

HUMANITIES

RESEARCH CENTRE



ANNUAL REPORT

2018

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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.

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YEAR IN REVIEW

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

As the 19th century developed, the Enlightenment ideal of universal and accessible knowledge began to exhibit constraints now all too familiar in the modern academy, initiating the disciplinary divisions between the humanities and the sciences so influential and, arguably, obstructive in succeeding ages. The growing professionalism and specialisation required by the modern academy has militated against the easy communication of knowledge – to the public, in the first instance, but also between scientists and humanists. The conversation between the ‘two cultures’ of science and the humanities has been a key ambition of the Humanities Research Centre for some years and this year we have witnessed many and various excursions into recent developments in science and technology which have fully justified our choice of theme for 2018: ‘Imagining Science and Technology 200 Years after *Frankenstein*’.

In seminars delivered for the most part by our visiting fellows, we have been introduced to the personal and social ramifications of a rapidly expanding medical science industry, of prosthetics, stem cell research and sleep research, space travel, genetic and cybernetic engineering, drone technology, seed banks, artificial intelligence, and robotics, and we have asked how these innovations have redefined what it means to be, and to act, human. One major conference focused on science and the circus, another on the mother of all imaginative investigations into the price we pay for our scientific ambitions, Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*. My thanks go to the respective organisers, Anna-Sophie Jurgens and Russell Smith, for their industry and ingenuity. And I take great pride in our having hosted the first ‘hard’ scientist amongst the HRC’s Visiting Fellows, Professor Ian Crawford, Professor of Planetary Science and Astrobiology at Birkbeck College, University of London, who convened an excellent symposium on ‘big history and the cosmic perspective’, marrying history and astrobiology to try and develop a worldview that keeps faith with what we know and desire of the universe beyond the Earth we occupy. Readers of this report will find details of all these activities in subsequent pages.

2018 has also been the first year of our hosting the Australasian Consortium of Humanities Research Centres (ACHRC), after its many successful years at Flinders University. I am pleased to be the ACHRC’s new Director, working with assistance from colleagues, Professor Kylie Message, Senior Fellow at the HRC and recently awarded a personal chair, and Ms Penny Brew, the HRC’s Administrator. The Advisory Board of the ACHRC met for a day and a half of planning meetings here at the ANU on 6-7 April, punctuated by a visit to the Australian Research Council at Majura Park. Other ACHRC annual events for 2018 included the Consortium’s Humanities in the Regions and Collaborating with Collecting and Cultural Institutions working groups, who joined with the Centre for Colonialism and Its Aftermath (CAIA) at the University of Tasmania for a conference at Launceston 10-11 May 2018, and just last week (19-20 November) its Annual Meeting, this year an excellent two days exhibiting and investigating ‘Creative Humanities Matters’ at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

I write my report this year conscious that the HRC, along with all Australia’s other research and teaching centres in the humanities, has work to do publicising to the nation the importance of what we do. Only two weeks ago, it was revealed in the Senate estimates of the Australian Parliament that eleven of last year’s successful Australian Research Council grants in the humanities were culled by the then Minister for Education and Training, the Hon. Simon Birmingham, in a shocking reminder that the humanities struggles to gain the recognition and respect, not just of conservative politicians, but also of society at large. Being part of an international conversation is of vital benefit to the humanities, as it is to all scholarship – it was central to the rationale for setting up the HRC and its comprehensive program of international visitors back in the early 1970s – and the narrowing of national interest to domestic and contemporary issues and concerns risks international irrelevance.

The HRC has advocacy for the humanities written into its informal constitution and it is the right time for us to be investing our energies into bringing the public (or publics) on board and demonstrating our worth. The relationship between university humanities and corporate Australia, for example, and the mutual misunderstandings between the two are of immediate concern. I am determined to build a Linkage project between the HRC and a major corporate sponsor, possibly including the Business Council of Australia, and to introduce high-level humanities postgraduate degrees for business and public service leadership.

Still on the matter of humanities in the public sphere, I want to mention an initiative in which the HRC is crucially involved. There is currently going forward an application for an ARC Centre of Excellence for Enlightenment and Public Humanities (led by Melbourne and including Sydney, UQ, and ANU). As the title indicates, the Centre involves a comprehensive platform for taking the ideas and values associated with education and communication into schools and the community and making society part of a conversation that for too long academics have been having exclusively amongst themselves.

Finally, I want to end by thanking the Research School of Humanities and the Arts for its award of a special HRC PhD scholarship (Jennifer Coombes will be joining us in the new year) and by welcoming Dr Ibrahim Abraham, our new Hans Mol Research Fellow in Religion and the Social Sciences. My thanks go to the Mol family for its generosity in enabling us to create the position. We look forward to working with Ibrahim and to Ibrahim’s working with us over the next three years, while he pursues the distinguished scholarly agenda he brought with him from the University of Helsinki.

PROFESSOR WILL CHRISITE
HEAD

HEAD'S ACTIVITIES

- Talk on Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, with novelist Kaaron Warren, ACT Libraries (Gungahlin Library), 24 January 2018.
- ANU International Student Induction, with Dr Yujie Zhu, China in the World Auditorium, 23 February 2018.
- Lecture on *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus*, Books that Changed Humanity series, Humanities Research Centre, ANU, 3 March 2018.
- Lectures to HSC students on (1) Romanticism and (2) Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* and Machiavelli's *The Prince*, at Turramurra High School, Sydney, 10am-1pm, 13 April 2018.
- Lecture to secondary school English teachers on Coleridge Reimagined, Barker College, Sydney, 8 May 2018.
- Lecture, 'Literature, History, Value: The Case of British Romanticism', Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH) seminar series, University of Queensland, 7 June 2018.
- Talk on external grant funding to PhD students at the 2018 Literary Convention, ANU, 3 July 2018.
- Book launch of Jocelyn Harris, *Satire and Politics in Jane Austen*, at the annual conference of the Jane Austen Society of Australia, Pavilion Hotel, Canberra, 6 July 2018.
- Lecture on Shakespeare's *King Lear* for the secondary school English teachers at SCEGS (Shore), 5-7.45pm, 26 July 2018.
- Lecture to HSC students on Romanticism. PLC Croydon, 7.30-8.30am, 27 July 2018.
- Talk on Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*, with ABC journalist, Louise Maher, ACT Libraries (Woden Library), 30 July 2018.
- HSC Study Day with lectures on (1) *Hamlet*; (2) Wilfred Owen; (3) W.H. Auden; (4) Wordsworth and Coleridge, Coonabarabran High School, 3 September 2018.
- Lecture to Canberra teachers and school students on Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, NFSA Theatre, 12 September 2018.
- Lecture on 'The Liberal Arts and Teaching' for the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH), Customs House, Brisbane, 17 September 2018.
- Lecture to HSC students on Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* and Machiavelli's *The Prince*, Barker College, Sydney, 19 September 2018.
- Panel discussion with novelist Peter Goldsworthy, at Science and Scientists in Australian Fiction, National Museum of Australia, 12 October 2018.
- Lecture to secondary school English teachers on Coleridge 'Eolian Harp' and 'Christabel', Barker College, Sydney, 15 October 2018.
- Book launch of Jan Jones, *Poems 1974-2018*, at the Bowral Art Gallery, 26 October 2018.
- Interview with Prof Wayne Sawyer on Literary Knowledge and the secondary school English teacher, ARC Linkage, 8 November 2018.
- Talk, 'Historicizing Writing Habits', Writing as Discovery Symposium, Humanities Research Centre, ANU, 9 November 2018.
- Introduction and chair, 'Clash of Civilisations' panel, Australian Academy of the Humanities Annual Symposium, State Library of NSW, 15 November 2018.
- ECR/HDR Research Development Workshop, Australasian Consortium of Humanities Research Centres Annual Meeting, University of the Sunshine Coast, 20 November 2018.
- Panel on the future of the Creative Humanities, Australasian Consortium of Humanities Research Centres Annual Meeting, University of the Sunshine Coast, 20 November 2018.
- Trial Research Assessment Exercise, School of Language and Literature, Hong Kong Baptist University, 2-5 December 2018.

HRC ACADEMIC STAFF

PROFESSOR WILL CHRISTIE
HEAD

Will Christie is Director of the Humanities Research Centre. He is founding President of the Romantic Studies Association of Australasia and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. His scholarly work in Romantic studies has been widely published and his *Samuel Taylor Coleridge: A Literary Life* (2006) awarded the NSW Premier's Biennial Prize for Literary Scholarship in 2008. Editor of *The Letters of Francis*

Jeffrey to Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle (2008), his other publications include *The Edinburgh Review in the Literary Culture of Romantic Britain: Mammoth and Megalonyx* (2009), *Dylan Thomas: A Literary Life* (2014) and *The Two Romanticisms, and Other Essays* (2016).

With the aid of Discovery grants from the Australian Research Council, he is currently researching a critical biography of the Scottish critic, politician, and judge, Francis Jeffrey, editor of the early nineteenth-century *Edinburgh Review*, and a major study of public lecturing in the Romantic period.

DR IBRAHIM ABRAHAM
HANS MOL FELLOW IN RELIGION AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Ibrahim Abraham is the Hans Mol Research Fellow in Religion and the Social Sciences at the HRC. He was previously a postdoctoral research fellow in social and cultural anthropology at the University of Helsinki, a research assistant in La Trobe University's Centre for Dialogue, and a part-time lecturer at the University of the West of England and Deakin University.

His research has abidingly focused on the role of religion in nominally secular social spheres, including popular music and sport, the focus of his book *Evangelical Youth Culture: Alternative Music and Extreme Sports Subcultures*, published by Bloomsbury Academic in 2017. He is currently editing a book on the surprisingly successful subculture of Christian punk rock; working on his second monograph, concerning Christianity and the dynamics of race and class in contemporary South Africa; and thinking about the relationship between religion and leisure in contemporary society.

PROFESSOR KYLIE MESSAGE
SENIOR FELLOW

Kylie Message is Senior Fellow in the Humanities Research Centre. She has held the positions of Interim Director of the Research School of Humanities and the Arts, Head of the ANU School of Archaeology and Anthropology, CASS Associate Dean (Research Training), and Museums and Collections Program Convenor. From 2014-16, she was an elected member of the Australian Research Council College of Experts Humanities and Creative Arts Panel.

Kylie's research explores the role that museums play as sites of cultural and political exchange, and current projects investigate the relationship between museums, citizenship and political reform movements. Her next book, *Curatorial Activism: Archiving Occupy* is forthcoming with Routledge in early 2019. In 2017 Kylie established the *Museums in Focus* book series for Routledge, which seeks to challenge authors and readers to radically rethink the relationships between cultural and intellectual dissent and crisis and debates about museums, politics and the broader public sphere.

DR MELISSA LOVELL
FREILICH FOUNDATION CONVENOR

Melissa Lovell is the Convenor of the Freilich Foundation at the Australian National University, and a political scientist with expertise in the fields of Indigenous Affairs governance, social policy, and political ideology. Her research draws on interpretive and qualitative traditions of research to develop better understandings of the ways in which political problems are framed, and the effect of political framing on policymakers' perceptions of what constitutes appropriate evidence or effective policy options.

Melissa has over 15 years of research experience in community, political advocacy and higher education contexts. She completed her PhD in political science in the School of Politics at ANU in 2012, and has taught courses in political ideas, social policy, political theory and introductory political science at the Australian National University and the University of Canberra.

2018 STAFF RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS

GRANTS

WILL CHRISTIE

ARC Discovery Project 'The Emotional Registers of Liberal Culture in the Long Nineteenth Century'.

KYLIE MESSAGE

CASS Small Grant

MELISSA LOVELL

CASS Research Development Grant

FELLOWSHIPS

KYLIE MESSAGE

2018 ANU/Indiana University Exchange Visiting Fellowship (July—September)

KEY PUBLICATIONS

KYLIE MESSAGE

The Disobedient Museum: Writing at the Edge, (Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, Oxford and New York).

Museums and Racism, (Routledge, Oxon).

PROMOTIONS

KYLIE MESSAGE

Professor (Level E)



2018 ANNUAL THEME

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY 200 YEARS AFTER *FRANKENSTEIN*



In 2018, the Humanities Research Centre looked at the humanities' engagement (and failure to engage) with the accelerating fields of science and technology. The questions we asked concern our understanding and imagining of the implications of our own rapid scientific and technological development. Do we understand the motivation for a billion-dollar medical science industry, for example, one that promises more and more radical forms of genetic engineering? How have artificial intelligence and robotics redefined what it means to be, and to act, human? To what extent is the development of science and technology culturally and ideologically inflected?

Does science and technology — should science and technology — contribute to social equity and justice? Where are we in the debate about the mutually abrasive existence of 'two cultures'? What control do we currently exercise, individually and collectively, over scientific development? How have literature and film, the visual and musical arts, absorbed and informed the advancement of science and technology? What price do we pay — economically, psychologically, culturally — for our accelerated scientific literacy and technological sophistication?

2018 VISITING FELLOWS

EMERITUS PROFESSOR MARGRIT SHILDRICK

Stockholm University, Sweden

5 February—28 April

The Meaning and Significance of Prostheses: Biotechnologies and the Posthuman Future of Embodiment

DR RACHEL YUEN-COLLINGRIDGE

Macquarie University

5 February—12 March

Negotiating Authenticity: Fakes in the Public and Private Worlds of Disciplinary Expertise

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MALCOLM CHOAT

Macquarie University

5 February—12 March

Henry Deane and Constantine Simonides: Scientific Innovation and Disciplinary Expertise in a World of Forgery

DR TEREZA HENDL

University of Sydney

12 February—30 March

The Case of a Nasal Growth from the Spine: What Can Autologous Adult Stem Cell Interventions Tell Us About the Self?

DR MONIKA BAKKE

Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

15 February—15 May

It's Alive! Art and Living-nonliving Entanglements 200 Years after Frankenstein

DR FABIEN MEDVECKY

University of Otago, New Zealand

4 June—15 July

Moral Frankenstein: A Science Communication Monster

PROFESSOR IAN CRAWFORD

Birkbeck College London, UK

12 July—21 September

Expanding Worldviews: Space Exploration, Astrobiology, and the Socio-Political Implications of the Cosmic Perspective

DR HELEN CURRY

University of Cambridge, UK

23 July—21 September

Seeds for Survival: A Global History of Seed Banking



Visiting Fellows (from left to right) Dr Rachel Yuen-Collingridge, Associate Professor Malcolm Choat, Dr Tereza Hendl, Emeritus Professor Margrit Shildrick, and Dr Monika Bakke.



Visiting Fellows (from left to right) Dr Christian Bök, Professor Martin Willis, Dr Julieanne Lamond, and Professor Peter Schulz.

PROFESSOR SHARON RUSTON

Lancaster University, UK
4 August—15 September

Romantic Transformation: Literature and Chemistry

DR CHRISTIAN BÖK

Charles Darwin University
22 October—18 December

The Xenotext

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JEROME DE GROOT

University of Manchester
4 August—15 September

Double-Helix History

PROFESSOR PETER SCHULZ

University of Lugano, Switzerland
1 November—31 December

Frankenstein and the Communication Challenges of Regenerative Medicine

DR LINE HENRIKSEN

University of Copenhagen, Denmark
1 September—30 October

Signals from the End of the World: An Ethics of the Void, the Weird and the Web

PROFESSOR MARTIN WILLIS

Cardiff University, UK
1 November—31 December

New Visions of the Scientist

PROFESSOR RANDALL STEVENSON

University of Edinburgh, UK
15 October—14 December

Reification and Robotics, Relativity and Redemption: Fiction and the Imagination of Science 1919-1939

DR BEN MERCER

School of History, ANU
Semester 1, 2018

RSSH/HRC Monograph Fellow

DR JULIEANNE LAMOND

School of Languages, Literature and Linguistics, ANU
Semester 2, 2018

RSHA Internal Fellow

HRC SEMINAR SERIES

27 FEBRUARY Associate Professor Malcolm Choat	<i>The Forger and the Chemist: Constantine Simonides, Henry Deane, and the (de) authentication of Forged Manuscripts</i>
13 MARCH Dr Tereza Hendl	<i>The Case of a Nasal Growth from the Spine: What Can Autologous Adult Stem Cell Interventions Tell Us About the Self?</i>
27 MARCH Emeritus Professor Margrit Shildrick	<i>Destabilising Human Embodiment: Prostheses, Biotechnologies and Assemblages</i>
17 APRIL Dr Monika Bakke	<i>It's Alive! Art and Living-nonliving Entanglements 200 Years after Frankenstein</i>
15 MAY Dr Ben Mercer	<i>The Devouring Monster: The University and the Science of Society in the 1960s</i>
5 JUNE Dr Fabien Medvecky	<i>Should we Talk About the Monster? Reconsidering the Ethics of Science Communication</i>
8 JUNE Professor Michael Robinson	<i>The Geography of Frankenstein</i>
19 JUNE Professor Kevin Pask	<i>Always Politicise?</i>
21 JUNE Professor Marcie Frank	<i>Austen's Theatricality and the Limits of Realism</i>
17 JULY Associate Professor Nandini Pandey	<i>Res Est Publica Caesar: The Emperor as Public Property in Roman Poetry and Currency</i>
7 AUGUST Professor Ian Crawford	<i>Widening Perspectives: Space Exploration, Astrobiology, and the Socio-Political Benefits of the Cosmic Perspective</i>
14 AUGUST Dr Naoko Yamagata	<i>Suicide in Homer and the Tale of the Heike: Greek and Japanese Perspectives</i>
21 AUGUST Professor Sharon Ruston	<i>Humphry Davy: Poetry and Priority</i>
28 AUGUST Associate Professor Jerome de Groot	<i>Double-Helix History</i>
4 SEPTEMBER Dr Helen Curry	<i>Seed Banks or Seed Morgues? Salvaging Crop Diversity from the Seed Bank</i>
25 SEPTEMBER Dr Julieanne Lamond	<i>Feminism, Literary Reception, and the Case of Amanda Lohrey</i>

2 OCTOBER

Dr Anna-Sophie Jurgens

If Victor Frankenstein Were a Novelist: Arno Schmidt's Literary Monster: Bottom's Dream (Zettel's Traum)

9 OCTOBER

Dr Line Henriksen

"Fear the Night Sky!" Encounters with the Void, the Weird and the Web

16 OCTOBER

Professor Randall Stevenson

Reification, Relativity, Redemption: Modernist Fiction and the Imagination of Science in the 1920s

30 OCTOBER

Dr Christian Bök

The Xenotext

6 NOVEMBER

Professor Martin Willis

The Good Places of Sleep: Nineteenth-century Sleep Studies in Literature and the Sciences

13 NOVEMBER

Professor Peter Schulz

Frankenstein and the Communication Challenges of Regenerative Medicine



HRC PROGRAMS

CONVERSATIONS ACROSS THE CREEK

Conversations across the Creek is a joint initiative of the HRC and the Research School of Chemistry to provide a space for continuing dialogue among ANU scientists, social scientists and humanities scholars. Meetings are held monthly, with the aim of stimulating and unearthing research collaborations and highlighting interdisciplinary projects across the university by bringing together diverse scholars from both sides of Sullivan's Creek, where they communicate their latest research to an audience of peers, students, and members of the public.

23 MARCH

HABITECTURE AND DIGITAL NATURE: DESIGN FOR BIODIVERSITY

Associate Professor Mitchell Whitelaw School of Art and Design

Associate Professor Philip Gibbons Fenner School of Environment and Science

20 APRIL

APRIL SESSION

Associate Professor Katie Steele School of Philosophy

Associate Professor Russell Barrow Research School of Chemistry

Dr Larissa Schneider Archaeology and Natural History

18 MAY

EDUCATING THE MASSES: STRATEGIES FOR SCIENCE COMMUNICATION AND MEDICAL DE-MYSTIFICATION

Dr Anne Parkinson Research School of Population Health

Dr John Debs Research School of Physics and Engineering

Dr Merryn McKinnon Australian National Centre on the Public Awareness of Science

17 AUGUST

LACTATION AFTER INFANT LOSS IN CONTEMPORARY MOTHERHOOD AND HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY

Professor Catherine Waldby Research School of Social Sciences

Professor Zsuzsoka Kecskes ANU Medical School

Dr Katherine Carroll School of Sociology, College of Arts and Social Sciences

28 SEPTEMBER

RETHINKING ROMAN CAMEO GLASS: A UNIQUE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION

Emeritus Professor Elizabeth Minchin School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics

Dr Andrew Kingston Research School of Physics and Engineering

Richard Whiteley School of Art and Design



(L) Professor Zsuzsoka Kecskes, Dr Katherine Carroll, and Professor Catherine Waldby; (R) Emeritus Professor Elizabeth Minchin.

BOOKS THAT CHANGED HUMANITY

Books that Changed Humanity is the HRC's most prominent public outreach event. Each month, an expert is invited from one of a variety of disciplines to introduce and lead the discussion of a major historical text. Each of these texts, which are drawn from a variety of cultural traditions, has had a formative influence on society and humanity. The series aims to highlight and re-visit those books which have informed the way we understand ourselves, both individually and collectively, as human beings.

The series aims to bring together readers from all backgrounds and vocations. Individuals from beyond and within the university community are warmly invited to come, listen, and share their thoughts about some great works of literature.

2 MARCH

FRANKENSTEIN; OR, THE MODERN PROMETHEUS

MARY SHELLEY

Professor Will Christie

6 APRIL

IS SHAKESPEARE A BOOK?

Dr Kate Flaherty

4 MAY

EMINENT VICTORIANS

LYTTON STRACHEY

Dr Alastair MacLachlan

3 AUGUST

THEOLOGICAL POLITICAL TREATISE

BARUCH SPINOZA

Associate Professor Dimitris Vardoulakis

7 SEPTEMBER

THE EPIC OF GILGAMESH

Dr Terhi Nurmikko-Fuller

2 NOVEMBER

GENDER TROUBLE: FEMINISM AND THE SUBVERSION OF IDENTITY

JUDITH BUTLER

Associate Professor Fiona Jenkins



Dr Terhi Nurmikko-Fuller (L) presents The Epic of Gilgamesh; Professor Will Christie (R) discusses Frankenstein in the first session of 2018.

CASS RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Supported by the CASS Associate Dean for Research, Ann Evans, HRC Head Will Christie ran a program of research workshops designed to give nine 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 LESLIE BARNES
DR ANJA DEPPE
DR KATE FLAHERTY
DR KELLY HINE
DR PATRICK KILBY

DR WESLEY LIM
DR MELISSA LOVELL
DR KIRILL NOURZHANOV
DR ANNICK THOMASSIN

HRC CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

IMAGINEERS IN CIRCUS AND SCIENCE: SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND CREATIVE IMAGINATION

3—5 APRIL

CONVENOR: DR ANNA-SOPHIE JÜRGENS

48 Australian and international science, humanities and arts scholars met at the HRC from 3 to 5 April to discuss stupendous (inter) connections between the Arts of the Ring in different media and the discourse of science – intricate synergies, hidden relationships and captivating narratives in circus and science.



Assistant of Professor Durant during his presentation 'Showing science from the sublime to the ridiculous' conducting a demonstration.

This conference explored what circus and science teach us, not only about the relationships between scientific knowledge and creative imagination, but also about ingenious scientific discoveries, the mechanics of high-risk entrepreneurial adventures and innovation. It focused on bold and unconventional intellectual and performative endeavours, and the use of art to facilitate the transfer of knowledge.

Speakers at 'Imagineers' explored the cultural relevance of circus and science – the cultural work they do and the aesthetic achievements they make possible – and uncovered that circus and science (and its pursuits) are the product and producer of curiosity and good stories. They investigated what these stories tell us about the 'two cultures' of the humanities and science, and about the dramatisation of curiosity.

A Science Show in Questacon, a circus movie night in the Arc Cinema at the National Film and Sound Archive, a Magic Lantern show and a glassblowing performance (both from the ANU School of Art), a performance by the Warehouse Circus (Canberra's youth circus) and an open night at their circus space were all part of the conference.

EXPANDING WORLDVIEWS: ASTROBIOLOGY, BIG HISTORY

19 JULY

CONVENOR: PROFESSOR IAN CRAWFORD

A one-day meeting on the theme of 'Expanding Worldviews: Astrobiology, Big History, and the Social and Intellectual Benefits of the Cosmic Perspective' was held on 19 July 2018 under the auspices of the Humanities Research Centre at the Australian National University. Astrobiology and 'big history' are two relatively new intellectual disciplines, the former focussed on searching for life elsewhere in the universe and the latter on integrating human history into the wider history of the cosmos, and the aim of the meeting was to explore the synergies between them. Subjects covered included big history, astronomy, astrobiology, evolutionary biology, philosophy, and global geopolitics. Overall, the meeting successfully demonstrated the interconnections between the eclectic set of topics discussed and, albeit in a small way, was helpful in forging links between disparate disciplines as advocated by C.P. Snow in his famous Rede Lecture on "The Two Cultures" in 1948. Perhaps the major 'take home' message was that the 'hard' sciences (e.g. astronomy and cosmology), working with the humanities, have the potential to yield significant societal benefits by informing cosmopolitan worldviews among the global public.

A full summary of the meeting has been published in the Royal Astronomical Society's journal *Astronomy & Geophysics*, Vol. 59., pp. 5.33-5.36 (2018), The meeting was also described in a short article in *The Conversation*.

FRANKENSTEIN 2018: 200 YEARS OF MONSTERS

12–15 SEPTEMBER

CONVENOR: DR RUSSELL SMITH

In September the HRC hosted the conference *Frankenstein 2018: Two Hundred Years of Monsters* to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the publication of Mary Shelley's novel. It was held at the National Film and Sound Archive and drew more than 60 participants from Australia, the US, the UK and Tahiti. The program featured four outstanding keynote lectures from Prof Sharon Ruston (Lancaster), Assoc Prof Shane Denson (Stanford), Prof Julie Carlson (UC Santa Barbara) and Prof Genevieve Bell of ANU. More than 40 presenters covered a wide range of topics, from popular film and television versions of the Frankenstein myth, through genetics and biotechnology, to artificial intelligence and the history of automation.

Other highlights on the program were a demonstration by Martyn Jolly and Elisa de Courcy of a nineteenth-century Magic Lantern show, a special double-bill at the NFSA's ARC cinema of *Gothic* and *Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein*, and a 'hands-on' creative workshop facilitated by Elisa Crossing of the ANU School of Art, where participants used sugar paste to model the bones of the hand. The dozen or so people who did this workshop agreed that, not only was it a unique conference experience, but it gave them an uncanny insight into the experience of Victor Frankenstein as he created his monster.



Convenor Dr Russell Smith welcomes conference participants (L); Assistant Pamela Hutchinson at the registration desk (R)

INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO BIG ISSUES IN CENTRAL ASIA

17–18 DECEMBER

CONVENORS: AZIMA AKHMATOVA, BERIKBOL DUKEYEV

In 2018 the HRC introduced a competitive funding round for postgraduate students from the College of Arts and Social Sciences to develop and convene a conference, workshop or symposium. The successful students this year were from the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies. Their workshop, *Interdisciplinary Approaches to Big Issues in Central Asia*, sought to advance a more nuanced understanding of Central Asia by putting it into a long-term historical and geographic context and privileging perspectives from the ground.

The workshop brought together two world-famous keynote speakers (Professor David Christian, Macquarie University, and Professor Reuel Hanks, Oklahoma State University) and 12 Australian scholars, who discussed and debated a range of topics, from Central Asian relations with China, Russia and the West, to sustainable development and Islamic radicalism.

The competitive funding round will be held again in 2019, to allow postgraduate students in the College an opportunity to become familiar with the conference organisation process.

HRC-SPONSORED EVENTS

CASS INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CULTURAL ORIENTATION WORKSHOP 27 FEBRUARY

ORGANISERS: DR YUIE ZHU, PROFESSOR WILL CHRISTIE

The CASS International Student Cultural Orientation Workshop, held in the Australian Centre on China in the World, aimed to assist new international postgraduate and PhD students seeking guidance on how to best approach and embrace their new living environment. Professor Will Christie performed the Welcome to Country and explained the meaning behind the acknowledgment. Associate Professor Prof Susanna Scarpato (CASS Associate Dean Student Experience) explained the different services available to students at the College. Four academic staff and two PhD candidates offered tips and shared their experiences on working and living in Canberra. Over 30 students attended the event, and during the Q&A session they asked various questions including the way to address academic staff, tips to improve their written English, how to develop better presentation skills, and how to maintain good relations with their peers and supervisors. The workshop received very positive feedback, and a number of students requested that such events be offered regularly to students.

21ST GEORGE RUDE SEMINAR IN FRENCH HISTORY AND CIVILISATION 4–7 JULY

CONVENORS: DR GEMMA BETROS, DR ALEX COOK, DR BEN MERCER

The George Rudé Seminar in French History and Civilisation is the premier conference in French historical and cultural studies in the southern hemisphere. This biennial event recognises the contribution of George Rudé to the study of French history and culture in Australasia and internationally. The 2018 conference hosted 62 delegates, 19 from outside Australia. A volume of peer-reviewed papers will be published in the coming year as an issue of *French History and Civilization*.

The funding provided by the HRC facilitated the invitation of a number of international keynote speakers including Professor Alice Conklin (Ohio State University), Professor Robert Gildea (Oxford University), Professor Mary D. Lewis (Harvard University) and Professor Pierre Serna (Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne). The seminar was organised by the School of History, with the support of the College of Arts and Social Sciences, the Humanities Research Centre, the Power Institute and the French Research Cluster.

THE LITERARY INTERFACE: 2018 LITERARY STUDIES CONVENTION 3-7 JULY

CONVENOR: DR JULIEANNE LAMOND

The HRC was pleased to support the 2018 Literary Studies Convention, hosted by the School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics. The convention brought together four different literary studies associations, and delegates from around the country and the globe. We had 237 delegates, including over 100 postgraduate students, making this the largest gathering of literary studies postgraduates ever held in Australia. These students attended workshops facilitated by ANU academics, alumni and visiting scholars, gave wonderful papers and generated a lively twitter feed (#litinterface).

The convention brought some of Australia's best writers to Canberra for a series of public events: a public lecture by Charlotte Wood, poetry readings at Smith's Alternative, and two writers' panels, 'Writing Sex and Gender' and 'Writing and Political Change.' Together these events attracted more than 400 members of the public.

The convention proved itself to be an interface between senior and junior scholars, writers and academics, secondary and university English teachers, literary critics and general readers. The conversations it generated about literature and its role that we have no doubt will continue.



The closing session of the 2018 Literary Studies Convention.

CONCENTRATIONARY ART AND THE READING OF EVERYDAY LIFE 20 AUGUST

Together with the Cultures of Screen, Performance & Print Network (CuSSP), the HRC hosted a public seminar by Professor Max Silverman, University of Leeds, on the concepts of the 'concentrationary' and 'concentrationary art' elaborated in the wake of the camps of the Second World War.

AFTER THE RULE: A SYMPOSIUM ON ALTERNATIVE TRADITIONS OF LAW, NORMS AND RULES

21-22 SEPTEMBER

CONVENORS: SAM BLANCH, PROFESSOR DES MANDERSON

On 21-22 September 2018, the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies together with the Centre for Law, Arts and Humanities, co-organised a symposium on alternative traditions of law, norms and rules. The event was supported by the HRC and ANU's Gender Institute. The symposium had a specific theoretical purpose that was approached through a comparative and empirical lens.

The symposium was a rare chance for extended and purposive intellectual collaboration between CAIS, the Centre for Law, Arts and the Humanities from the ANU College of Law, other areas of the university, as well as visiting scholars from the United States and Europe. This leveraged and showcased CAIS's specialisation in interdisciplinary work; as an area studies unit, the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies' core work is interdisciplinary. But the symposium was a chance to augment this natural specialisation through a more focussed consideration of issues raised by critical legal theory, feminist approaches to law, indigenous history, and anthropology.

Symposium highlights included a keynote by Professor Ahmad Atif Ahmad from the University of California in Santa Barbara. CAIS graduate students also benefited from a roundtable discussion with Professor Ahmad on the sidelines of the symposium. Assistant Professor Omar Farahat from McGill University presented on the role of collective deliberation in classical Sharia interpretation given a different philosophy of the revealed text itself. Dr Valentino Cattelan from the Käte Hamburger Centre for Advanced Study in the Humanities 'Law as Culture' in Bonn (Germany) argued that contemporary Islamic finance is evidence of a shift from law viewed as thoroughly embedded in culture to law viewed as generic regime of certifications.

CREATORS OF CULTURE: SCIENTISTS IN AUSTRALIAN FICTION

12 OCTOBER

CONVENORS: DR ANNA-SOPHIE JÜRGENS, DR REBECCA HENDERSHOTT



This public event organised by the HRC and held at the National Museum of Australia, has unearthed a stunning panorama of interdisciplinary perspectives – from humanities scholars, scientists and an award-winning Australian author (Peter Goldsworthy, AM) – on how scientists create culture in Australian fiction and beyond.

'Creators of Culture - Scientists in Australian Fiction' was the topic of a special workshop within the interdisciplinary series 'Conversations Across the Creek' which provides a space for ongoing dialogue among scientists, social scientists, and

humanities scholars. An array of possible societal and cultural benefits of both the study of scientists in fiction and the creative interplay of science and fiction emerged from the discussion – manifesting that literature holds a place in the centre of intellectual debate in 'an age of science and technology'.

There is still a certain need in Australia to resituate the status of science as a motivating and sustaining cultural force. A couple of years ago, the Director of the Royal Institution of Australia emphasised the importance of making science more accessible by adding context. The workshop met that need by highlighting the literary force of science and by outlining what makes a scientist in Australian fiction. This contributes fresh perspectives to our understanding of the connections between scientific research and the creative imagination, and to debates on 'science for citizenship' and 'scientific literacy'.

Pictured above, from left to right: Workshop convenor Dr Anna-Sophie Jürgens, Peter Goldsworthy AM, and Professor Catherine Travis. (Photo: Konrad Lenz).

WRITING AS DISCOVERY: INVESTIGATING A HIDDEN COMPONENT OF METHOD

9 NOVEMBER

CONVENOR: DR PAUL MAGEE

Co-hosted by the Humanities Research Centre and the Centre for Creative and Cultural Research at the University of Canberra, this cross-disciplinary symposium saw some 50 people from across the disciplines attend to discuss the possibility that the act of writing up one's research might generate discoveries in its own right. The day opened with a panel on writing as discovery in the bio-medical sciences, with presentations by Nobel Laureate Peter Doherty (University of Melbourne), and cancer researcher and inventor Professor Yvonne Paterson of the University of Pennsylvania. Following their presentations Peter and Yvonne were interviewed by poet Paul Magee (University of Canberra). Distinguished labour economist and novelist Alison Booth (ANU) was then interviewed live on stage by novelist, Dr Lucy Neave (ANU). A humanities panel saw presentations by media artist and film studies scholar Professor Ross Gibson, Novelist and ficto-critical writer, Saskia Beudel, Literary Historian and playwright Will Christie, and novelist Lucy Neave and poet Paul Magee.

A consensus emerging throughout the day was that the act of trying to describe their discoveries in writing plays a key role in alerting scholars and scientists to just what it is they have found in the first place. The day closed with a lively workshop, where participants were encouraged to test a proposed schedule of interview questions on each other. This led to much helpful feedback on how further to explore these issues.



Freilich Foundation Convenor Dr Melissa Lovell, Visiting Fellow Randall Stevenson, Friend of the HRC Prof Satendra Nandan and Visiting Fellow Dr Christian Bök on a sculpture walk.

ANU SCULPTURE WALK AND TALK TOURS

EMERITUS PROFESSOR DAVID WILLIAMS

HRC Visiting Fellows are always interested and keen to find out more about the impressive collection of art works and sculptures on public display at the ANU.

HRC Adjunct Prof David Williams (former School of Art Director and member of the University Public Art Advisory Committee), makes arrangements for regular guided walk and talk tours of a small portion of the University collection that focuses on artwork around the Sir Roland Wilson and Hedley Bull buildings, the Menzies Library and University House precincts. Significant works of art to be seen on the walk includes *Garrurru* (2011) by indigenous artist Gulumbu Yunupingu in the Hedley Bull atrium, *Guardian Figures* (2003) by Greg Johns; Lyndon Dadswell's fabricated copper *Screens* (1961) on the east and south facades of the Menzies Library, Michael Snape's laser-cut figurative safety screens *Pictures at an Exhibition* (1998-2002) flanking the walkway to Graduate House and Inge King's *Black Sun* (1976) on the northern lawns of University House.

The Hall at University House features Leonard French's major paintings *Regeneration* (1971-72) and *The Journey Series*, and the beautiful Australian timber dining tables and chairs designed and exclusively made by Fred Ward for University House. In 1952 with Derek Wrigley, Ward established the ANU Design Workshop completing furniture for University House, Menzies Library and the John Curtin School of Medical Research tea-room and off campus, for the National Library of Australia and the Academy of Science.

Currently, the ANU is custodian of 65 outdoor sculptures with over 2500 paintings, photographs, prints, and drawings in one of the nation's finest art collections which continues to grow with acquisitions and gifts from ANU Alumni and Friends. The tours usually finish up at University House for continued discussion and a cup of coffee.

FREILICH FOUNDATION

FROM THE CONVENOR

The Freilich Foundation has had a busy and productive year supporting study into the causes, histories and effects of ethnic, cultural, religious and sexual bigotry and animosity, and exploring how such intolerance can be combatted and co-existence better promoted in our society. Formally established in July 1999, - and coming up to its 20th anniversary in 2019- the Freilich Foundation has benefited this year from an upgraded and more informative website, a growing mailing list and the ongoing support of many people from both within ANU and the broader Canberra community.

This year the Freilich Foundation hosted a number of events, all of which were open to the public, and which included two public lectures, a film screening, a graduate masterclass, and a book launch. The Freilich Foundation has also had the opportunity to award three research grants to upcoming scholars through its Small Grants Scheme. The recipients are Dr Bernhard Resch (University of Sydney Business School), Mrs Kristen Stevens (University of South Australia), and Mr Jordan McSwiney (University of Sydney). The convenor of the Foundation, Dr Melissa Lovell, also contributes to the research outputs of the Foundation through her ongoing research focused on Australian Indigenous Affairs policy and politics.

The Freilich Foundation wishes to particularly thank those organisations that it partnered with this year in the delivery of public events. These are: the Embassy of the Czech Republic, Canberra; the Australian Baha'i Community; and the Australian Human Rights Commission. The Freilich Foundation welcomed a new member to its Advisory Board, Professor James Arvanitakis of the University of Western Sydney, and thanks all of its hardworking ongoing board members - Professor Will Christie (chair); Mrs Valmae Freilich; Professor Rae Frances; Ms Felicity Gouldthorp; Dr Renata Grossi; and Professor Suzanne Rutland.

DR MELISSA LOVELL
CONVENOR

FREILICH FOUNDATION EVENTS

“THE COST OF DISCRIMINATION”: FILM SCREENING AND PANEL DISCUSSION

16 APRIL

Around 80 people attended a film screening of the documentary *The Cost of Discrimination* (Iranwire/Off-Centre Productions). The documentary explores two different cases of discrimination, South Africa under Apartheid and the persecution of the Bah'is in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Chaired by Freilich Foundation Convenor Dr Melissa Lovell, the film event was followed by a discussion of the personal and societal impacts of discrimination by an expert panel that included: University of Canberra academic Dr Sam Kosari (pictured), an Iranian Baha'i who was prevented from attending university because of his religion but later completed a PhD in Neuropharmacology and Neurophysiology in Australia; Dr Raihan Ismail (pictured) of the ANU's Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies who is an expert on political Islam and Middle East Politics; and Dr Heba Batainah, an Assistant Professor in Politics and International Relations at the University of Canberra whose research focuses on identity and issues of belonging in modern nation states and whose current research project focuses on the experiences of Syrian refugee women.



Dr Raihan Ismail (L) and Dr Sam Kosari (R).

FREILICH FOUNDATION EVENTS

BOOK LAUNCH: THE SAFE HOUSE DOWN UNDER: JEWISH REFUGEES FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN AUSTRALIA 1938-1944

4 JULY

Members of Canberra's Jewish, Czech and Slovak communities met with academics and other interested parties to celebrate the Canberra launch of Dr Anna Rosenbaum's book *Safe House Down Under: Jewish Refugees from Czechoslovakia in Australia 1938-1944* (2017). Dr Rosenbaum's research highlights the politics and consequences of the Munich Agreement for Czechoslovakia as well as Australia's role in these important international events.

After the demise of Czechoslovakia in March 1939, the Jewish population fell victim to Nazi persecution. Hoping to find a safe haven elsewhere in the world, some Czechoslovak Jews turned to Australia to seek refuge. With evident fondness for 'her' refugees, Dr Rosenbaum spoke at the launch about the process of conducting interviews that highlighted the personal stories, experiences and insights of these new Australians.

The Freilich Foundation thanks the Embassy of the Czech Republic for hosting the book launch, as well as the speakers who spoke so informatively about the book and the ongoing relationship between Australia and the Czech and Slovak peoples. Thank you Mr Ondrej Bohac (Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of the Czech Republic); Mr Igor Bartho (Ambassador, Embassy of the Slovak Republic); Dr Jim Jupp (ANU); Professor Timothy Bonyhady (ANU); and Dr Anna Rosenbaum. The evening was chaired and organised by Freilich Foundation Convenor & Research Fellow Dr Melissa Lovell.

ANNUAL FREILICH LECTURE IN BIGOTRY AND TOLERANCE AND GRADUATE WORKSHOP

31 JULY – 1 AUGUST

Approximately 50 people from ANU and the broader Canberra community met on the evening of Tuesday, 31st of August to hear prominent multiculturalism expert, Professor Tariq Modood, present on the topic of "Islamophobia and the Struggle for Recognition".

In this lecture, Professor Modood introduced his argument that Islamophobia is a form of cultural racism. Prejudice towards Muslims, he argues, could not be fully understood in terms of religious intolerance but also involved the racialisation of Muslim people. Professor Modood highlighted the role of negative representations of Muslim people in contemporary public debates in Britain and elsewhere but pointed out that there is often disagreement about whether these so-called 'negative' traits - such as the wearing of the hijab or burqa by Muslim women - are in fact actually negative or problematic. Professor Modood advocated for a five point

'test' of whether statements about Muslim people were, in fact, a product of Islamophobia (or racism) or a reasonable criticism, and therefore an appropriate contribution to public debate. These tests included whether the statements stereotyped Muslims, framed dialogue in ways which were civil and which Muslims would wish to join in, and whether mutual learning was possible.

Professor Modood also generously convened a workshop on the 1st of August on the subject of the Bristol School of Multiculturalism.

ANNUAL ALICE TAY LECTURE IN LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

25 SEPTEMBER

Professor Rosalind Croucher, President of the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), used this year's Alice Tay Lecture to reflect on what it would take to embed human rights throughout every level of Australian society. Building a community based on respect is, she argued, everybody's responsibility, and she commented in some detail on what this responsibility meant in a range of contexts including within the public service and within parliamentary committee processes.

Professor Croucher also used the occasion of the lecture to reflect on the life and contribution of the late Professor Alice Tay; an academic lawyer who was President of the Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) from 1998 to 2003 who made a significant contribution to the recognition of human rights in Australia. She was also, based on Professor Croucher's description, a woman of considerable intellect, character and determination. Professor Croucher described giving the Alice Tay Memorial lecture as her way of "honouring" Professor Tay: "I was her student, then her boss for a brief while, and now her 'successor in title'." Professor Croucher came to her role at the AHRC after 25 years in university teaching and management and an earlier high profile role as President of the Australian Law Reform Commission from 2009-2017.

The Alice Tay Lecture series was established by the Freilich Foundation to remember the life of Professor Alice Tay, with the inaugural lecture held at Parliament House in June 2005. Professor Tay was a "much beloved" member of the Freilich Foundation's advisory board for several years before her death in early 2004.

The Freilich Foundation thanks Professor Croucher for her reflective, thought-provoking lecture. The full transcript of the lecture is available on the Freilich Foundation's website, and the audio recording of the lecture is available on ANU's SoundCloud site.

2019 HRC PROGRAM



ANNUAL THEME CRISIS

'Crisis' has been a recurring theme investigated by scholars at the HRC since the Centre's establishment in 1972, as well as by many others globally, in popular and academic contexts alike. Acknowledging the important work of critical theorists working across a range of disciplines and recognizing the contributions of new voices to the field, as well as escalating public and media engagement with the topic, it is timely to revisit the concept of 'Crisis!'.

We are delighted to announce the successful applicants for the HRC Visiting Fellow program for 2019 and look forward to the exciting conversations and program of events that will arise from their diverse engagement with the intellectual history and contemporary condition of 'Crisis!'.

2019 VISITING FELLOWS

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EVA ANAGNOSTOU-LAOUTIDES
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PROFESSOR STEPHEN BYGRAVE
University of Southampton

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PROFESSOR STUART CHRISTIE
Hong Kong Baptist University

DR JUSTIN TYLER CLARK
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DR JOSEPH HARDWICK
University of Northumbria

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR NIKKI HESSELL
Victoria University of Wellington

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Anglia Ruskin University

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Manchester Metropolitan University

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University of Bath

DR GORDON PENTLAND
University of Edinburgh

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University of Adelaide

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University of Leeds

DR JORDANA SILVERSTEIN
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EMERITUS PROFESSOR DAVID WILLIAMS



HRC Emeritus Professor David Williams at the 'Creators of Culture: Scientists in Australian Fiction' event, held at the National Museum of Australia in October. (Photo: Konrad Lenz).

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