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National
University

HUMANITIES RESEARCH CENTRE

2020 Annual Report



HUMANITIES RESEARCH CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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 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, 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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MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

The year 2020, the year of the Summer Bushfires and the Coronavirus pandemic, is likely to go down as the quietest year in the forty-six year history of the Humanities Research Centre (HRC). So many of the conferences, seminars, and public lectures that had been planned, as well as all of our regular HRC activities, had to be cancelled as the university, and to a lesser extent the city, went into lockdown around the middle of March to inhibit the spread of the virus. The HRC Visiting Fellows in residence had to be sent home and all the imminent arrivals warned not to come, and for four months the HRC was in suspended animation while we eagerly awaited the passing of the pandemic. By July and August, however, still only a fraction of staff had returned to the campus and the lecture and seminar rooms and the common areas of the Sir Roland Wilson Building where the HRC is housed, and where most of its events take place, remained closed to any activity. I write this report at the end of 2020 and, while a very limited amount of face-to-face undergraduate teaching has been possible in recent months, the rooms are still closed to the public and the restrictions applying to gathering on campus make our usual events unmanageable. As it happens, Canberra has been comparatively free of any infection (which could change overnight, of course) and after eight months daily living has returned to what appears to be normal, with restricted numbers in public venues and a qualified caution with physical proximity being the only indications that we are living through a pandemic. However, it has been apparent for some time now that it will be at least another year before anything approaching normality returns to the university itself, or to the HRC.

I have just written to all the international HRC Visiting Fellows who were due to arrive in the eight months between January and August 2021 to tell them not only that there will be no access for external visitors to the country itself, but also that we have been obliged to cancel their fellowships altogether. (This is the third time I have written to some of them this year: the first was to postpone their 2020 fellowships until later in the year, the second to postpone it until 2021.) The Australian National University has lost so much income through being inaccessible to international students that it will be running at a substantial deficit for at least three years and, like all its academic units and centres, we have been obliged to cut back on our spending.

What this has meant in 2020 has been the suspension of our HRC/CASS Research Development Workshops – three workshops of three hours each with a selection of twelve early and mid-career scholars from the College, which usually take place over the course of second semester, with participants offered a grant of \$3,000 at the end – and our Internal Fellowship program, designed to enable distinguished scholars to complete a major work. (After the fellowship of Associate Professor Jana von Stein from the Research School of the Social Sciences in first semester, the opportunity was not advertised to staff in the Research School of Humanities and the Arts.) And it goes without saying that we have not been in a physical or financial position to invest in either our own or our colleagues' scholarly conferences and public events. Scheduled conferences on Liberalism, Elemental Melodrama, and Rabindranath Tagore, and a three-day conference on religion and migration, incorporating the Hans Mol Memorial Lecture, all had to be postponed or abandoned; the Annual HRC/Gender Institute Distinguished Lecture for 2020 – to be delivered on 21 April by Dr Tiffany Page from Cambridge University on 'Vulnerable Bodies (Individual and Institutional) in the Academy' – had to be terminated with Dr Page's fellowship, as did the Annual HRC Cultural Institutions Distinguished Lecture on 'Why Portraits Matter' by Professor Ludmilla Jordanova, scheduled for the National Portrait Gallery of Australia on 19 April.

It is clear that we are only likely to emerge from the pandemic once a reliable and safe vaccine is not just a fervent desire, but a reality in global distribution. Once it became apparent by the middle of the year that there was no point in waiting for the return of normal conditions for us to resume our usual activities, I decided (like the rest of the academy) to make virtue of necessity and reconstitute the HRC program online using the Zoom facilities available to us. This year's report, then, diminished though it is by comparison with previous years, records what I hope you will agree is a generous selection of our usual activities put together for an

online audience and designed to keep the HRC and humanities ideas and values in the minds of scholars and the general public.

In 2021, the HRC will be accommodating a reduced number of scholars over the course of the year, almost all of them Australian – provided, of course, that the state borders are opened up and/or remain open (the situation is changing even as I write this). For the time being, at least, we will be scheduling our usual HRC Seminars, Conversations across the Creek, Books that Changed Humanity, and Works that Shaped the World as online activities. Listening to a live paper delivered by Professor Randall Stevenson in our HRC Seminar Series from the University of Edinburgh (admittedly at 2am his time!) was a reminder that the opportunity to appeal to a geographically wider audience offered by the online format is one that we should keep as part of our portfolio, even after a vaccine arrives and COVID-19 dissipates. Equally, however, I am keen to restore face-to-face lectures and seminars for the intellectual sociability that is unique to the format. But that can wait.

Nor, strictly speaking, will it be my problem, for my job here as Head of the HRC is winding up and I will be gone by April 2021. Of course, I would like to see the initiatives and series I have introduced in my time as Head maintained, but that will be entirely up to the new director and her or his advisors. In parting, I would like to express my gratitude to Paul Pickering, as Director of the Research School of Humanities and the Arts, for awarding me the position back in 2015 and for his support over the six years of my tenure. Thanks to my Adjuncts – Caroline Turner, Malcolm Gillies, Alastair Maclachlan, and David Williams – for their advice, their friendship, and their commitment to the Centre and its mission, and to all the members of the HRC Advisory Board who have contributed over my time in office. I would especially like to thank Tony Golsby-Smith, who chaired the Board for the first four years and instigated many aspirational conversations about the humanities and their place in society beyond the confines of the annual Board meeting itself.

Professor Will Christie

MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR FELLOW

2020 was an extraordinary year, that meant different things for everyone. For me, travel restrictions put an end to my plan to scope a new U.S. based research project, and put on hold the inaugural professorial lecture series I had convened for CASS. I quickly found that my working world became consumed by tasks related to my roles as CASS Associate Dean Research and Deputy Chair of the University Research Committee, particularly in relation to my membership of the University's Bushfire Recovery Research Continuity Group, COVID-19 University Research Continuity Group, and (ongoing) membership of the ANU's COVID-19 Steering Committee as DVCRI delegate. Although I contributed to many other initiatives throughout the year at College and University levels, my key achievement has been in relation to fieldwork-based research, which was an immediate victim of COVID-19. For several months I co-chaired two university-level working groups that ran across academic and operational portfolios, to develop and implement a whole-of-university protocol for researchers to return to fieldwork, and developed and co-wrote a handbook for researchers across the university to support researchers in decision-making around fieldwork through this period. The resulting ANU Return to Fieldwork protocols were based on extensive university-wide consultation and discussion beyond the ANU through the Australasian Council of Deans of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (DASSH) Associate Deans (Research) network. They also reflected the extensive consultation work that I had led through CASS. For example, in order to assess the impact of COVID-19 on our academics, and support them where possible, I developed and ran a 'Research Conversations' series for CASS academic staff in June, during which I held individual interviews with 72 staff, of 30-40 minutes duration. This substantive work was extended through the CASS fieldwork working group that I established under the auspices of the CASS Research Committee, to conduct widespread detailed surveys of CASS staff and HDR students. These groups developed and ran a methodology seminar series and online resources for researchers seeking to navigate 'COVID-normal' fieldwork that informed the work of the central ANU fieldwork group. In summary, my achievements in 2020 are not the typical publication and grant outputs that are usually listed in annual reports, but they have made a difference to the ability of researchers to return to, or adapt, their research practices. Moreover, the fieldwork project was an achievement of collegiality, team-work, and good will of staff members across the university during a time of incredible difficulty and stress.

Professor Kylie Message

HRC ACADEMIC STAFF

Professor Will Christie



HEAD OF CENTRE

A graduate of the universities of Sydney and Oxford, Will Christie is Head of the Humanities Research Centre and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, where he was Head of the English Section from 2015 to 2017. He is the author of *Samuel Taylor Coleridge: A Literary Life* (2006), awarded the NSW Premier's Biennial Prize for Literary Scholarship in 2008, *The Letters of Francis Jeffrey to Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle* (2008), *The Edinburgh Review in the Literary Culture of Romantic Britain* (2009), *Dylan Thomas: A Literary Life* (2014), and *The Two Romanticisms and Other Essays* (2016), and is co-editor of two recent volumes of critical essays, one with Peter Denney and Jock Macleod on *Politics and Emotions in Romantic Periodicals* (2019) and another with Angela Dunstan entitled *Tribute and Trade: China and Global Modernity, 1784-1935* (2020). With the aid of Discovery Project grants from the Australian Research Council, he is currently researching a critical biography of the Scottish critic and editor of the *Edinburgh Review*, Francis Jeffrey, and compiling a website on the *Edinburgh Review* under Jeffrey's editorship; writing a study (with Angela Dunstan at Queen Mary, University of London) of the cultural phenomenon of public lecturing in the eighteenth century and Romantic period; and investigating (with Jock Macleod and Peter Denney at Griffith University) 'The Emotional Register of Liberal Culture in the Long 19th Century'.

Professor Christie was founding President of the Romantic Studies Association of Australasia (2010-2015) and is currently Director of the Australasian Consortium of Humanities Research Centres (ACHRC), co-ordinator of the Romanticism Section of the International Association of University Professors of English (IAUPE), serves on the International Advisory Board of the journal *European Romantic Review*, and is general editor of the series *China and the West in the Modern World* for Sydney University Press.

Professor Kylie Message



PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC HUMANITIES AND SENIOR FELLOW

Kylie Message is Professor of Public Humanities and Senior Fellow in the Humanities Research Centre, and Associate Dean (Research) of the College of Arts and Social Sciences. She has also held the positions of Interim

Director of the Research School of Humanities and the Arts, Head of the ANU School of Archaeology and Anthropology, Associate Dean (Research Training) of the College of Arts and Social Sciences, 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. *Collecting Activism*, *Archiving Occupy Wall Street*—the third book in her *Disobedient Museum* trilogy—was published by Routledge in September 2019, and launched at the National Museum of Australia in November 2019.

Dr Ibrahim Abraham



HANS MOL RESEARCH FELLOW IN RELIGION AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

Ibrahim Abraham is the Hans Mol Research Fellow in Religion and the Social Sciences, and from July 2019 to August 2020 was the acting Convenor of the Herbert and Valmae Freilich Project for the Study of Bigotry. Receiving his PhD in sociology from the University of Bristol in 2012, he was a research fellow at the University of Helsinki before joining the ANU in 2018.

Ibrahim's research focuses on the role of religion in contemporary society, and especially within secular cultural contexts. His edited book *Christian Punk: Identity and Performance* was published by Bloomsbury Academic in February 2020, analysing a surprisingly commercially successful expression of evangelical Christianity. In January 2020, Ibrahim became co-editor of the *Journal for the Academic Study of Religion*, the publication of the Australian Association for the Study of Religion, and co-organized the 45th annual conference of the Association in December.

Dr Melissa Lovell



FREILICH PROJECT CONVENOR

Melissa Lovell is the Convenor of the Herbert and Valmae Freilich Project for the Study of Bigotry in the HRC. She employs critical and interpretive theoretical approaches to examine the assumptions that underpin social policy problems, especially in the field of Australian Indigenous Affairs. Her research has examined the intertwined and disempowering effects of colonial and neoliberal concepts of government and citizenship

across a range of policy areas that impact on Indigenous Australians, including social security legislation, criminal justice, education and health policy. Her current research project focuses on the politics of Indigenous childhood, and unpacks the assumptions of Indigenous deficit that underpin arguments about child welfare and risk. Melissa has over 15 years of research experience in community, political advocacy and higher education. She completed her PhD in political science in the School of Politics at ANU in 2012, and has taught at the ANU and the University of Canberra.

Professor Vanessa Agnew



Vanessa Agnew researches and teaches in the Department of Anglophone Studies at the Universität Duisburg-Essen, with a fractional appointment in the HRC. Her *Enlightenment Orpheus: The Power of Music in Other Worlds* (Oxford UP, 2008) won the Oscar Kenshur Prize for Eighteenth-Century Studies and the American Musicological Society's Lewis Lockwood Award. She has co-edited several volumes on historical reenactment and is currently co-editing a *Reenactment Studies Reader* (with Juliane Tomann and Jonathan Lamb). Other current book projects include *Right to Arrive*, which applies reenactment theory to Kant's rights of the stranger to reframe discussions around hospitality and the treatment of refugees, and a graphic novel about refugees.

HRC STAFF PUBLICATIONS 2020

Ibrahim Abraham (ed.), *Christian Punk: Identity and Performance* (London: Bloomsbury Academic).

Ibrahim Abraham, "Introduction: Studying Christian Punk", in *Christian Punk: Identity and Performance*, ed. I. Abraham (London: Bloomsbury Academic), 1-17.

Ibrahim Abraham "Christian Punk in (Post)secular Perspectives", in *Christian Punk: Identity and Performance*, ed. I. Abraham (London: Bloomsbury Academic), 157-173.

Ibrahim Abraham, "Conclusion: Performing Christian Punk Identity", in *Christian Punk: Identity and Performance*, ed. I. Abraham (London: Bloomsbury Academic), 193-198.

Ibrahim Abraham and Francis Stewart, "Straight Edge Evangelicalism and DIY Spirituality", in *Christian Punk: Identity and Performance*, ed. I. Abraham (London: Bloomsbury Academic), 67-83.

Ibrahim Abraham, "Religion after Work: Christianity, Morality, and Serious Leisure", in *Spirituality, Organization and Neoliberalism: Understanding Lived Experiences*, ed. E. Bell, S. Gog, A. Simionca & S. Taylor (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar), 148-69.

Ibrahim Abraham, "Yinger, J. Milton", in *The SAGE Encyclopedia of the Sociology of Religion*, ed. A Possamai & A J Blasi (Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications), 923-924.

Ibrahim Abraham and Shuhan Liu, "Middle-Class Anxiety and Moderate Prosperity: South Africa and China in Comparative Perspective", *Australasian Review of African Studies* 41(2) [in press at time of publication].

William Christie, "Contemporary Critical Reception 1807-1824", in *Byron in Context*, ed. Clara Tuite (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), 257-64.

William Christie, "'One foot in Wales and my vowels in England': The Welshness of Dylan Thomas", in *Memory and Foresight in the Celtic World: Perspectives from the Late Medieval to the Modern Period*, ed. Lorna G. Barrow and Jonathan M. Wooding (Sydney: Sydney University Press), 85-101.

William Christie, Q.S. Tong, and Angela Dunstan (eds), *Tribute and Trade: China and Global Modernity, 1784-1935* (Sydney: Sydney University Press).

William Christie, "Introduction: China and the West in the Long Eighteenth Century", in *Tribute and Trade: China and Global Modernity, 1784-1935*, ed. W. Christie, Q.S. Tong, and A. Dunstan (Sydney: Sydney University Press), 1-21.

William Christie, "Cultural Cross-Dressing in the House of Pankeequa", in *Tribute and Trade: China and Global Modernity, 1784-1935*, ed. W. Christie, Q.S. Tong, and A. Dunstan (Sydney: Sydney University Press), 53-77.

K.S. Inglis, Bill Gammage, Seamus Spark, Jay Winter, with Carol Bunyan, *Dunera Lives*, volume 2 (Clayton, Vic.: Monash University Publishing).

HRC ADJUNCTS AND HONORARY STAFF

Adjuncts

Emeritus Professor Bill Gammage

Emeritus Professor Malcolm Gillies

Dr Alastair Maclachlan

Dr Caroline Turner

Emeritus Professor David Williams

Honorary Staff

Emeritus Professor Tony Bennett

Emeritus Professor Paul Eggert

Hon Professor Cameron Hazlehurst

Hon Professor Satendra Nandan

HRC/RSSS INTERNAL FELLOW

Associate Professor Jana von Stein

School of Politics and International Relations

The Autocratic Politics of International Human Rights Law

HRC PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Ms Clare Campbell (Administrator, Research School of Humanities and the Arts)

Dr Katie Cox (Research Manager, ACHRC)

ANNUAL THEME 2020: 'Liberalism(s)'



Young Man being introduced to the Seven Liberal Arts, Sandro Botticelli (1483/6), by archer 10 (Dennis) is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0.

The concept of 'liberalism' or 'liberal culture' is central to modern social and political thinking, as it is to the content and conduct of the humanities generally. At different times, both the provenance and authenticity of liberalism as a coherent philosophy or ideology have been contested, as has the desirability of liberalism's principles and institutions. Today, liberalism is once again under threat, and many of its structuring principles and institutions – individualism, pluralism, internationalism, secularism, freedom of speech, free trade, representative democracy, and the rule of law – face escalating challenges in one country after another.

The Humanities Research Centre invited scholars from all over the world to come to the ANU in 2020 to explore the history and philosophy, politics and prospects of liberalism, looking forward to exciting conversations and a program of events that would arise from their diverse engagements with the intellectual history and contemporary condition of liberalism(s). The following is a list of the successful applicants for the HRC Visiting Fellow program in 2020. Sadly, few of them arrived before COVID-19 spread around the world. In March, Australia closed its borders to foreign arrivals and the ANU went into lockdown with staff obliged to work from home.

SCHOLARS APPOINTED TO A VISITING FELLOWSHIP IN 2020

The following scholars were able briefly to join us early in the year:

Dr Richard Allen

Newcastle University

A Quaker-Chartist, Free Trader and Australian Liberal: The Free-Thinking Career of Joseph 'Coffee' Jones, 1824-1887

Dr Leigh Boucher

Macquarie University

The Reach of Rights: The Limits of Liberalism in a Nineteenth-Century Settler Colony

Professor Jonathan Elmer

Indiana University

Edgar Allen Poe and Remediation

Dr Michael Sevel

University of Sydney

Perfectionist Liberalism

**The following were all offered a place in 2020 but because of COVID-19 were unable to join us; asterisked names indicate those scholars who will be coming in 2021 instead:*

Professor Han Baltussen

University of Adelaide

Stoic Contributions to Early Liberalism: Lipsius' Stoic Studies

*Dr Isobelle Barrett Meyering

Macquarie University

Liberal Dilemmas: The Contest over Australia's Ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)

Associate Professor Baidik Bhattacharya

Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi

Somapolitics: Liberalism, Empire, and Criminal Bodies

*Dr Leigh Boucher

Macquarie University

The Reach of Rights: The Limits of Liberalism in a Nineteenth-Century Settler Colony

*Dr Sarah Collins

University of Western Australia

Music and the Liberal Imagination

*Dr Sarah Comyn

University College Dublin

Mechanics' Institutes as Agents of Liberalism on the Goldfields of Australia

Professor Pradip Kumar Datta

Jawaharlal Nehru University

Liberalism and Its Assimilation: Rabindranath Tagore in Modern Indian Thought

Dr Rémy Duthille

Université Bordeaux Montaigne

Liberals and Festivals: An Intellectual History of French and British Liberalism in the Age of Revolutions, 1789-c.1870

*Professor Regenia Gagnier

University of Exeter

The Emotional Registers of Liberal Culture in the Long 19th Century

Professor Kevin Gilmartin

California Institute of Technology

The Emotional Registers of Liberal Culture in the Long 19th Century

*Professor Rebecca Gould

University of Birmingham

Dangerous Definitions: Free Speech and the Politics of Defining Racism(s) in Pluralistic Democracies

*Professor Stuart Jones

University of Manchester

Liberal Worlds: An Intellectual and Political Biography of James Bryce (1838-1922)

Professor Ludmilla Jordanova
Durham University
On Portraiture; The Ethics of Historical Practice

Associate Professor Alexandre Lefebvre
University of Sydney
Liberalism as a Way of Life

Professor John Mee
University of York
Literature, Bodies, and Machines: Networks of Improvement, 1780-1840.

Dr Tiffany Page
University of Cambridge
University Responses to Sexual Misconduct

*Dr Morgan Thomas
University of Cincinnati
The Dark Mirror: Gender, Law and Liberal Conceptions of Agency in Noir Fiction and Cinema

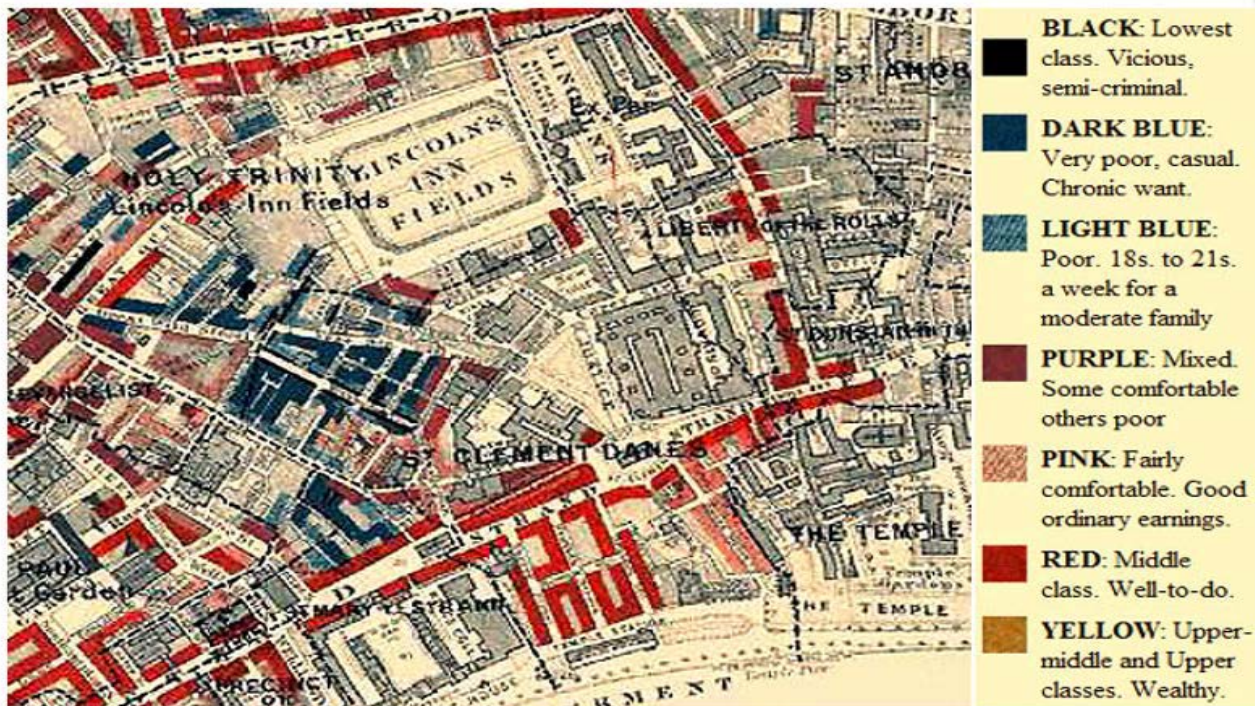
Associate Professor Nan Zhang
Fudan University
"The New Economy with the Old Morality": The Cultivation of Liberal Sensibilities

HRC DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

27 February

Dr Stuart Dunn (King's College, London)

Finding Ourselves from Ptolemy to GPS: Creating, Exploring, and Communicating Personal Cartographies with Technology



King's area (King's near bottom centre) as depicted in a detail from Charles Booth, *Maps Descriptive of London Poverty*, 1898-9. Although surveyed well after the opening of King's, the lack of wealth in areas to the North and West persisted as is indicated in blue or darker shades. (reference: LSE Library collections, Booth/E)

Convened by Professor Will Christie and co-hosted by Dr Terhi Nurmikko-Fuller and the Centre for Digital Humanities Research, the Distinguished Lecture in Digital Humanities and Public Culture was delivered this year by Dr Stuart Dunn, a Senior Lecturer in Digital Humanities and Head of the Department of Digital Humanities at King's College, London.

ABSTRACT: It is relatively simple to ask how human beings locate themselves with technology: in the present age, Global Position Systems (GPS) have become an integral part of "smartphone culture"; until fairly recently map-reading was a learned skill that was essential to many endeavours; and there are myriad ways to encode, describe and communicate our location visually and verbally. Yet the need to identify where we are, and our capacity to do so, has been with us for many centuries. As a result, there are now myriad ways to record our "personal cartographies" – the spatial traces that we leave in the world.

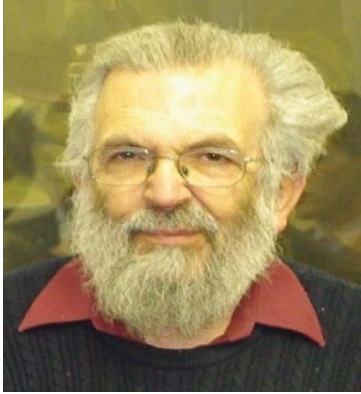
This talk offered a broad perspective on what personal cartography is and means in the digital age, and asked what was special about the way computers capture and mediate our location.

HRC SEMINAR SERIES

25 February

Dr Michael Sevel (University of Sydney)

Agnostic Liberalism



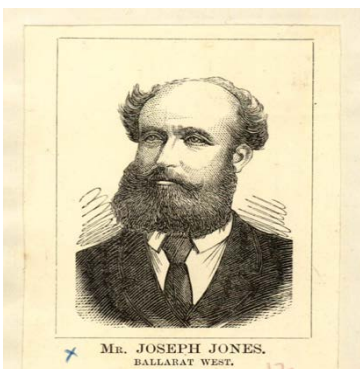
In the 1990s, John Gray coined the term ‘agonistic liberalism’ to characterize a family of views in political theory which flourished in Oxford in the second half of the 20th century. Agonistic liberals are committed to one or more traditional liberal principles and a view of morality often called ‘value pluralism’, which holds that values are deeply distinct, and, on some views, ultimately incommensurable. With value pluralism comes a commitment to the inevitability of practical conflict, both within and across individual lives. Some critics have argued that agonistic liberalism is self-defeating, on the grounds that it must deny the universal truth and rational appeal of liberalism itself. Others find value pluralism deeply implausible. Dr Sevel assessed these objections in the context of a prominent version of agonistic liberalism, the liberal political theory of Joseph Raz (pictured), arguing that these objections reflect deeper disagreements about the nature of moral truth, the relation between values and contingent social practices, and the limits of philosophical inquiry.

Dr Michael Sevel is Senior Lecturer in Jurisprudence at the University of Sydney Law School. He works on foundational issues in legal theory, including political authority and the rule of law, in moral and political philosophy, and related topics in the history of philosophy. He earned a PhD in philosophy and a law degree from the University of Texas at Austin. He is currently writing a monograph for Oxford University Press, *The Philosophy of Joseph Raz*, the first comprehensive treatment of Raz’s moral, legal and political philosophy. He is also editing the *Routledge Handbook of the Rule of Law*, and co-editing *The Rule of Law in Ancient Rome*, an interdisciplinary collection of essays bringing modern conceptions of the rule of law to bear on Roman history and literature.

3 March

Dr Richard C. Allen (Newcastle University, UK)

A Quaker-Chartist, free trader and Australian Liberal: the free-thinking career of Joseph ‘Coffee’ Jones, 1824–87



Among the unsung figures of Australia’s Liberal political history, Joseph Jones (1824–1887), a Welsh Quaker emigrant, does not figure highly. Indeed, the Australian Dictionary of Biography provides only a brief insight into his life. And yet Jones was a colourful character and is certainly worthy of greater scrutiny as an entrepreneur in Ballarat, Victoria, and later a politician who staunchly advocated free-trade and other liberal values in the Victorian goldfields.

Dr Richard Allen is a Visiting Fellow at Newcastle University. A former Fulbright Professor in Missouri, he was also a Reader in History at the University of South Wales. His research interests include the social and religious history of the British Isles and America, especially emigration to Pennsylvania. He has published extensively on Quakerism, migration, and identity, notably *Quaker Communities in Early Modern Wales* (2007); the co-authored *The Quakers, 1656–1722* (2018), and several edited books. He is currently writing *Welsh Quaker Emigrants and Colonial Pennsylvania* and co-authoring, *Quaker Networks and Moral Reform in the North East of England*.

10 March

Dr Dorothy Horsfield (Australian National University)

Writing Liberalism in Russia's Obituary?



It is frequently assumed that liberalism had a short-lived springtime in 19th-century Russia as an integral aspect of the thought of a remarkable generation of the country's intelligentsia – or so the argument goes. Since that time liberalism's fate has been to function as an ineffectual voice on the margins of mainstream Russian politics. Dr Horsfield's talk challenged this view, arguing that the pan-European cluster of concepts that help to define liberalism have remained a feature of Russian research and debate across the last two hundred years, including under the governance of President Vladimir Putin. The paperback of Dr Horsfield's most recent book, *Russia in the Wake of the Cold War Perceptions and Prejudices* (Lexington, US), published in March 2020, was launched at the end of the evening's seminar.

Dr Dorothy Horsfield is a Foundation Fellow at the Australian National University's Australian Studies Institute and a member of the Steering Committee of the university's Emeritus Faculty. She is also a contributing expert to the Russian International Affairs Council's online journal. She has a Master of Strategic Affairs (Hons) from ANU, a Master of Science (Hons) from London School of Economics and Political Science, and a PhD in Post-Soviet Russia from ANU. She has worked as a journalist in Moscow, the UK, Berlin, Abu Dhabi, Afghanistan, the Thai Burma border and Australia. She has published five books of both fiction and non fiction, as well as poetry and articles in academic journals and the wider print media.

THE HRC VIRTUAL SEMINAR SERIES

6 October

Emeritus Professor Tony Bennett (Western Sydney University and the HRC)

Habit's Pathways: Repetition, Power, Conduct



How are we to understand the political roles that habit has played in the exercise of different forms of power? In this lecture, Prof Bennett developed two lines of argument in relation to the question. The first considered how conceptions of habit as a form of repetition following the course of a pathway have informed the ways in which various kinds of authority (religious, philosophical, scientific) have sought to direct the conduct of selected populations. How this pathway is constructed – Prof Bennett's second argument – depends on how habit is placed in relation to other aspects of personhood: the senses, will, reflex, instinct, the nervous system, brain and consciousness.

Professor Tony Bennett is Research Professor in Social and Cultural Theory in the Institute for Culture and Society at Western Sydney University and an Honorary Professor in the Humanities Research Centre at the ANU. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and of the Academy of the Social Sciences in the UK, and has held previous professorial positions at Griffith University, The Open University, and the University of Melbourne. His research spans the fields of cultural studies, cultural sociology, and museum studies, and he has served as a director of nationally funded research centres in Australia and the UK. He is the author/ editor of over 30 books. His most recent publications include *Making Culture, Changing Society* (2013), *Collecting, Organising, Governing: Anthropology, Museums and Liberal Government* (co-author, 2017), *Museums, Power, Knowledge* (2018), *Fields, Capitals, Habitus: Australian Culture, Social Divisions and Inequalities* (convening author and editor), and *The Australian Art Field: Practices, Policies, Institutions* (convening editor).

13 October

Professor Penny Russell (University of Sydney)

Seeking Elizabeth Sims: Gender, opportunity, and risk in an emigration story



For women of the vulnerable 'middling sort' in nineteenth-century England and Australia, family was the first defence against destitution or ruin. But the net of family could prove fragile indeed, leaving them to navigate dangerous waters of emigration, male support, and a chancy welfare system in their bid for survival. The lives of such women can be difficult to piece together, harder still to interpret. In this paper Professor Russell followed a patchy archival trail to compare the emigration stories of two sisters who left London in the 1830s: Elizabeth Sims and her more prosperous sister, Mary Thompson. The contrast in their lots shows how important family support could be – and how easily it could fail.

Professor Penny Russell is Bicentennial Professor of Australian History at the University of Sydney. Her research focuses on families, intimacy and social encounters, seeking out the intricacies of education and culture, gender and class, race and colonisation in nineteenth-century Australia. Recent books include (with Nigel Worden) *Honourable Intentions? Violence and Virtue in Australian and Cape Colonies, c. 1750 to 1850* (Routledge, 2016) and *Savage or Civilised? Manners in Colonial Australia* (NewSouth 2010). Penny has served as editor of the journal *History Australia* and is currently the Head of the History Section of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

20 October

Emeritus Professor Bill Gammage (Australian National University)

1788 Bushfire, 2020 Vision



This talk looked at how we confront fire today, how people confronted it in 1788, and what we might learn from the contrast.

Emeritus Professor Bill Gammage, AM, is Adjunct Professor and Senior Research Fellow in the Humanities Research Centre, mainly researching 1788 land management. He is the author of *The Broken Years: Australian Soldiers in the Great War* (1974), *The Story of Gallipoli* (with David Williamson, 1981), *Crown or Country: The Traditions of Australian Republicanism* (with David Headon and James Warden, 1994) and is perhaps best known for his Prime Minister's Award-winning *The Biggest Estate on Earth: How Aborigines Made Australia* (2011). His latest work (September 2020) is as co-editor and co-writer of *Dunera Lives*: profiles of people transported to Australia on the Dunera or the Queen Mary and interned during World War 2.

27 October

Professor Randall Stevenson (University of Edinburgh)

Comets, Dynasts, Immensities: Thomas Hardy, Space and Time, 1880-1930



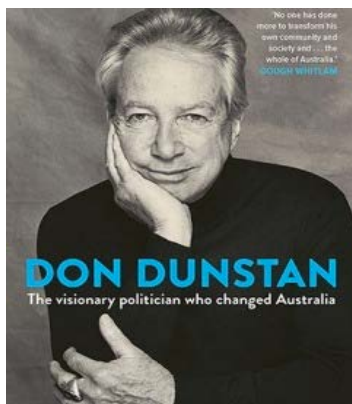
In this lecture, Prof Stevenson explored ways that the bright comet of 1881, one of several Thomas Hardy might have witnessed, encouraged interests in the depths of the cosmos which shape *Two on a Tower* (1882) and later writing such as *The Dynasts* (1904-08). New awareness of immensities in time and space — and of new exactitudes shaping contemporary society — also contribute more widely to the period's imagination, and eventually to the emergence of Modernism.

Randall Stevenson is Emeritus Professor of Twentieth-Century Literature in the University of Edinburgh, where he was Head of English Literature and Dean of the Scottish Universities International Summer School. Prof Stevenson's research interests and expertise includes most of the literature in English from the late 19th-century until the present day and his critical studies include *The British Novel since the Thirties* (1986), *A Reader's Guide to the 20th-Century Novel in Britain* (1993), *Modernist Fiction* (1992; 1998), *The Last of England?: The Oxford English Literary History, 1960-2000* (OUP 2004), *Literature and the Great War 1914-1918* (OUP 2013) and, most recently, *Reading the Times: Temporality and History in Twentieth-Century Fiction* (2018). He was a Fellow of the Humanities Research Centre in 2018.

3 November

Professor Angela Woollacott (Australian National University)

Don Dunstan's Political Legacy Now: Political Leadership and Reactions to *Don Dunstan: The Visionary Politician who Changed Australia*



Political leadership was a focal point of public discussion in Australia early this year, and it has resurfaced again lately. In August last year, Angela Woollacott published the first comprehensive, scholarly biography of Don Dunstan, the democratic socialist Premier of South Australia 1967-68 and 1970-79, who did much to transform the nation. This paper will look at the recent national conversation on political leadership through the lens of published reactions late last year and early this year to *Don Dunstan: The Visionary Politician who Changed Australia* (Allen & Unwin, 2019).

Angela Woollacott is the Manning Clark Professor of History in the School of History at ANU. She is a former president of the Australian Historical Association, and her publications include *To Try Her Fortune in London: Australian Women, Colonialism, and Modernity* (2001), *Gender and Empire* (2006), *Race and the Modern Exotic: Three Australian Women on Global Display* (2011), and the work that she talked about in this lecture: *Don Dunstan: The Visionary Politician who Changed Australia* (2019).

10 November

Prof Dean Kotlowski (Salisbury University, Maryland, US), A/Prof Jana Von Stein (ANU), A/Prof Tim Lynch (University of Melbourne), Prof Zoe Robinson (ANU)

The Power and the Glory: The US Presidential Election 2020



Every US presidential election looms as decisive for the future of the nation's well being and for geopolitical stability and predictability. Why did this one seem more decisive than most? Indeed, we were wondering if there would be a result at all and, if so, how long we would have to wait. One week after the 3 November presidential contest between Donald Trump and Joe Biden, the Humanities Research Centre convened a panel discussion of the implications of the result of 2020 US Election for America itself and for the rest of the world.

Dean Kotlowski is Professor of History at Salisbury University, Maryland, and a specialist in 20th-century US political and policy history whose books include *Nixon's Civil Rights: Politics, Principle, Policy* (Harvard UP, 2001) and *Paul V. McNutt and the Age of FDR* (Indiana UP, 2015).

Jana von Stein is Associate Professor of Political Science and International Relations at the ANU with a particular interest in why countries sign up for international agreements, and why they comply.

Tim Lynch is Associate Professor in American Politics at the University of Melbourne. His latest book is *In the Shadow of the Cold War: American Foreign Policy from George Bush Snr to Donald Trump* (CUP 2020).

Zoe Robinson is Professor in the School of Politics and International Relations at ANU, an expert in legal institutions and comparative government with an interest in judicial behaviour and the US courts.

BOOKS THAT CHANGED HUMANITY

Books that Changed Humanity is the oldest of the HRC's public lecture series. Experts from a variety of university disciplines are invited to introduce and lead discussion of a major work that has had a formative influence on society and humanity from a variety of religious, historical, literary, philosophical, and scientific traditions. Each lecture in the series reflects on the way the book has informed the way we understand ourselves, both individually and collectively, as human beings, with the series as a whole designed to bring together readers of different backgrounds and vocations, from outside as well as inside the ANU community.

28 August

Russell Ward, *The Australian Legend* (1958)

Presenter: Professor Frank Bongiorno (History, ANU)



Russell Ward's *The Australian Legend* (1958) began life as a doctoral thesis in history at the Australian National University – among the University's first – and in due course became one of the most influential books ever written on Australian history. As a study of a national image, *The Australian Legend* codified a particular way of understanding Australian identity that has had continuing resonance in the culture. It was also a pioneering radical social history, notably in its use of popular culture to reconstruct the consciousness of ordinary folk. There are good reasons to consider it alongside the innovative histories produced by post-war British radical historians. Few Australian history books remain so important more than sixty years after publication.

Professor Frank Bongiorno, AM, is the Head of the School of History at ANU, a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. He is an Australian political, labour, and cultural historian and public intellectual, with a particular interest in the history of the Australian Labor Party, whose books include *The People's Party: Victorian Labor and the Radical Tradition 1875-1914* (1997), *The Sex Lives of Australians: A History* (2012), and *The Eighties: The Decade That Transformed Australia* (2015).

25 September

Graham Greene, *The Quiet American* (1955)

Presenter: Professor Mark Kenny (Australian Studies Institute, ANU)



In an age where US leadership has all but flamed out, its remnant pyre illuminating mostly failure, Greene's perfectly structured novel warned of the harm to be done in the name of doing good, of getting involved, of bringing salvation. In the journalistic patois of today, Greene skewered the blithe weaponisation of innocence. *The Quiet American* is wistfully allegorical and through its characters can be discerned a clear lesson from one fading empire to its competitor, but more pressingly again, to the new global management: ahead lies only failure. Greene's novel is arguably more powerful today for the hubristic naiveté it critiqued and the colossal harm he saw as axiomatic in its wake – in Vietnam, where the story is set, on the Korean peninsula, and, later, the Middle East.

Mark Kenny is Professor at the Australian Studies Institute at ANU, an appointment following a high-profile journalistic career culminating in six years as chief political correspondent and national affairs editor of *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age*, and *The Canberra Times*. He is a frequent columnist, and a regular on the ABC's *Insiders* program, *Sky News Agenda*, and radio programs across the country.

23 October

Sophie Cottin, *Claire D'Albe* (1799)

Presenter: Dr Christie Margrave (French Studies, ANU)



In the period 1816-20, *Claire d'Albe* was in fact the best selling novel in France, followed closely by Cottin's *Élisabeth ou les Exilés de Sibérie* (1806). Despite her being amongst the most popular authors of the early nineteenth century, Sophie Cottin is now largely forgotten. Yet, does an author have to be canonical to have changed humanity? Cottin's first novel quickly gained her a reputation, engendering fascination and raising eyebrows. During the Revolutionary decade and afterwards, when it was dangerous to speak out and when women were expected to be confined to the domestic sphere, Cottin exhibits a specific brand of counter-revolutionary feminism and a feminine *mal du siècle* which made her a great influence on later writers, and a valuable source of information on a turbulent period of history.

Dr Christie Margrave is a Lecturer in French Studies in the College Arts & Social Sciences at the Australian National University. Her area of research expertise is 18th- and 19th-century French literature, and she has published on women's writing, ecocritical literature, and literature from the French colonies. She obtained her PhD from the University of St Andrews in 2015, during which she spent two years in Paris, working as a lecturer at the Université de Paris IV - La Sorbonne. Her first book *Writing the Landscape: Exposing Nature in French Women's Fiction, 1789-1815*, appeared with Legenda in 2019.

WORKS THAT SHAPED THE WORLD

BORN IN 1770

With the success of Books that Changed Humanity, the HRC was asked by the Dean to develop a parallel series of public lectures, offered under an annual theme, that not only featured books but also took into account other astonishing creations that have shaped people's lives. Last year's presentations, inspired by the 50th anniversary of the Moon Landing, centred on the Moon as an object of mystical wonder, a source of artistic inspiration, and the focus of intense scientific speculation and investigation. This year's series was also inspired by an anniversary. No matter which way you look at it, the year 1770 has a symbolic charge of one kind or another for all Australians and across the nation many events took place that recognised and reflected upon 250 years since the arrival of Lieutenant James Cook on the East Coast of New Holland. So did ours. The subjects of our lectures this year – the composer Beethoven, the philosopher Hegel, the poet Wordsworth, the First Fleeter, Sarah Bellamy, the controversial indigenous artefact the Gweagal shield – were all born in 1770, on the cusp of the modern world and the modern Australian nation. And it was the modern world and the modern Australian nation we were interested in on the 250th anniversary of Cook's landing; in the ways that the modern world and modern Australian nation could be said to have been shaped by the people and events and creations that we discussed in our lectures. Our human subjects were 18 when the First Fleet sailed into Sydney Harbour and in their twentieth year in 1789, when the French Revolution erupted – making them all part of what in retrospect we call the Romantic period and subject to its aspirations and its illusions.

12 March

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Presenter: Associate Professor Paul Kildea (Musica Viva/University of Melbourne)



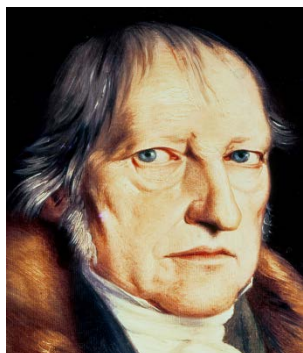
In 1794 Joseph Haydn wrote a sonata for the brilliant pianist Therese Jansen, a work of astonishing depth and complexity. A year later his pupil Ludwig van Beethoven composed his first piano sonata, which owed more than a little to Mozart (who had died four years earlier) and gave no indication of the ingenuity and originality his subsequent thirty-one sonatas would exhibit. In 1795 everyone's money would have been on Haydn as the architect of nineteenth century romantic spirit, not this gruff young man from Bonn.

Paul Kildea is a musician, a musicologist (Honorary Principal Fellow at the University of Melbourne), and the Artistic Director of Musica Viva. His University of Oxford doctorate, awarded in 1997, was subsequently published by Oxford University Press as *Selling Britten: Music and the Market Place* in 2002. In 2003, OUP also published *Britten on Music*, A/Prof Kildea's annotated edition of Britten's complete writings on music, alongside select transcriptions of radio and television interviews. Since then he has published the critically acclaimed biography *Benjamin Britten: A Life in the Twentieth Century* (2013) and *Chopin's Piano: A Path through the Romantic Century* (2017). As well as conducting and writing extensively on twentieth-century music and social history, Paul is frequently invited to comment on television and radio and has been a guest lecturer throughout the world, giving keynotes and lecture recitals in academic conferences and public lecture series in places as diverse as Moscow, Oxford, London, Leeds, Illinois, New York, Aldeburgh, Edinburgh – and, of course, Canberra.

24 September

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel (1770-1831)

Presenter: Dr Knox Peden (University of Queensland)



From nationalism to liberalism to communism, the German philosopher G.W.F. Hegel inspired a variety of modern ideologies that share at least one thing in common: the notion that history is rational, and that it becomes ever more so the more we recognize it as such. This talk explored this theme in Hegel's philosophy by looking at its basis in his critique of religion, and in particular Hegel's idea that the truth of Christianity is to be found not in its explicit tenets but instead in its worldly history as a set of communal practices. In this, Hegel sought to carry over the redemptive element in Christianity while making manifest an alternative basis for it. The consequences of this effort remain open to debate.

Knox Peden is Senior Lecturer in European Enlightenment Studies at the University of Queensland. He received his PhD in European Intellectual History from UC Berkeley in 2009 after earning degrees in diplomatic history from the University of Pennsylvania and the London School of Economics. After moving to Australia in 2011, Knox taught philosophy at the ANU, where he held an ARC Discovery Early Career Research Fellowship from 2014-2017, then at Flinders University and the University of Melbourne, before taking up his current position at UQ. As well as having published a string of articles on modern French intellectual history, philosophy of history, and the reception of Spinoza's philosophy, in prestigious journals like *History & Theory*, *Modern Intellectual History*, and *Intellectual History Review*, Knox is the author of *Spinoza Contra Phenomenology: French Rationalism from Cavallès to Deleuze* (Stanford, 2014) and *French Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction* (co-authored with Stephen Gaukroger), which appeared with Oxford University Press in mid-2020.

1 October

Lives without Great Books? Sarah Bellamy (1770-1843), the Women Transported to Botany Bay, and the Australian Dictionary of Biography

Presenters: Prof Melanie Nolan (ANU) and Dr Rebecca Kippen (Monash)



Sarah Bellamy was one of the longest lived first fleeters. Owing to the dearth of records, hers and the lives of other women transported from England to arrive in Botany Bay in 1788 have been described as 'unthinkable history'. Bellamy appears to be the antithesis of the other subjects of *Works that Shaped the World*. She left no writing and we have no image of her except a description of her long red hair. Nevertheless, historians and historical demographers have used convict records and collective biography to write the lives of women like Bellamy. In this paper, Melanie Nolan and Rebecca Kippen used convict records not only to write an account Bellamy's life, but to place it in its social context.

Melanie Nolan is Professor of History at ANU, Director of the National Centre of Biography, and General Editor of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. She taught for 16 years at Victoria University Wellington before moving back to the ANU (where she did her PhD) in 2008 to take up the Directorship. Melanie has been a visiting scholar at the California Institute of Technology and at Cambridge and was S.T. Lee Visiting Professorial Fellow in the School of Advanced Study at the University of London in 2016.

Rebecca Kippen is Associate Professor of Demography in the School of Rural Health, Monash University. After a first degree in Business (Mathematics and Accounting), she turned to Demography, earning a Grad. Dip. and eventually PhD in Demography, both from the ANU. From 2002 to 2010, Rebecca was a Research Fellow at the ANU, and after that a Future Fellow in the School of Population Health at the University of Melbourne before being appointed Associate Professor in Demography at Monash in 2016. Rebecca's research interests include longitudinal demographic studies of historical and contemporary Australian populations and, since the late 1990s, her work on population futures has been highly influential in population debate both in Australia and internationally.

8 October

The 'Gweagal' Shield: Cook at Kamay (Botany Bay) 1770

Presenter: Dr Maria Nugent (ANU)



Violence marred the encounter between the British and Gweagal at Kamay (Botany Bay) in 1770. Approaching the shore, Lieutenant James Cook shot at two indigenous men. Although wounded, one man went to retrieve a shield to defend himself. By the time he returned, the sailors had scrambled ashore. Two hundred years later, around Cook's 1970 bicentenary, an undocumented shield fitting this description was located in the British Museum. Since then, it has been mobilised for various kinds of public storytelling – exhibitions, radio programs, journalism, documentaries, repatriation claims, and books – about the 1770 encounter and its legacies. Recently, though, its provenance as that shield, the one used defensively against Cook, has been questioned.

This lecture retraced the shield's story – teasing out its meanings in the original encounter in 1770 and the trajectories of its material analogue entangled in the fraught politics of that encounter's history and symbolism. As silent witnesses to historical events, objects carry considerable power and can provide new historical insights. But what happens when their claim to 'being there' falters? What worlds do they shape then? And why do some objects, like the 'Gweagal' shield, become 'sticky' while others, like the well-provenanced spears that Cook confiscated as part of the same 'foundational' encounter, attract far less public attention?

Maria Nugent is Co-Director of the Australian Centre for Indigenous History and Senior Fellow in the School of History at ANU. She has written extensively on the encounters at Botany Bay in 1770, including two books: *Captain Cook Was Here* (Cambridge University Press, 2009) and *Botany Bay: Where Histories Meet* (Allen & Unwin, 2005). Her article (with Dr Gaye Sculthorpe) on the shield in the British Museum appeared in *Australian Historical Studies* in 2019. With the British Museum, the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology Cambridge and Aboriginal communities, she is about to commence a large ARC-funded project mobilising objects from Sydney and coastal areas in British and European collections to produce new cross-cultural material histories of the colonial city and its hinterlands.

1 October

William Wordsworth (1770-1850)

Presenter: Prof Will Christie (ANU)



'MR WORDSWORTH'S genius is a pure emanation of the Spirit of the Age', wrote the critic and journalist, William Hazlitt: 'It is one of the innovations of the time. It partakes of, and is carried along with, the revolutionary movement of our age'. William Wordsworth has gone down in literary history as England's first and (for some) the greatest of its Romantic poets, the celebrant of Nature (with a capital 'N') and chronicler of the French Revolution in his massive autobiographical poem, *The Prelude*. But Wordsworth hasn't always had it his own way and during his own life time his work was critically savaged, extensively parodied, and sold very poorly. And when, later in his life,

his reputation was rehabilitated, it was often, arguably, for the wrong reasons, for the radical Wordsworth, whom the younger generation of poets had looked up to, became conservative in his old age. This concluding lecture in the series considered the poetry of William Wordsworth as a "pure emanation" of the generation born in 1770.

Will Christie is Professor and Head of the Humanities Research Centre at ANU, Director of the Australasian Consortium of Humanities Research Centres (ACHRC), and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, where he was Head of the English Section from 2015 to 2018. He was founding President of the Romantic Studies Association of Australasia (RSAA) from 2010 to 2015 and his monograph, *Samuel Taylor Coleridge: A Literary Life* (2006), awarded the NSW Premier's Biennial Prize for Literary Scholarship in 2008.

CONVERSATIONS ACROSS THE CREEK

Sullivan's Creek flows across our national university, physically separating the physical sciences on one side and the humanities and social sciences on the other. Or so it would seem. Conversations across the Creek is an initiative of the Head of the HRC, Prof Will Christie, undertaken with Associate Professor Megan O'Mara, Rita Cornforth Fellow and Associate Director (Education) in the Research School of Chemistry, and is designed to provide a space and an opportunity for ongoing dialogue among scientists, social scientists, and humanities scholars—with the aim of stimulating thought across disciplinary boundaries and unearthing potential research and teaching collaborations across the University. Sometimes the presentations are offered under a single theme; sometimes a random selection of scholars from the humanities, social sciences, and the physical sciences are simply invited to communicate their latest research to colleagues from all over the University. The four sessions we managed online in 2020 were all themed.

21 August

Microbes and Masses

Dr Katharina Bonzel, School of Literature, Language and Linguistics

Associate Professor Kathryn Glass, Research School of Public Health

Dr Eryn Newman, Research School of Psychology

CHAIR: Professor Carolyn Strange, School of History



There is no escape. Microbes are among the masses: too small to see but dangerous on a global scale. A killer coronavirus has been given the suffix '19', to date the novelty and year of its outbreak. How can techniques to project the spread of infection, psychological analysis of susceptibility to misinformation, and studies of artistic representations of microbial threats provide distinct ways to deepen our understanding of this menace?

Four ANU scholars shared their expertise. With Prof Carolyn Strange introducing and orchestrating the session, Dr Katharina Bonzel, a screen studies scholar, discussed the ways in which the 2011 film, *Contagion*, has accrued new relevance; Assoc Prof Kathryn Glass demonstrated the role of mathematical modelling in understanding disease spread and interventions; and Dr Eryn Newman talked about how we come to believe dubious things are true and why misinformation too often sticks.

25 September

Pill Testing

Dr Anna Olsen, ANU Medical School

Associate Professor Mal McLeod, Research School of Chemistry

Dr Rod Lamberts, Australian National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science



Pill testing, or drug checking, is a medically supervised intervention focussed on providing reliable and non-discriminatory information to people who intend to use drugs. The ACT government sanctioned trials of pill testing at the Groovin the Moo festival in 2018 and 2019, and publicity surrounding festival deaths have ignited debate on the merits this harm reduction measure. Conversations Across the Creek engaged scholars with different disciplinary interests and expertise to discuss the scientific and social dimensions of pill testing in the Australian context.

9 October

Decolonizing the University

Dr Karo Moret Miranda, School of History

Ms Maeve Powell, College of Asia and the Pacific and the College of Science

Mr Sam Provost, Fenner School of Environment and Society

CHAIR: Dr Ibrahim Abraham, Humanities Research Centre



Arguing that the institution of the university has been broadly complicit with colonialism, the call to “decolonize” universities and academic practices has been heard across the world, from Cape Town to Oxford to Canberra. But what exactly does it mean to “decolonize” the university or to “decolonize” science or the humanities? This webinar will present a range of views on decolonization and the university by scholars from across the natural sciences, social sciences and the humanities, focusing on local and global challenges to prevailing academic practices.

16 October

Bushfire Summer

Professor Stephen Dovers, Fenner School of Environment and Society

Professor Simon Haberle, School of Culture, History, and Language, College of Asia and the Pacific

Professor Sotiris Vardoulakis, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health



Three scholars studying bushfires from entirely different disciplinary and institutional perspectives shared their research, experience, and reflections on the nation’s Bushfire Summer of 2019-2020 with interested colleagues from across the university and interested members of the public.

FREILICH PROJECT REPORT

From the Convenor

As the Freilich Project for the Study of Bigotry enters its third decade, its staff and supporters have remained dedicated to supporting research into the causes, histories and the effects of ethnic, cultural, religious or sexual bigotry and animosity; engaging in all forms of education of the public into such history, causes and effects of bigotry and intolerance; and advancing all forms of mutual tolerance and respect between peoples of differing ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds and of differing gender and sexual orientation.

Having returned to work in August, I would like to extend my thanks to Dr Ibrahim Abraham (Hans Mol Research Fellow in Religion and the Social Sciences), who capably and energetically fulfilled the role of Convenor while I was on maternity leave. I would also like to acknowledge the professional and timely administrative support of Ms Eleanor Foster (Freilich Project Administrative Officer), and Ms Clare Campbell and other administrative staff of the Research School of Humanities.

This year we have been delighted to welcome Mr Alpha Cheng to the Freilich Project's Board. We have also continued to benefit from the wisdom and dedication of our other board members: Professor Will Christie of the Humanities Research Centre, Australian National University (Chair); Mrs Valmae Freilich, who in addition to her service to the board is a valuable financial sponsor of the Project; Professor Rae Frances, of the Australian National University; Dr Renata Grossi of the University of Technology, Sydney; Em. Professor Suzanne D. Rutland, also of the University of Sydney; and Professor James Arvanitakis of Western Sydney University.

The Freilich Project has been noticeably quieter this year due to the restrictions presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Australian National University, like many other institutions across Australia and around the world, was unable to host in-person events and meetings for the majority of the year. The Freilich Project has nonetheless been able to hold a small number of events, including the annual Alice Tay Lecture, by shifting to an online format. The details of these events are summarised below. Unfortunately, the Freilich Lecture in Bigotry and Tolerance with Professor Sharon Erickson Nepstad (University of New Mexico) has been postponed to next year, as well as the planned conference on *Religion and Migration: Culture and Policy*.

The Herbert and Valmae Freilich Annual Early Career Research Small Grant Scheme continues to support the research of emerging scholars working on the topics of bigotry, discrimination and prejudice. Recipients of the 2021 round will be announced shortly after this report goes to print.

Dr Melissa Lovell

Convenor and Research Fellow

Freilich Project Events

24 June, 31 June, 26 August

Black Lives Matter: What That Means Here

Co-organised with Ms Mary Spiers-Williams, Sub-Dean Indigenous Studies Major, this series of webinars (and one face-to-face seminar) was aimed at students enrolled in the ANU Indigenous Studies Major. It looked at the possible relevance and continuities between the #BlackLivesMatter social movement in the United States of America and Australia's own history of black deaths in custody and contemporary activism to improve criminal justice outcomes for Indigenous people. A number of expert guests were invited to speak to the students as part of this series including former magistrate David Heilpern, lawyer George Newhouse, and artist Julie Gough.

1 October

The Far Right Online (Freilich Research Network Event)

Recent years have seen a significant increase in the presence of far-right politics online, in Australia and overseas, with misogynistic, racist and antisemitic content in open circulation, and far-right conspiracy theories gaining traction. Twenty years after hosting the conference *Cyberhate: Prejudice and Bigotry on the Internet*, the Freilich Project was pleased to bring together three experts on the far right online to discuss this pressing issue.

Speakers:

Simon Copland is a PhD candidate in sociology at the Australian National University, researching the “manosphere” and issues of gender, sexuality and politics.

Jordan McSwiney is a PhD candidate in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Sydney, researching the organisational dynamics of Australian far-right parties. Jordan is a past recipient of the Freilich Early Career Research Grant.

William Allington received his PhD from the Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies at the University of Sydney for his study into online antisemitism and young people’s ability to recognise, respond to, and refute antisemitic material.

9 October

Decolonization and the University

Hosted in collaboration with the HRC as part of the *Conversations Across the Creek Seminar Series*.

See p. 28 for details.

28 October

Human Rights and COVID-19 (The Alice Tay Lecture on Law & Human Rights 2020)

Professor Sarah Joseph



COVID-19 is causing a health emergency but also a human rights emergency. All governments have human rights obligations (regarding rights to life and health) to take measures to combat COVID-19. However, those same measures often interfere with other human rights, such as rights to livelihood, education, association, family rights, and standards of mental health. This lecture asked the question: How is it possible to work out the appropriate balance in this extraordinary time of COVID?

Sarah Joseph is a Professor of Human Rights Law at Griffith University, Brisbane. Prior to commencing at Griffith in 2020, she was the Director of the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law at Monash University from 2005-2019. Her human rights research is broad-ranging, encompassing civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

2021 VISITING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



ANNUAL THEME: HOPE

“The whole of history is about hopes being sustained, lost, renewed”, wrote John Berger in reflecting on the life and work of the poet Nazim Hikmet. “And with new hopes come new theories”. In 2021 the Humanities Research Centre has invited scholars from across the world to explore the historical and contemporary significance of hopes sustained, lost, and renewed across theories, cultures, and scholarly disciplines.

While hope has been understood as virtuous, like faith and love, hope has also been seen as deceptive, the ambiguous contents of Pandora’s Box. Whether political, theological, or technological, one person’s hope may well be another person’s fear, especially in our increasingly diverse and febrile contemporary societies.

Through individual research projects, as well as public lectures and conferences, we invited scholars from across the humanities to ask: how has hope been expressed through literature, film, music, and the visual arts? How has the principle of hope informed philosophy, theology, and social and cultural theory? How have public institutions such as museums or universities sought to exhibit or embody hope? How have technologies of the past and present sought to materialise hope? Where should we place our hope today?

The Humanities Research Centre looks forward to welcoming as Visiting Fellows a small cadre of scholars from across the disciplines, and mostly from across Australia, as we explore a topic that springs eternal.

Associate Professor Bill Balaskas

School of Art and Architecture, Kingston University, London

Collaborative Research as a Tool of Cultural Reconstruction

Professor Vera Mackie

University of Wollongong

Engendering Hope: Youth and the Gendering of Development Discourse

Associate Professor Claire Roberts

University of Melbourne

Pierre Ryckmans and Chinese Art: The Path of Hope

Associate Professor Paul Watt

Monash University

False Hope or a New Dawn? Music, Psychohistory and Psychobiography

The following scholars, who were unable to take advantage of the offer of a fellowship in 2020 under the theme of 'Liberalism(s)' because of COVID-19, have had their fellowships carried over into 2021:

Dr Isobelle Barrett Meyering

Macquarie University

Liberal Dilemmas: The Contest over Australia's Ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)

Dr Leigh Boucher

Macquarie University

The Reach of Rights: The Limits of Liberalism in a Nineteenth-Century Settler Colony

Dr Sarah Collins

University of Western Australia

Music and the Liberal Imagination

Dr Sarah Comyn

University College Dublin

Mechanics' Institutes as Agents of Liberalism on the Goldfields of Australia

Professor Regenia Gagnier

University of Exeter

The Emotional Registers of Liberal Culture in the Long 19th Century

Professor Rebecca Gould

University of Birmingham

Dangerous Definitions: Free Speech and the Politics of Defining Racism(s) in Pluralistic Democracies

Professor Stuart Jones

University of Manchester

Liberal Worlds: An Intellectual and Political Biography of James Bryce (1838-1922)

Dr Morgan Thomas

University of Cincinnati

The Dark Mirror: Gender, Law and Liberal Conceptions of Agency in Noir Fiction and Cinema

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