Australian and overseas participants involved in the workshop are part of an ARC Discovery Project, and the workshop was convened by **Dr Vicki Crinis** from CAPSTRANS.



Dr Vicki Crinis (left) and Prof Adrian Vickers (front, University of Sydney), and other workshop participants

Workshop report:
**Internet Regulation and Filtering in
Australia and the Asia Pacific**
30 November-1 December 2009

The 'Internet Regulation and Filtering in Australia and the Asia Pacific' workshop was held at the University of

Wollongong on the 30th November and 1st December 2009. The event was organized by **Assoc Prof Mark McLelland**, and funded by Innovations in Cultural Research, CAPSTRANS, and an outside grant of \$7,848 from the ARC Cultural Research Network.



Dr Kath Albury (UNSW) and Assoc Prof Mark McLelland

The papers, from local and international scholars, focused on the implications of the impending Australian government internet filtering policy. The history and practices of censorship in Australia, Singapore and Korea were also covered. The 'cultures of use' of the internet, of a wide array of groups that may be censored if internet filtering is introduced, was also addressed. The implications for Australian software businesses of the censorship was also addressed, of business going offshore if games and other software was not available in Australia. Senator Scott Ludlam, Australian Greens Senator from Western Australia joined the workshop via video conference on the 30th of November, and outlined the Greens policy on internet filtering. The papers were video recorded and the videos uploaded onto the ICR website: <http://icrwollongong.net/>

One important outcome from the workshop is Assoc Prof McLelland's paper Australia's Proposed Internet Filtering System and its Implications for Animation, Comics and Gaming (ACG) and Slash Fan Communities (Forthcoming in issue 134 of *Media International Australia*, February 2010). In the paper A/Prof McLelland describes how the government has vastly underestimated the number of sites that may require filtering since Australia's anti-'child-abuse publications' legislation applies equally to purely fictional as well as actual representations of under-age 'persons' including manga, animations, artwork and text. The paper points out how Australia's extensive animation, comics and gaming communities will be negatively impacted by the legislation.

The momentum from this event will flow onto the related follow-on events:

- ‘SNS Cultures of Use and Internet Regulation Policy in Australia: The Need for Evidence-Based Policy’ CAPSTRANS/SSMAC panel at the 2010 IEEE International Symposium on Technology and Society (ISTAS ’10) “Social Implications of Emerging Technologies” – 7-9 June 2010, Wollongong.
- ‘The politics and practicalities of research into online “communities of use” involving violent and sexual representations in Australia: the need for evidence-based policy’ – workshop in November 2010 at UOW.

Upcoming Seminars, Conferences & Workshops

CAPSTRANS Seminar

Transformation of Literature in a
Globalising Society
presented by Yasue Arimitsu

Friday 19 March | 10.30am-12.00pm | 19.1003
Morning Tea will be served

Yasue’s abstract: Literature is considered to be synonymous with the ‘imaginative,’ which means ‘literally untrue’ but is also an evaluative term meaning ‘visionary’ or ‘inventive’. The definition of literature thus emphasizes the supremacy, autonomy and transcendency of “imagination”. However from the end of the last century to the 21st century, many critics argued about the future of literature. Edward Said mentions about the end of “the concept of literature” in *Reflections on Exile* (2002); Hideo Levy examines “the death of literature” in his book *Voices beyond the Border* (2007); and a Japanese critic, Kojin Karatani, declares “Japanese modern literature is now dead” in his book *An End of Modern Literature* (2004). It seems that these remarks suggest that literature is not a self-evident truth anymore.

In modern times, literature became deeply concerned with the social power rather than religion, and began to play an important role in representing the power of a nation. In particular English literature established its position as representative of the English empire, along with the English language. A nation was conceived as comprising “one language”, “one ethnicity” and “one culture,” and literary identity is a closely related concept. In the 21st century, however, globalisation in economy, technology, information and humanity is rapidly progressing, and cultural globalisation is expanding at high speed. In this globalising world, the notion of a nation has been evolving; the nation as “one

language”, “one ethnicity” and “one culture” has collapsed, and as a result, the function of literature has also changed drastically.

In this paper, I intend to examine the transformation of literature or literary values focussing on Australian literature. I chose Australia as a case study because Australia changed its social system from a “White Australia Policy” to a vastly different policy, Multiculturalism. I will focus on how the function of literature has changed in a multicultural society. I will also focus on the transformation of literature in the globalising societies in general.

Yasue Arimitsu is the Professor of English and Australian Studies at the Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan. She is the author of *Finding a Place: Landscape and the Search for Identity in the early novels of Patrick White* (1986) and *Australian Identity: Struggle and Transformation in Australian Literature* (2003). She co-authored *An Introduction to Australian Studies*, 2nd Edition (2007). She has also edited and contributed to translating *Diamond Dog: An anthology of Contemporary Australian Short Stories – Reflections on Multicultural Society* (2008).

For more information, contact **Dr Vicki Crinis** on vcrinis@uow.edu.au

Literature, Identity and Culture Research Group Seminar SEMINAR SERIES - Session 1 2010: Sexualities

Edmund White’s Promiscuous Novel:
The Farewell Symphony
presented by Dr Guy Davidson

Tuesday 23 March | 12.30pm-1.30pm | 19.1003

Guy’s abstract: The term “promiscuity,” as Ben Gove notes, is “perennially vexed” and “notoriously vague.” Including notions of mixture, indiscriminateness, and, in relation to its use regarding sexual practice, excessiveness, indiscriminateness and insatiability, the term has a long history of derogatory use. In the gay subculture of the 1970s, however, promiscuity was often positively revalued as a manifestation of shame-free sexual pleasure or as the foundation of new modes of intimacy and affiliation. In this paper, I discuss Edmund White’s novel about 1970s gay New York *The Farewell Symphony* (1997) in relation to its representation and exemplification of promiscuous tendencies. The novel’s treatment of promiscuity, I argue, enables a richly ambivalent account of key aspects of the gay 1970s, including the formation of gay

identity, the commodification of the gay “lifestyle,” and the rise of gay fiction. No simple eulogy, White’s novel is notable for the retroactive, self-ironising scepticism with which it treats the 1970s culture of promiscuity even as it celebrates the possibilities which that culture put in place.

For more information, contact **Dr Guy Davidson** on guy@uow.edu.au

CAPSTRANS Symposium: Space, Place and Emotion in Modern Japan

Friday 9 April | 9.45am-4.00pm | 67.201

In this interdisciplinary symposium we will consider the emotional geographies of particular spaces in modern Japan. Several of the papers will focus on streets and urban space. Streets are a liminal space between the spaces of work, home and entertainment. Streets may also, however, be the sites of political demonstrations and performances. Where political violence has occurred, the streets become sites of mourning and melancholy. For gay pride marchers, the streets are a site of celebration; while 'queer' spaces in the city are the sites of alternative forms of sociality and alternative temporalities. For those without work or without homes, the valency and connotations of the streets may be reversed. For the unemployed or the homeless, the streets take on a new importance, different from their previous meaning as a place to be traversed on the way to work or home. Our papers draw on the methodologies of cultural geography, cultural studies, cultural history, performance studies, and gender and sexuality studies, in order to map alternative histories and geographies of modern Japan. This symposium will bring interdisciplinary perspectives to the study of space, place and emotion.

Speakers:

Rowena Ward, University of Wollongong
Romit Dasgupta, University of Western Australia
Peter Eckersall, University of Melbourne
Alisa Freedman, University of Oregon
Vera Mackie, University of Wollongong
Katsuhiko Suganuma, Oita University

Registration: There is no registration fee, but please advise **Prof Vera Mackie** by email (vera_mackie@uow.edu.au) if you will be attending for catering purposes.

Publicise your event in the next Research Newsletter!
email details to **David Kemmery** (dkemmery@uow.edu.au)

ICR Conference & Call for Papers Revise: The Art and Science of Contemporary Remix Culture

**Thursday-Friday 2-3 December | UOW
Abstracts deadline: Thursday 15 April**

In a media saturated environment, questions about authoriality and the ownership of cultural content have come to be increasingly urgent. A number of recent, high profile legal cases have highlighted the difficulties involved in adjudicating between different models of ownership and of cultural production. Furthermore, online environments render local, fannish, and ‘amateur’ forms of cultural production (frequently drawing on ‘Big Content’) increasingly visible – sometimes to the apparent detriment of these forms of vernacular creativity.

Across audio, televisual, cinematic, textual, and other forms, proprietary models of cultural production face challenges in managing, controlling, and monetising content tailored for a mass audience. It is paradoxical that a measure of success for such content is the extent to which it is – often almost immediately – adapted and re-used by vernacular cultures. Conversely, interventions by fans and other niche cultural producers are often understood on the one hand to be forms of innovative appropriation and interventions in the flow of cultural goods, and on the other to be products of unpaid labour, raising the value of material that is already ubiquitous in an attention economy sense.

This event aims to bring together researchers whose work investigates aspects of remixing, alongside practitioners working in remix cultures, for an interdisciplinary and collaborative conference. We are also soliciting curated art and video works in addition to presentations by remix practitioners and academic papers.

Call for papers

Abstracts of 200-250 words should be sent to revise2010@gmail.com by 15 April. Please include your full name (and/or artist/fan name), email address, and institutional affiliation (if applicable) along with the abstract. In addition to formal academic papers, we also welcome roundtable or panel discussion suggestions, and/or presentations by remix practitioners on their art or style. Curated artwork exhibits and live performance submissions are also welcomed.

For a list of suggested themes for papers, and for more information, please email revise2010@gmail.com or see <http://revise2010.blogspot.com>

Quick Guide to ERA (Excellence in Research Australia)

Prof Leigh Dale and Dr Robyn Morris

What is it? The ERA – Excellence in Research Australia – replaces the Howard government’s proposed RQF as a mechanism for measuring the quality of research in Australian universities.

Why does it matter? The ERA’s own guidelines, which are a useful source of information, indicate that the results will be publicised (think ‘myschool’ for universities) to guide postgraduate students’ choice of institution, and funding for research. [SEE NOTE 1] The UK experience is that such an exercise also influences overseas students’ choices of their place of study.

How will it affect me? It’s unrealistic to think that such a major policy change will not start to inform the way institutions think about research, recruitment and promotion. There are some big positives: instead of asking ‘how much’, as DEST encouraged us to do, the ERA encourages us to ask, ‘is it any good?’ On the other hand, there are and will be heated disputes about ‘what counts’ and how to count it. Do expect increased attention to questions about *where* you publish, and whether or not your research is supported by a nationally competitive grant.

Can I stop this happening by voting for Tony Abbott? You could try, but since the Howard government proposed this in the first place, we are more likely to get a swerve (and change of acronym – RQF, anybody?) than a reversal, as we did when Rudd was elected all those years ago.

What should I do? Be patient when your panel member talks to you about your publications, and if you can bear it, read the rest of this story to find out a bit more detail so you can start thinking about your own work and its institutional shape and context. The next round of the ERA is coming in 2012 ...

The Details

How do you ‘count’ research? For the purposes of this exercise, all research is categorised into Field of Research codes (given below). Most controversially, the ARC has compiled a list of ‘eligible’ journals, given each journal a discipline code (although some are coded ‘Multidisciplinary’) and each journal a ranking (although some are listed as ‘not ranked’). The controversy arises not only from the ranking, from A* through A, B, to C, but the coding, with institutions forced to position publications not according to its author’s or authors’ view[s] of its contents, but according to the ARC code.

How do you assess the quality of research?

- Most sciences and allied disciplines will be assessed using citation measures.
- Most humanities and allied disciplines will be assessed using peer review, a process of anonymous reading rather like the assessment of ARC grants. To ‘count’ for peer review, each 4-digit code must reach a threshold of 30 ‘outputs’ (books count as five for this). [SEE NOTE 2] From those outputs, 20% are selected for peer review.
- Creative Arts requires a background statement for each output (painting, novel, etc.).

What will the results look like? The ARC has “Research Evaluation Committees” [RECs] which will give institutions a numerical evaluation from 1 to 5: 5 is world leading; 1 is no pulse; 3 is average, i.e. world standard (!). Evaluations of each 2- and 4-digit code will be published.

What’s happening at UoW? The university has set up panels to assemble the submission, and has a statistical team led by Claudia Perry-Beltrame. Our portfolios have six parts:

1. Background statements: two pages offering the context in which to interpret data.
2. Eligible researchers *as at 31 March 2009* – this is the census date for this round of the ERA. This is controlled by FoR codes you have put in RIS. If you have nominated 50% Sociology, 30% Archaeology and 20% Social Work, you will provide 0.5, 0.3 and 0.2 of a person respectively to each of those areas.
3. Data on publications, or ‘research outputs’ for 1 Jan 2003 – 31 Dec 2008
In Humanities, this includes 20% of publications nominated for peer review.
4. Data on research income 1 Jan 2006 – 31 Dec 2008 [ARC grant income – crucial]
5. Data on applied measures 1 Jan 2006 – 31 Dec 2008 [do you have any patents?]
6. Data on esteem measures 1 Jan 2006 – 31 Dec 2008 [Membership of academies, etc.]

[1] ERA 2010 Submission Guidelines at www.arc.gov.au/era/key_docs10.htm note that ‘The ARC will publicly release outcomes of the evaluations for all disciplines at the four- and two-digit level. ... ERA will inform the performance component of the Sustainable Research Excellence in Universities Program. ... The Government will determine how the allocation of other Research Block Grants may be linked to ERA results in consultation with the higher education sector.’ Emphasis added!

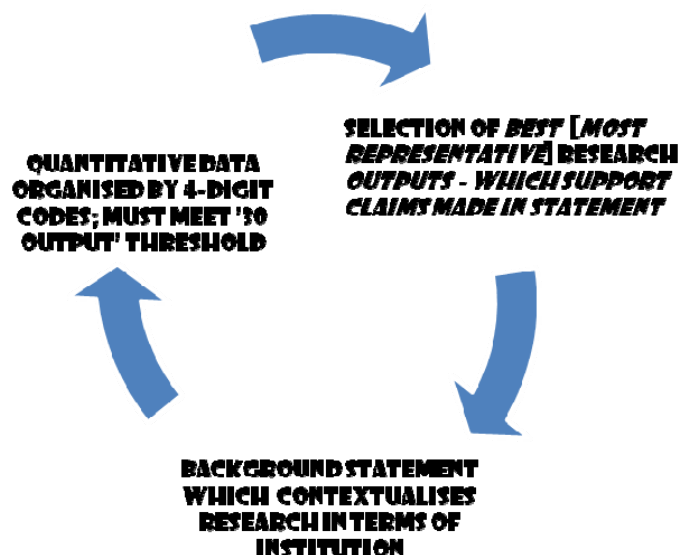
[2] If there are insufficient numbers of publications, then the research can be measured at the 2-digit code level. If there are insufficient publications at this level, the institution will not be assessed in that field of research.

When is it happening?

Feb-March	Data collection through RIS
19 March	Completion of first round of data checks
29 March	Second round of data available
9 April	Draft background statement due
14 Apr	Completion of second round of data checks
22 April	Third round of data available; selection of peer review (20%)
5 May	Final data checks; final submission of material selected for peer review
31 May	Submission of material to Canberra

How do you put all this together?

This is the crucial bit, and it relates to what your panel reps might want to talk to you about. Any linear representation of the process is misleading. The key aspect of the ERA submission is the *coherence* of its three key elements: the data, the background statement, and the 20% of material nominated for peer review. Thus it is preferable to think of this as an *iterative* process in which we try to get the best outcome for each area we are putting forward for assessment. So panel members might be talking to you about the main themes of your work, which essays you think are best, and whether there are any that might stand out but not be in your direct area of research. Certain elements of the data are fixed, but the ways in which we *present* that data can be controlled.



for a slightly different take on the ERA process, see [The Astrologer's Guide to the ERA](#) on [page 14](#) of this Arts Research Newsletter

Overview of Codes and Panels Related to Humanities

11: Medical and Health Sciences

13: Education

14: Economics

16: Studies in Human Society

1601 Anthropology,
1602 Criminology
1603 Demography
1604 Human Geography
1605 Policy and Administration
1606 Political Science
1607 Social Work
1608 Sociology
1699 Other Studies in Human Society

UOW Panel: [Mark McLelland](#) (Chair), Adam Dolnik, Mark Rix, Ruchira Ganguly-Scrase, Chris Gibson, Charles Hawksley, Melanie Randle, Zenobia Jacobs

17: Psychology and Cognitive Sciences

18: Law and Legal Studies

19: Studies in Creative Art and Writing

1901 Art Theory and Criticism
1902 Film, Television and Digital Media
1903 Journalism and Professional Writing
1904 Performing Arts and Creative Writing
1905 Visual Arts and Crafts
1999 Other Studies in Creative Arts and Writing

UOW Panel: [Amanda Lawson](#), Kate Bowles, Brogan Bunt, Greg Schiemer, Sarah Miller, Merlinda Bobis, Stephen Tanner

20: Language, Communication and Culture

2001 Communication and Media Studies
2002 Cultural Studies
2003 Language Studies [Languages other than English]
2004 Linguistics
2005 Literary Studies

2099 Other Language, Communication and Culture
UOW Panel: [Leigh Dale](#), Kate Bowles, Anne Collett, Bev Derewianka, Nicola Evans, assisted by Louise D'Arcens & Kerry Dunne

21: History and Archaeology

2101 Archaeology
2102 Curatorial and Related Studies
2103 Historical Studies
2199 Other History and Archaeology

UOW Panel: [Mike Morwood](#), Matt Allen, Greg Melleuish, Sarah Ferber

22: Philosophy and Religious Studies

2201 Applied Ethics
2202 History and Philosophy of Specific Fields
2203 Philosophy
2204 Religion and Religious Studies
2299 Other Philosophy and Religious Studies

UOW Panel: [Richard Menary](#), David Neil

Dates for the Diary

soon (March-April) ...

CAPSTRANS Seminar

Transformation of Literature in a Globalising Society

presented by Yasue Arimitsu,
Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan

Friday 19 March | 10.30am-12.00pm | 19.1003

All welcome. Morning tea will be provided.
info: email Dr Vicki Crinis (vcrinis@uow.edu.au)

Literature, Identity and Culture

Research Group Seminar

SEMINAR SERIES - Session 1 2010: Sexualities

Edmund White's Promiscuous Novel:

The Farewell Symphony

presented by Dr Guy Davidson, Faculty of Arts, UOW

Tuesday 23 March | 12.30-1.30pm | 19.1003

All welcome.

info: email Dr Guy Davidson (guy@uow.edu.au)

CAPSTRANS Symposium

Space, Place and Emotion in Modern Japan

Friday 9 April | 9.45am-4.00pm | 67.201

info: email Prof Vera Mackie (vera_mackie@uow.edu.au)

Faculty of Arts

Professorial Seminar Series 2010

more details soon – keep an eye on email and
future Arts Research Newsletters for information

later in 2010 ...

Faculty of Arts

HDR Student Conference 2010

Tuesday 8 – Wednesday 9 June

posters | papers | three-minute thesis competition

see Assoc Prof Sarah Ferber's report on page 2

more details and deadlines coming soon

Revise: The Art and Science of Contemporary Remix Culture

Thursday-Friday 2-3 December | University of Wollongong

Abstracts deadline: Thursday 15 April

info: email revise2010@gmail.com

PODS

Professional & Organisational Development Services – 2010 Staff Training Courses

PODS have released their calendar of staff training courses which will be available in 2010. Aside from courses on HDR supervision and getting the most from research, there are programs on conflict resolution for HDR supervisors, creating successful HDR students, and training sessions for RIS (Research Information Systems) so you can manage your research publications.

Some sessions and dates are still to be confirmed for 2010, check at the link below for updates.

Developing Your Research Grant Writing Skills (recommended for Early Career Researchers)

April/May – dates TBC

September/October – dates TBC

Research Grant Management Workshops

dates TBC

Supervising Higher Degree Research Students Series

dates TBC

Creating the 7 Secrets of Successful HDR Students (for Supervisors)

Wednesday 23 September, 9.00am-12.00pm

The Balanced Researcher

Wednesday 23 September, 1.00-4.00pm

RIS (Research Information Systems) Researcher Training

Attend just ONE session, on one of the following dates:

Thursday 13 May, 10.30am-12.00pm

Thursday 1 July, 1.30-3.00pm

Thursday 30 September, 1.30-3.00pm

Thursday 18 November, 1.30-3.00pm

go to: intranet.uow.edu.au/pods and click on
Staff Development Calendar for more information.

COMING SOON!

For information about all Arts research events,
check out the **2010 Research Events Calendar** ...
go to www.uow.edu.au/arts and click on
the **News & Events** box

MAKE SURE YOUR EVENT IS NOTICED!

To help publicise your event,
email **David Kemmery** (dkemmery@uow.edu.au)
and **Kerry Duff** (kduff@uow.edu.au)
in the Research Support Team

HDR Student Profiles – meet some of our new postgraduate students

The start of a new academic year in Arts always sees a group of new HDR students beginning their postgraduate research study and this year was no exception, with most of them joining us for Orientation on Tuesday 23 February. Below are some of the new postgrads you might see in the Faculty corridors ... we asked them to tell us about what they've been doing up to this point, what they'll be researching and why it interests them, and something surprising or unexpected about themselves (e.g. they're a superhero by night, or they have an unusual or hidden talent) ...

Raewyn Campbell PhD (SSMC)

I just finished my BCM Hons.

I'm going to be researching nerds/geeks in relation to power and (probably) gender. I am pretty nerdy. The topic was initially a way to combine my favourite nerdy interests like *Buffy* and *Doctor Who* into the same research project.

I like arting it up – drawing, painting, decorating cupcakes, face painting. Face painting is my back-up plan if my academic career fails.



Rae and Kirsti

Kirsti Rawstron MA Research (H&P)

After spending a year in Tokyo finishing my Hons degree, I spent the summer with my brain on hold as I worked as a waitress and a vineyard worker.

I am researching the experiences of Japanese children in Australia and New Zealand during World War II. I did Japanese back in High School, and it just kinda stuck. I did my Hons degree on women's employment rights in

Japan, and wanted to do "something" on World War II for my Masters. I think I was initially thinking of looking at women and children during the war, and somehow decided that children alone would be a nicer scope. But my thought processes are confusing at the best of time, so...

My "unusual claim to fame" is that I am a prize winning baker and jam maker.

Nik Russo PhD (SSMC/Media and Cultural Studies)



Before starting this, I was attempting to solve my personal existential crisis by playing and listening to a lot of music.

My thesis is on the influence of nostalgia in modern rock music. It comes from having an

underlying sense of loss and nostalgia for a past I haven't lived that I find is best expressed and understood in terms of the music I listen to.

For reasons I am not entirely sure of, I am a fully qualified solicitor.

Jennifer Stewart PhD (SSMC/CAPSTRANS)

From my earliest days at school I have been heading towards a career in qualitative social research. I have always loved hearing about peoples' experiences. From Kindergarten on every school report I have ever received stressed that I always kept myself busy talking to people while in class! Fortunately, studying at the University of Wollongong has helped me focus my passion.

In 2009 I completed a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree researching the work-life balance experiences and perceptions of Illawarra parents. While I found Honours very challenging, it was such a positive experience, particularly the fieldwork aspect. Working closely with my supervisor, Dr Ruchira Ganguly-Scrase, was fantastic. On so many occasions I would meet with Ruchira feeling perplexed and leave her office feeling inspired. Honours allowed me to apply and refine my

research skills. While writing my thesis, I decided that undertaking a PhD candidature would be a great opportunity to continue working on a topic that I was passionate about. I am now researching the transnational work-life balance practices, experiences and perceptions of newly arrived skilled Indian migrants in Australia.

Kelly Oliver PhD (ELP/English Literatures)



Before this, I was working in the UOW library, a whole 100m from the Arts faculty.

My area of interest is transgressive children's literature. In particular Australian texts that engage with carnival ideology or,

the carnivalesque. I became interested in this during some really good undergraduate classes. Plus, this area is one that has been untouched for a long time in literary circles.

Actually, I am a superhero by night, but most people already know that. So, an unusual hobby? I'm currently cooking my way through every recipe in Beth Hensperger's *The Bread Bible* and I am not writing a blog about it.

Adam Rogan PhD (SSMC)

I was spending a lot of time in the ocean, trying to figure out what to do with the rest of my life. I had just finished my Bachelor of Arts Honours degree and was revelling in that freedom(?).



I'll be furthering my study of men and masculinities, in particular the ways in which hegemonic masculinity effects the attitudes, beliefs and practices of young men. I will be conducting a transnational exploration of hegemonic masculinity, looking at the ways in which young men engage in risky behaviours (drug and alcohol abuse, violence, unsafe sex) and how these relate to their notions of masculinity.

I can vividly remember having quite deep and sometimes heated discussions with my female friends as far back as early high school regarding gender issues, feminism, and my beliefs about men and masculinity. So it seems that I have always had an interest in gender and masculinity. It was only as I moved through my undergraduate degree that I realised this was such a passion of mine. I always seemed to land in the subjects that leaned towards the topic of gender, which inevitably only made me more interested. I suppose being a young man has also helped. I think ultimately I'm just trying to figure out who we are as men, why we do the things we do, and how both men and women can co-exist in an ever-changing gender system.

I have a strange obsession with cats. So much so people call me 'catman'. I collect cat statues, figurines, and cat-themed art. I have grown up with cats and feel we have a special affinity to each other. They get me, I get them. It's an unspoken language of love and understanding. My cat Patrick is my number one study companion. He calms me down when I'm stressed out, he distracts me when I probably need it (and when I don't), and he walks on my keyboard when I'm trying to write. Oh, and I'm also a musician. Having recovered from a punk-rock past, I now make experimental soundscapes and play guitar in an avant-guard indie-rock band. Kittens in mittens and being musically smitten, these are a few of my favourite things.

other new Arts HDR students

Also commencing their Arts HDR study this session are:
Faiz Aldalbi [PhD/SSMC from Saudi Arabia]
Hujuala ("Lala") Rika Ayu [MA Res/ELP from Indonesia]
Lukas Bauer [PhD/LC]
Patrick Callaghan [MA Res/H&P]
Azadeh Davachi [PhD/ELP from Iran]
Liana Markovich [PhD/H&P]
Peta Sladek [PhD/ELP]

And **Luka Zevnik** is joining us from Slovenia for Autumn session as a visiting postgraduate student, being mentored by Assoc Prof Chris Barker.

Several other new students will be joining us throughout Autumn session.

A reminder to all HDR students that they can find information about postgraduate studies in Arts on the UOW website at:

www.uow.edu.au/arts/postgraduate

We will be adding a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) page soon.

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
- Faculty of Arts – Acting Research Support Team Coordinator – Robert Beretov, x5581, rberetov@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 Database

The Australian Competitive Grants Register is a database 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 Officer – Elizabeth Philips x4522, 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 Robert Beretov x5581 or Elizabeth Philips x4522.

The Astrologer's Guide to the ERA (Excellence in Research Australia)

a contribution from **Medusa's Apprentice**

GEMINI **MAY 22 - JUNE 21**

Here it is, that new experience you crave. Use those talking and strategic skills to brief your panel members on what it is you think you and your colleagues do well, after you've talked to them all ...

CANCER **JUNE 22 - JULY 23**

It's a terrible time to be soft and sensitive. Toughen up, *after* you have told your panel member which is your best publication and why (best to prepare for the trauma of having to choose).

LEO **JULY 24 - AUGUST 23**

Cancel the appointment at the hairdresser (no really, it's that serious), and talk to someone on your panel about those fabulous esteem factors that they have, somehow, missed out on.

VIRGO **AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23**

Ditch the shy and ramp up the pedantry about numbers and detail – you will be the ideal person to help your panel member crunch the numbers, if you can bear to tell them that you can do that stuff.

LIBRA **SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23**

This is no time for weighing up pros and cons and then deciding you can't decide. This is strategy, strategy and more strategy. So just stay out of it, ok? Then no-one will get hurt.

SCORPIO **OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22**

If the love of power wins out over the power of love you could wreak havoc. Best position: the sidelines, unless you are secretly in love with a panel member. In which case, brief them on your esteem factors and best publications ...

SAGITTARIUS **NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22**

If we can curb your desire for honesty, you have a key role to play with your optimism and enthusiasm. Help to fire up your panel member about your discipline by thinking big ...

CAPRICORN **DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20**

Those aspirations (mountain goats, get it?) are just what we need. If you aren't the panel chair, sorry, champion, you should be. Carry out a coup, it will benefit everyone.

AQUARIUS **JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19**

Emphasise the 'judgement' and stay quiet on your ideas about all the ways in which this whole process won't make a wonderful new world. And get to a hairdresser.

PISCES **FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20**

Umm, right. You can probably do the least damage by toning down your 'inner quest to explore [your] "ivory tower" syndrome'. Maybe take leave til it's all over?

ARIES **MARCH 21 - APRIL 20**

Calm down! Put the fire to work with creative ideas for the narrative.

TAURUS **APRIL 21 - MAY 21**

Try listening to some explanations about how all this is working. Oh alright then, continue to ignore it all and plug away at that A* journal article. It will pay off in the next round.

With thanks to Athena Starwoman, at http://www.psychicguild.com/horoscopes_explained.php