



Australian
National
University

HUMANITIES RESEARCH CENTRE

2016 Annual Report



Contents

**Year in Review**

Message from the Head, Theme	3
2016 Visiting Fellows	4
Seminar Series	6

New Series

Conversations Across the Creek	8
Research Development Workshops	8
Books that Changed Humanity	9
Ad Hominem	9

Conferences

Shakespeare & the Public: A Symposium	10
Culture & Infrastructure: New Ethnographic Projects in Indonesia	10
Literature in the Global Context	11
Divided Authorities & Dispossessed Peoples	11
History & Authority: Political Vocabularies of the Modern Age	12
Putin's Russia in the Wake of the Cold War	12

Events

Launch of the New <i>Australian Literary Studies</i>	13
<i>Art & Human Rights</i> Book Launch	13
Prof. Will Christie's Inaugural Professorial Lecture	13
Reception for Prof. Ian Donaldson	13
The Ninth Australian Conference of Celtic Studies	14
<i>From St Petersburg to Port Jackson</i> Book Launch	14
Impact: A Symposium on Public Knowledge	14
A Conversation on Business & the Humanities	15
<i>The West Verandah</i> Book Launch	15

Ongoing

Staff, Advisory Board, Adjuncts, Friends	16
2017 Program	17

The **Humanities Research Centre** was established in 1974 as a national and international centre for humanities scholarship and one of Australia's prime gateways to the global research community. Interpreting the 'humanities' generously, the HRC recognises critical resonances between the humanities and the social sciences, the humanities and the creative arts, and the humanities and the natural and technological sciences, and promotes advanced interdisciplinary and comparative research through an annual Visiting Fellowship Program and a diverse range of conferences, workshops, and seminars, each of which is supported and hosted under an annual theme. Key objectives include providing outreach and advocacy for the humanities both within and beyond the academy, and engaging with key research centres, cultural institutions, and the general public to explore issues of continuing significance to the intellectual and cultural life of the nation.



Message from the Head

2016 has been a year dedicated to building the capacity of the HRC, to extending its activities and horizons, and to raising its profile, both inside and outside the ANU. Readers of this report will see that the Visiting Fellowships and the Conference Program remain central to the Centre's activities. We can be proud of all the visiting scholars who have made the HRC a collegial and productive community throughout the year, just as we can be proud of the breadth and depth of HRC conference offerings across the humanities—from Shakespeare's historical public through to Vladimir Putin's Russia—under this year's annual theme of 'Forms of Authority.'

The work of our Visiting Fellows is always readily accessible through the weekly seminars we hold on Tuesday afternoons, but through three new monthly series we have sought to disseminate and debate in different ways and to engage with different kinds of audiences. *Conversations Across the Creek* brought humanities scholars together with their scientific colleagues, *Ad Hominem* invited a wide academic and non-academic audience to hear about the work of young researchers, and an immensely popular series on *Books that Changed Humanity* extended this audience to include even larger numbers of the general public. All three are destined to continue throughout 2017.

Every year, moreover, I am determined to explore (and promote) the relationship between the humanities, on the one hand, and, on the other, a culture of ideas and practices traditionally seen as indifferent or antagonistic towards the humanities. We began in 2015 with a Colloquium on the Humanities and the Sciences and this year took our roadshow to the Sydney CBD and joined forces with the University of Sydney to explore the Humanities and Business. This was a great success and I am currently negotiating with one of our main speakers at this event, Jennifer Westacott, to establish a Business-Humanities forum under the umbrella of the Business Council of Australia so that we can develop the relationship in concrete and productive ways.

None of our many activities would have been possible, let alone successful, without the many individuals who have given their time and energy to making the HRC work. It is not possible to acknowledge the help of all who have contributed, but I must name and thank my Administrator, Colette Gilmour, in the first instance, and after her Rosemary Shepherd and Alice Macdonald. It has been hard for all our administrative assistants to pick up the thread after unexpected changes of personnel, and it is a tribute to each of them that the HRC has been able to function so well, indeed to thrive. Along with the help of Colette, Rosemary, and Alice, the HRC has had the invaluable assistance of Jillian Masters, a Fourth Year Honours student who has thrown herself into her work on marketing and graphics in the breaks between major assignments, and without the person we call our Liaison Officer—Greta Hawes, lately the recipient of a major DECRA grant. Between them, Jillian and Greta have brought our communications into the twenty-first century, and Greta has not only been a great support, but a great stimulant and a great friend. I will miss them both dearly.

Professor Will Christie



Pictured Gustav Klimt, *Pallas Athene*, 1898.
Oil on canvas and inlay. Wien Museum, Austria.

2016 Annual Theme — 'Forms of Authority'

Authority involves claims of legitimacy, the capacity and right to exercise power. Taking 'forms' primarily in a literary/aesthetic sense, this theme seeks to interrogate the genres, images, and aesthetic forms in which authority is embedded—via tropes of realism, for example, in melodrama, reportage, tradition, and so on.

Political representation and representations of politics come to inform the humanities broadly writ, while literary, artistic, and dramatic modalities are foregrounded as ways of addressing and shifting forms of authority. New technologies and forms of mediation also profoundly inflect this line of questioning and might be explored through direct examination of the forms of authority that technology wields or through the politics and histories of representation.

Proposed by **Dr Fiona Jenkins**, School of Philosophy

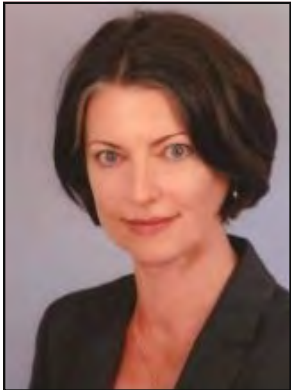
2016 VISITING FELLOWS

One of the central functions of the HRC is to bring to Australia scholars of international standing who will provoke fresh ideas both within and beyond the academic community. Our Visiting Fellows are distinguished scholars awarded a place and financial support to carry on their research and writing, and to share and develop their ideas through participation in seminars, conferences, and public programs.

Professor Patricia PLUMMER

23 Feb - 20 April

University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany



Patricia Plummer is a professor of postcolonial studies. Together with the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Diversity Management and the Essen Centre for Gender Studies she is implementing a Diversity Studies program at her home university. She is currently editing the proceedings of an interdisciplinary symposium on transcultural Western encounters with Japan she hosted in 2012, and writing a book on women,

art and theosophy in early twentieth-century Australia.

Professor Joel C. KUIPERS

1 - 31 May

George Washington University, US



Joel C. Kuipers is a linguistic anthropologist interested in the role of language in the description and interpretation of social life, particularly how authoritative discourse shapes institutionally defined activities in clinics, courtrooms, classrooms, and religious settings. He is Director of Graduate Studies for the Anthropology Masters program and Director of George Washington University's Discourse Laboratory.

Professor Nicole MOORE

1 April - 30 June

Australian Defence Force Academy (UNSW)



Nicole Moore is Professor of English Literature at ADFA. Her main research interests are in Australian literature, broadly defined, with a specific focus on the history of book censorship and literary publishing. She is the author of *The Censor's Library: Literary Censorship in Twentieth Century Australia* (Queensland UP, 2012) and co-author with Marita

Bullock of *Banned in Australia*, an electronic bibliography of literary titles banned in Australia from 1901-1973. Since 2014, she has been writing a biography of the prominent Australian writer Dorothy Hewett, funded by an Australian Research Council Future Fellowship.

Associate Professor Davide PANAGIA

1 - 30 July

University of California, Los Angeles, US



Davide Panagia is a political theorist specialising in the relationship between aesthetics and politics, with an ongoing curiosity about the diverse ways in which the sensation of value is generated in political societies. His research is informed by the traditions of moral sentimentalism from the long eighteenth century to the present. His work on '#datapolitik'

explores how emerging media alter the forms of power and thinking that occupy everyday living. He has published three books: *The Poetics of Political Thinking* (Duke UP, 2006), *The Political Life of Sensation* (Duke UP, 2009), and *Impressions of Hume: Cinematic Thinking and the Politics of Discontinuity* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2013).

Professor Peter HALLWARD

2 July - 7 Aug

Kingston University London, UK



Peter Hallward teaches at Kingston University's Centre for Research in Modern European Philosophy. His research interests include political philosophy, recent and contemporary French Philosophy, contemporary critical theory, and postcolonial theory. His books include *Damming the Flood: Haiti and the Politics of Containment* (Verso, 2007), *Out of This World: Deleuze and the Philosophy of Creation* (Verso, 2006), *Badiou: A Subject to Truth* (Minnesota UP, 2003), and *Absolutely Postcolonial* (Manchester UP, 2001). Peter is currently completing a book entitled *The Will of the People*.

Dr John ATTRIDGE

1 - 31 August

University of New South Wales



John Attridge is senior lecturer in English literature. His research is on the cultural history of European modernism, with particular emphasis on Joseph Conrad, Ford Madox Ford, Henry James and Marcel Proust. His essays on Conrad, Ford, James and Flann O'Brien have appeared in journals such as *ELH*, *Modern Fiction Studies*, *the Times Literary Supplement*, and *Modernism/modernity*. He is currently completing a book manuscript entitled *The Invisible Vocation: Early Modernism and Professional Society*.

Emeritus Professor David WORRALL **15 July - 15 Sept**

Nottingham Trent University, UK



David Worrall is an emeritus professor of English literature and Friend of the HRC. He has held fellowships and awards from the Art and Humanities Research Council and the British Academy, and is a Senior Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Roehampton. He is the author of *Theatric Revolution: Drama, Censorship & Romantic Period Subcultures* (Oxford UP, 2006), *The Politics of Romantic Theatricality: The Road to the Stage* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007), *Harlequin Empire: Race, Ethnicity and the Drama of the Popular Enlightenment* (Pickering & Chatto, 2007) and *Celebrity, Performance, Reception: British Georgian Theatre as Social Assemblage* (Cambridge UP, 2013).

Professor Donald MACRAILD

30 Sept - 14 Oct

Ulster University, UK



Donald MacRaid is a professor of British and Irish history. He has several overlapping fields of research expertise, including the Irish in Britain and the wider British World, the Irish and British Diasporas, the history of the Orange Order outside Ireland, the history of labour and social organisation, and ethnicity and ethnic conflict in the 19th and 20th centuries. He is a leading authority on the Irish Diaspora and has produced ten books and pamphlets, and over forty articles and chapters. He is co-editor of the journal *Immigrants & Minorities*, and author of *The Irish Diaspora in Britain, 1750-1939* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2010).



Professor Carole NEWLANDS

University of Colorado, Boulder, US

Carole Newlands is a professor of classical studies. Her research interests include classical and Medieval Latin literature and cultural and reception studies. She has published several books: *Playing with Time: Ovid and the Fasti* (Cornell UP, 1995); *Statius Silvae and the Poetics of Empire* (Cambridge UP, 2002); *Silvae Book 2* (Cambridge UP, 2011); and *Statius: A Poet Between Rome and Naples* (Bristol Classical Press, 2012). She is also co-editor of the *Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Ovid* (Oxford 2014); the *Brill Companion to Statius* (Brill, 2015); and *Ancient Campania* (Illinois UP, 2015). Her new work involves travel in the imperial Roman world and the role that the Classics played in Scottish culture.

1 Sept - 30 Oct

Dr Hannah AUGUST

16 Oct - 6 Nov

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, NZ

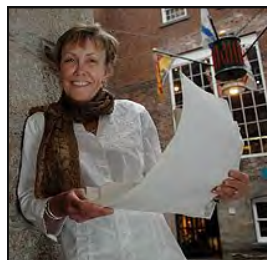


Hannah August is a writer, editor and research analyst based in Wellington and a Fellow of the New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women. She has written for publications such as the *Times Literary Supplement* and *Metro*, and is the author of *No Country for Old Maids? Talking About the 'Man Drought'* (Bridget Williams Books, 2015). She has been a Commonwealth Scholar, and was last year's recipient of the New Zealand Society of Authors' Research Grant. Her current research explores the impact of neoliberal language and values on the humanities.

Professor Cynthia J. NEVILLE

1 Oct - 30 Nov

Dalhousie University, Canada



Cynthia J. Neville is a medieval history specialist. She has published extensively on the legal, social, and political history of northern England and Scotland from 1100-1500. Her books include *Native Lordship in Medieval Scotland* (Four Courts Press, 2005), which won both the Margaret Wade Labarge prize and the Agnes Mure Mackenzie Scottish History Book of Year Award. She recently completed, with Grant Simpson, an edition of the written acts of King Alexander III (Edinburgh UP, 2013). Her current research explores royal pardon in Scotland in the later medieval period.



Associate Professor Samantha BENNETT

Research School of Humanities and Arts Internal Fellow

Samantha Bennett is Associate Professor at the ANU School of Music where she specialises in popular music, music technology, and sound recording. She has been published in *Popular Music*, *Popular Music and Society*, and *The Oxford Handbook of Music and Virtuality*. In 2014 she gave the biannual American Musicological Society lecture at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland. Her first book, *Modern Records, Maverick Methods*, is forthcoming from University of Michigan Press. Samantha is currently writing a book on Siouxsie and the Banshees for Bloomsbury Academic's 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ series.

SEMINAR SERIES

Whilst at the Centre, Visiting Fellows are encouraged to present their latest research. These seminars, alongside talks given by other invited humanities scholars, comprise the annual seminar series. The seminars are lively and often interactive events, and are free and open to the public.

Date	Presenter	Topic
23 Feb	Dr Robert Cowan University of Sydney	The Republic Strikes Back: Canonicity, Filiation, and Fan-Fiction In Roman Sequels
1 March	Assoc. Prof. Daniel Anlezark University of Sydney	'The Books Most Necessary to Know': Rethinking Alfred the Great as Author
15 March	Dr Alistair McLachlan Australian National University	Eminent Victorians, Post Victorians, and Post Post Victorians
29 March	Prof. Patricia Plummer University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany	Serial Role Models: The Portrayal of Female Leadership in <i>Borgen</i>
5 April	Dr Martina Ghosh-Shellhorn University of Saarland, Germany	'Phir Bhi Dil Hai Hinduustani': Home and Belonging in Films from and about India
12 April	Prof. Christoph Harbsmeier University of Oslo, Norway	An Essay in Historical Conceptual Ethnography: Greek, Latin, and Chinese in Global Comparative Context
19 April	Prof. Nicole Moore Australian Defence Force Academy	Performing 1971: Biography and Dorothy Hewett's <i>The Chapel Perilous</i>

26 April	Dr Simon Perris Victoria University of Wellington, NZ	The Classics in Maori Literature
2 May	Em. Prof. John Flower University of Kent, UK	Memories of the Nazi Occupation of France
3 May	Dr Karen Fox Australian National University	Rangitīria Dennan's 1954 Visit to Australia: Prominent Indigenous Women and the Print Media
10 May	Dr Caroline Schuster Australian National University	Repaying the Debts of the Dead: Kinship, Microfinance, and Mortuary Practice on the Paraguayan Frontier
17 May	Prof. Joel C. Kuipers George Washington University, US	Language, Identity, and Changing Structures of Islamic Authority in Contemporary Indonesia
24 May	Dr Stephen Lake The University of Sydney	The Devaluation of the Humanities in Contemporary Australia
14 June	Prof. Ira B. Nadel University of British Columbia, Canada	Russian Woolf: Virginia Woolf and Russia
12 July	Prof. Peter Hallward Kingston University London, UK	Popular Sovereignty and Political Will
25 July	Assist. Prof. Adam Kotsko Shimer College, US	The Origin of the Devil
26 July	Assoc. Prof. Davide Panagia University of California, Los Angeles, US	Rancière's Sentiments
2 Aug	Em. Prof. David Worrall Nottingham Trent University, UK	A Longitudinal Study of British Stage Censorship, 1737-1832
16 Aug	Dr Katherine Barnes Australian National University	Diary Into Narrative: Creative Non-Fiction and <i>The Sabotage Diaries</i>
23 Aug	Dr John Attridge University of New South Wales	The Crisis of Liberalism: Contracts and Promises in Joyce's Political Journalism and <i>Dubliners</i>
4 Oct	Prof. Donald MacRaild Ulster University, UK	Ribbonism and Hibernianism: Varieties of Irish Social and Political Networking in the 19th-Century British World
11 Oct	Prof. Cynthia Neville Dalhousie University, Canada	'No Remission without Satisfaction': Canonical Influences on Royal Pardon in Medieval Scotland
18 Oct	Prof. Carole Newlands University of Colorado, Boulder, US	Scotland and Translation of the Classics: The Case of Gavin Douglas' <i>Aeneid</i>
21 Oct	Prof. Sheila Fitzpatrick University of Sydney	Mischka's War: Odyssey of a Displaced Person in the Second World War
25 Oct	Prof. Maria M. Delgado University of London, UK	Interviewing Pedro, Interpreting Almodóvar: The Films of Pedro Almodóvar, Creative Practice, and Spanish Culture
1 Nov	Dr Hannah August Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, NZ	The Value of the Humanities in a Neoliberal Environment
1 Nov	Prof. Ann Heilmann Cardiff University, UK	Writing Games with Doctor James: James Miranda Barry In Neo-Victorian Life-Writing
8 Nov	Assoc. Prof. Samantha Bennett Australian National University	Horror, Epic and Early Cinema in Siouxsie and the Banshees' Voyeuristic <i>Peepshow</i>
22 Nov	Dr Rob Conkie and Dr Kate Flaherty La Trobe University, Australian National University	Making Memories: Performing Research on <i>Henry V</i> in Australia, 1916-2016
29 Nov	Prof. Ernest W.B. Hess-Lüttich University of Bern, Switzerland	Urban Discourse: City Space, City Language, City Planning
5 Dec	Prof. Ethan Kleinberg Wesleyan University, US	Haunting History: Past Possibles and Possible Pasts
6 Dec	Prof. Ian G. Balfour York University, Canada	Inversion: On Some Poetics and Politics in the Discourse of the Sublime

REGULAR SERIES

In 2016 the HRC introduced a number of new, regular initiatives, each of which sought to facilitate discussion, development, and collaboration between disciplines.

Conversations Across the Creek

March—October, 2016



Conversations across the Creek is an initiative of the HRC to provide a space for continuing dialogue among ANU scientists, social scientists and humanities scholars. Lunchtime meetings were held monthly, and aimed to stimulate and unearth research and teaching collaborations across the university by bringing together four diverse scholars, from both sides of Sullivan's Creek, to communicate their latest research to an audience of peers, students, and members of the public. The resultant TED-style talks traversed themes as diverse as astrophysics, artificial intelligence, universal language, criminology, and healthcare.

Pictured Professor Will Christie fields questions for Vice Chancellor Brian Schmidt, March 2016.



Speakers

Vice Chancellor Brian SCHMIDT
Professor Will CHRISTIE
Professor Marcus HUTTER
Professor Margaret JOLLY
Professor Janette LINDESAY
Professor Paul PICKERING
Professor Diana SLADE
Professor Greg STUART
Professor Bob WILLIAMSON
Professor Anna WIERZBICKA
Associate Professor Lexing XIE

Dr Rachael BROWN
Dr Kate FLAHERTY
Dr Adam HENSCHKE
Dr Hilary HOWES
Dr Rob LANFEAR
Dr Denisse LEYTON
Dr Vanessa ROBINS
Dr Glenn ROE
Dr Emmeline TAYLOR

Pictured Dr Adam Henschke and Dr Emmeline Taylor participate in a Q&A, August 2016.

Research Development Workshops

September—November, 2016

2016 saw a second iteration of the Research Development Workshops offered by the HRC to ANU colleagues, this time from across the College of Arts and Social Sciences. The CASS Associate Dean for Research, Ann Evans, joined HRC Head Will Christie in running a program of research workshops designed to give twelve early career staff the opportunity to talk about their scholarly work and to develop strategies for coping with the many different demands upon their time, as well as to learn some basic principles of applying for grant funding. Staff who successfully completed the program were given a small grant of \$3,000 to carry out the project they designed in the final two workshops.

Attendees

Dr Shuvo BAKAR
Dr Kate BOWAN
Ms Nadege DESGENETEZ
Dr Maria HYNES
Dr Solène INCEOGLU

Dr Gemma KING
Dr Geoff KUSHNICK
Dr Charles MILLER
Dr Terhi NURMIKKO-FULLER
Dr Caroline SCHUSTER
Dr Jill SHEPPARD
Dr Natalie WILLIAMS



Books that Changed Humanity is a book club with a difference. Each month from August onwards the Humanities Research Centre hosted an expert from one of a variety of disciplines, who introduced and led the discussion of a major historical text. All of these texts, which were drawn from a variety of cultural traditions, have had a formative influence on society and humanity. The series aimed to bring together readers from all backgrounds and vocations, highlighting and revisiting those books which have informed the way we understand ourselves, both individually and collectively, as human beings.

August 12	September 9	October 14	November 11	December 9
Dr McComas Taylor <i>The Ramayana</i>	Hon. Assoc. Prof. Rick Kuhn <i>The Communist Manifesto</i>	Professor Iain McCalman <i>On the Origin of Species</i>	Em. Prof. Elizabeth Minchin <i>The Iliad</i>	Assoc. Prof. Jenny Gribble <i>A Christmas Carol</i>

These events were among the most warmly received of our annual program. Tickets for each month's presentation sold out well in advance, and attracted families and members of the public as well as students and academics. On several occasions, due to popularity, eager attendees stood in the aisles for the duration of the program.

Pictured

Top: Dr McComas Taylor reciting the *Ramayana*, in its original Sanskrit, in the ANU Classics Museum.
Bottom: Emeritus Professor Elizabeth Minchin at the HRC conference room podium, discussing Homer.



Ad Hominem

September–November, 2016

An *ad hominem* argument interrogates not the argument itself, but the person advancing it. With this series, the HRC sought to take up that idea in a more positive way, producing a series of quirky, research-led conversations exploring the work/life mash-up of academia. Each evening event featured three of ANU's most interesting thinkers reflecting on the personal aspects of their research: why particular questions fascinate them, how they pursue them, and how pursuing them has shaped their lives. These reflective conversations occurred over a glass of wine in the Drawing Room at University House, as speakers candidly discussed their lives both within and beyond the academy. The series was founded and coordinated by Dr Greta Hawes.



Speakers

Associate Professor Sam BENNETT
Associate Professor Simone DENNIS
Dr Assa DORON
Dr Kate FLAHERTY
Dr Kim HUYNH
Dr Katie SUTTON
Dr Brad TUCKER
Dr Grant WALTON
Dr Robert WELLINGTON

Pictured Left: Dr Kim Huynh's 'truthful' business card, used for the promotion of the launch event. Right: Kim Huynh's 2016 general election poster, designed by ANU student Ciara O'Brien. Kim's *Ad Hominem* appearance coincided with his campaign as an independent candidate for the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly. His candid discussion of the intersections between his private, professional, philosophical and political lives exemplified the candour and self-reflection that the series sought to inspire.

HRC CONFERENCES

Shakespeare & the Public: A Symposium 17-18 February, 2016

Paul Yachnin has proposed that not only was Shakespeare's theatre consumed by the public, it constituted a new possibility of being public. Shakespeare's socially and politically complex dramas played before a heterogeneous and participatory audience in public space changed what it was to think, speak, or act publicly. This conference explored some legacies of that world-changing innovation, up to the present day, in a wide array of geographical contexts.

Keynote Speaker:

Professor Paul YACHNIN (McGill University, Canada)

Convener:

Professor Will CHRISTIE



A selection of peer-reviewed articles based on papers delivered at this conference and edited by Prof. Will Christie and Dr Kate Flaherty is freely accessible at www.cogentoa.com/collection/humanities-research-shakespeare-and-the-public.

Culture & Infrastructure: New Ethnographic Projects in Indonesia and Beyond

14-15 April, 2016



Infrastructures are essential to the everyday workings of contemporary societies in Asia and the Pacific and to their articulation with globalising forces. While most analyses overlook the profoundly cultural character of infrastructures and their role in the very feel of contemporary human life, new studies from Indonesia promise fresh, innovative, and perhaps model ways of bringing "culture" and "infrastructure" into a single frame of description and analysis. This conference and workshop placed interdisciplinary emphasis on linking the humanities and qualitative social sciences to policy, public works, technology, labor, diplomacy, education, corporate business, and development, in order to reveal the aesthetic, political, religious, and experiential dimensions of infrastructural systems. Taking their inspiration from ethnographic projects currently under way in Indonesia, keynote speakers explored ways to bring humanities-oriented anthropological approaches to bear on the ethnographic depiction and understanding of infrastructures with the aim of revealing their politico-aesthetic power, design, and purpose.

Pictured Ahmad Sadali, *Gunungan Emas* [The Golden Mountain], 1980. Oil, wood, canvas.

Keynote speakers:

Professor Joel C. KUIPERS (George Washington University, US)
Associate Professor Joshua BARKER (University of Toronto, Canada)
Associate Professor Marina WELKER (Cornell University, US)
Assistant Professor James B. HOESTEREY (Emory University, US)

Convenor:

Professor Ken GEORGE

Literary studies are being transformed by the emerging disciplinary field of world literature. Yet the world of literature is by no means self-evident. Issues of language and culture, national and global identity, originality and translation raise as many questions as they answer. What is the world in the new literary studies? And how does literary theory relate to this world? What are the appropriate structures for understanding literatures as a global phenomenon? Where do languages and cultures belong in relation to theoretical approaches that are largely defined by Anglo-American interests? Is the nation-state or the language culture the only, or even the appropriate structure within which to locate literary traditions and histories? In this one-day conference, literary scholars unpacked these questions, exploring the relationships between the nation, language and the world, world literature and transnational methodology, the individual literary voice and its global reception.

**Keynote Speakers:**

Professor John FLOWER (University of Kent, UK)
Professor David ROBERTS (Monash University)

Convener:

Dr Ashok COLLINS

Divided Authorities and Dispossessed Peoples: Aesthetic Dimensions of Political and Critical Theory in the 21st Century

20 - 22 July, 2016



Forms of authority inhabit aesthetic events and practices, and equally suffuse political and social discourse. The intersection of these modalities is attracting unprecedented attention amongst contemporary political and critical theorists. Judith Butler, Jacques Rancière, Bonnie Honig, William Connolly, James Tully, Giorgio Agamben—and behind them figures as diverse as Arendt, Freud, Derrida, Deleuze, Benjamin, Wittgenstein and Nietzsche—all integrate political interpretation with lessons drawn from literary histories and artistic practices. This conference aimed to explore how key dimensions of contemporary political life obtain authority, visibility and contestability in aesthetic forms—literature, poetry, drama, cinema, painting, sculpture. Can plural sovereignties and the modes of constitution of authority in law/lore become more visible through aesthetic attention? Do the divisions inherent in authority, especially where there are long histories of violence, conflict or oppression, particularly demand an aesthetic critique or (re)-mediation? Over three days, conference attendees addressed these questions with particular reference to the theme of sovereignty, and to concerns regarding ethics and aesthetic theory.

Pictured Professor Desmond Manderson, co-convener.

Keynote Speakers:

Professor Louise AMOORE (Durham University, UK)
Associate Professor Chiara BOTTICI (The New School, US)
Associate Professor Davide PANAGIA (U.C. Los Angeles, US)
Associate Professor Dimitris VARDOULAKIS (Western Sydney University)

Conveners:

Professor Desmond MANDERSON
Associate Professor Fiona JENKINS

History and Authority: Political Vocabularies of the Modern Age

28 - 29 July, 2016

The Victorian historian Edward Freeman famously remarked, 'History is past politics, and politics present history.' This aphorism still rings true, not least in an era that strikes many as an uncanny replay of the nineteenth century. Inequality is on the rise alongside rampant technological advancement. The language of crisis permeates the public domain. It may be that such similarities between past and present are more apparent than real. Nevertheless, our language for discussing political action and conflict is conditioned by an inherited set of terms and concepts that emerged during the early modern period. Such language is not simply descriptive, but thoroughly normative, as debates over the legitimacy of political acts take the form of arguments over the applicability of certain terms. What's the difference between a refugee and a migrant, or a revolution, insurgency, and civil war?

The aim of this conference was critically to interrogate the ways in which inherited vocabularies shape political life. As appeals to the authority of the past are increasingly deployed to legitimise or delegitimise political conflict, speakers interrogated the historicity of these sorts of political terminologies, for example the political determinations 'left' and 'right,' as well as the most basic lexicons of race, gender, and class. The conference featured papers from scholars across the humanities and social sciences, including historians, literary scholars, political theorists, and art historians, who keenly debated the historical character of political discourse and the political character of historical representation – past, present, and future.

Pictured Conveners, Dr Knox Peden (l) and Dr Glenn Roe (r).



Keynote Speakers:

Professor Peter HALLWARD (Kingston University, UK)
Associate Professor Alison ROSS (Monash University)

Conveners:

Dr Knox PEDEN
Dr Glenn ROE

Putin's Russia in the Wake of the Cold War

24 - 26 August, 2016

The primary aim of this conference was to promote timely, sophisticated and wide-ranging engagement with received wisdom about the nature and intentions of post-Soviet Russia under President Vladimir Putin. Featuring keynote addresses from the eminent scholar, Professor Richard Sakwa, and Director General of the International Affairs Council (Moscow), Dr Andrey Kortunov, the conference strove to promote a transnational conversation inclusive of Russian and Russia-based researchers. Other speakers included Dr Alexander Korolev, a Research Fellow from the National University of Singapore and Dr Kirill Nourzhanov, a senior lecturer at ANU's own Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies. Under discussion were Russia's military interventions in Ukraine and Syria, and its foreign policy of 'The Turn to the East' through engagement with China and the Asia-Pacific, as well as domestic issues including the doping scandals, computer hacking, human rights and the alleged instability in Putin's inner circle of government.



Keynote Speakers:

Professor Richard SAKWA (University of Kent, UK)
Dr Andrey KORTUNOV (International Affairs Council, Russia)

Convener:

Dr Dorothy HORSFIELD

HRC-SPONSORED EVENTS

Launch of the new *Australian Literary Studies*

18 February, 2016

Australian Literary Studies is a fully refereed journal of Australian and international literary scholarship and criticism. Our February event celebrated that, as of 2016, it is now based at the Australian National University, and for the first time in its 53-year history is being published online. ALS has long shaped the study of Australian literature. Founded in 1963 by Emeritus Professor Laurence Hergenhan, it is now edited by Dr Julieanne Lamond, a lecturer in English and Drama at the ANU.

Art & Human Rights Book Launch

9 March, 2016

Individuals from across the Canberra academic and artistic community gathered to launch *Art and Human Rights: Contemporary Asian Contexts*, written by Dr Caroline Turner and Dr Jen Webb, and published by Manchester University Press. The book focuses on contemporary Asian art through the lens of human rights discourse and practice, and explores the contexts for art including the impacts of decolonisation and globalisation, war, divided societies and the role of art in worldmaking. Caroline Turner is an Adjunct Senior Research Fellow in the HRC, and has been a dedicated, long-term contributor to the intellectual and social life of the Centre. Jen Webb is Director of the Centre for Creative and Cultural Research (CCCR) in the Faculty of Arts and Design at the University of Canberra. Introductory remarks were made by Professor Jacqueline Lo, Executive Director of the ANU Centre for European Studies. The book launch was presented in association with the ANU Centre for Art History and Art Theory and the CCCR at the University of Canberra.



Pictured Front cover of *Art & Human Rights: Contemporary Asian Contexts* [detail].

Inaugural Professorial Lecture — Professor Will Christie

22 June, 2016

On the 22 June, the College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS) welcomed Professor Will Christie to the CASS Professoriate with an inaugural lecture. The lecture, entitled 'The Periodical Enlightenment & Romantic Literature,' discussed the opening decades of the nineteenth century—both the Age of Romanticism and the great age of periodical literature. Examining the phenomenon of critical reviewing that emerged during this period, Prof. Christie discussed the mythologies that grew up around critical reviewing as an institution, and more broadly, the ramifications of its severity for the evolution of creative literature. A recording of the lecture may be accessed online through the Experience ANU SoundCloud.

Reception for Professor Ian Donaldson

July 13, 2016

On the 13th of July, Prof. Ian Donaldson, former head of the HRC, was awarded an ANU honorary doctorate (Doctor of the University, *honoris causa*) for his distinguished career in the humanities and the arts, especially as a scholar in English literature. A reception was held at the HRC to celebrate Ian's key role in the establishment of the Centre, and his significant achievements since. Taking pride of place were photo albums showing the activities of the Centre in the 1970s and 1980s; the event brought together many of the same people, together at the HRC once again. Prior to the conferring of his award, both Vice-Chancellor Brian Schmidt and Em. Prof. Donaldson delivered speeches for the occasion. Audio recordings are available via the HRC SoundCloud.



Pictured Prof. Ian Donaldson addressing the crowd, alongside the Dean of CASS, Prof. Paul Pickering.

Overleaf Em. Prof. Elizabeth Minchin toasting the announcement of the honorary doctorate.



The Ninth Australian Conference of Celtic Studies 27-30 September, 2016

Held at the University of Sydney, the theme of this year's conference was 'Memory and Foresight in the Celtic World.' Though conference paper broadly addressed the academic study of the Celtic languages, past and present, and the culture and history of the Celts, the attendees notably examined the thought and writings of Gildas—the notable early-British scholar—and early Scottish history. Keynote lectures were given by both Professor Will Christie, Head of the HRC, and Professor Cynthia Neville, a 2016 Visiting Fellow. The event was jointly sponsored with the Foundation for Celtic Studies of the University of Sydney.

From St Petersburg to Port Jackson Book Launch

21 October, 2016

On October 21st, Visiting Professor Sheila Fitzpatrick launched Dr Kevin Windle, Dr Elena Govor, and Alexander Massov's *From St Petersburg to Port Jackson: Russian Travellers' Tales of Australia 1807-1912*, published by Australian Scholarly Publishing. A comprehensive collection of official reports, travel notes and memoirs by ships' officers and other Russian travellers, Elena Govor and Alexander Massov started to compile the book in Russian more than 30 years ago. Now published in English, in a translation by the ANU's Kevin Windle, *From St Petersburg to Port Jackson* offers a unique perspective on the Australian colonies and their development through the nineteenth century.

Pictured Dr Kevin Windle and Dr Elena Govor at the HRC for the launch.



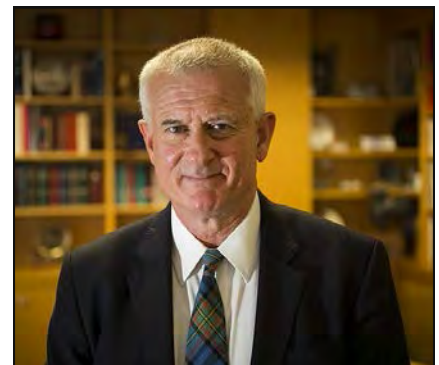
A Symposium on Public Knowledge

2 November, 2016

Generating & Assessing Research with Impact across the Humanities, Social Sciences & the Creative Arts

Understanding research impact is now a priority for scholars in Australian universities, since the Australian Research Council is now committed to assessing the effects of university research in the public arena. What will the assessment of research impact look like? And how might researchers approach research projects with integrity, to ensure that their research is both intellectually rigorous and legible to an audience beyond their academic disciplines? The Impact Symposium brought three distinguished, UK-based researchers to the ANU, to share their experience in assessing and writing impact case studies, to discuss how research with impact has been generated and measured in England, and to advise on how Australian researchers can best position themselves to communicate their research to the public. The speakers were Professor Ann Heilmann, Professor Maria Delgado, and Professor Malcolm Gillies AM. The symposium was convened by Dr Lucy Neave.

Pictured Professor Malcolm Gillies, distinguished speaker and Adjunct of the HRC.





Held in the Sydney CBD, this one-day forum brought together business executives, academics, educators, and graduates in a conversation designed to advance the public's understanding of the role of the humanities at this critical time for Australia's future wellbeing, and to help overcome barriers between the humanities and the world of business. Speakers explored and proposed what needs to be done to ensure that the relationship between business and humanities is one of mutual engagement and understanding, ensuring that the humanities can equip our current and future leaders with the vital intellectual and rhetorical skills and breadth of vision required to address the kinds of complex, open-ended problems that challenge the world of business and cultural exchange in the twenty-first century.

Speakers included Jennifer Westacott (Chief Executive, Business Council of Australia), David Thodey (Chair, CSIRO), Genevieve Bell (Vice President and Fellow, Intel), and Tony Golsby-Smith (CEO and founder of strategic consultancy, 2nd Road), alongside a panel of recent graduates. It was co-hosted with the University of Sydney's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and sponsored by Accenture.

Pictured

Left: Professor Will Christie with the keynote speakers, Tony Golsby-Smith, Genevieve Bell, Jennifer Westacott, and David Thodey. Right: Recent graduate panel, comprised of Dreu Harrison, Sarah Golsby-Smith, Sarah Steele, and Samantha Bartlett. Below: Genevieve Bell delivering her enlivening keynote speech, drawing on her background as a cultural anthropologist.

The West Verandah: The Life and Work of Les Murray Book Launch 8 December, 2016

On December 8th, the HRC and the ANU Centre for European Studies jointly launched *The West Verandah: The Life and Work of Les Murray*, a critical study of the renowned Australian poet edited by Sonia Mycak and published by Boraga Academic. The event, held at University House, featured a poetry reading by Les Murray himself. Murray is one of the greatest contemporary poets writing in English.

Pictured Norman McBeath, 'Les Murray,' 2003. Bromide fibre print. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra.



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Ann CURTHOYS <i>University of Sydney</i>	Jonathan LAMB <i>Vanderbilt University</i>	Derek SCHREUDER <i>University of Sydney</i>	
	Alan LIU <i>U.C. Santa Barbara</i>	Steven SHAPIN <i>Harvard University</i>	

2017 PROGRAM



Annual Theme – ‘The Question of the Stranger’

Our theme is drawn from a recent study by 2017 Visiting Fellow Professor David Simpson, whose research asks us to consider how individuals and cultures have understood, represented and dealt with the figure of the stranger in their legal, cultural and artistic traditions, and how the dialectic of the familiar and the foreign functions as an organising condition in the post-9/11 world. The question of the stranger not only reaches back to the earliest human cultures but possesses continuing urgency in our own ‘global’ age. Over the last 350 years, we have witnessed an Enlightenment project of cosmopolitan universalism that sought to overcome the conditioned estrangement of religion, race, gender, and country of origin by way of reason, science, or sympathy recurrently collapse into persistent conflict, cultural misunderstanding, ethnic stereotyping, and aggressive forms of racism and nationalism. Our 2017 theme acknowledges that in the twenty-first century, as connections are increasingly forged between peoples once geographically distant and culturally isolated, the question of the stranger becomes only more pertinent. It is central to the production of human thought and feeling, and to their critical and creative expression.

Visiting Fellows (by date of arrival)

Dr Rachel HURST
Gender Studies and Anthropology
St. Francis Xavier University, Canada

Dr Steven Mark HOWE
Law
Lucernaiuris Institute, Switzerland

Professor Greg HORSLEY
Classics and Ancient History
University of New England

Dr Christopher HOLDRIDGE
International Studies
University of the Free State, South Africa

Associate Professor Elena ISAYEV
Classics and Ancient History
University of Exeter, UK

Associate Professor Paola ZAMPERINI
Chinese Literature & Gender Studies
Northwestern University, US

Professor Karen REDROBE
Art History and Media Studies
University of Pennsylvania, US

Professor Dean KOTLOWSKI
History
Salisbury University, US

Dr Nadia ATIA
English
Queen Mary University of London, UK

Associate Professor Liang LUO 羅靚
Chinese Studies
University of Kentucky, US

Dr Mélanie LAMOTTE
History
Cambridge University, UK

Professor Rajeswari SUNDER RAJAN
English
New York University, US

Dr Vanessa AGNEW
Anglophone Studies
University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany

Associate Professor Paul MAGEE
English and Creative Arts
University of Canberra

Dr Simon MACDONALD
History
European University Institute, Italy

Professor Amy SMITH
Classics and Archaeology
University of Reading, UK

Professor Margaret FERGUSON
English
U.C. Davis, US

Professor David SIMPSON
English
U.C. Davis, US

Conferences

Oceanic Knowledges

January
Professor Matthew SPRIGGS
Dr Peter BROWN

Enchanted Isles, Fatal Shores: Living Versailles

March
Professor Mark LEDBURY
Dr Lucina WARD
Dr Robert WELLINGTON

The Stranger Within

April
Dr Kim HUYNH (Keynote)

China & Global Modernity

May
Professor Will CHRISTIE

Politics, Emotions, and the Periodical Press

Early September
Professor Will CHRISTIE
Associate Professor Jock MacLEOD
Dr Peter DENNEY

Asian Diasporas, TransPacific Contexts, and Global Art

Late September
Professor Jacqueline LO
Dr Caroline TURNER

The Question of the Stranger

October
Conveners to be advised



The **cover image** is a composite of Auguste Rodin's sculpture *Le Penseur* and Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin's design drawings for the construction of Canberra.

It was designed for the HRC by **Prof. Will Christie** and digitally rendered by **Lansheng Zhang**.

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