OUR IDEAS
LEAD THE WAY

FACULTY OF ARTS
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
INTRODUCTION

Our faculty supports and pursues the University of Sydney’s goal of excellence in research, encouraging research of national and international standing, and identifying and enhancing fields of basic, strategic and applied research.

I am delighted to introduce you to a sample of the extraordinary teaching and research being carried out in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Sydney.

As a faculty, we are passionate about ideas. For 160 years, members of our faculty have been thinking, writing, and arguing about ideas and their consequences. Whether it is global poverty, chronic disease, climate change, civil war, social and economic reform, reconciliation - or the even the nature of freedom – lying beneath all the spin and froth of everyday debate are fundamental concepts and arguments that require rigorous analysis and careful reasoning. Universities have a special responsibility to bring together the best thinking across the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences to address the fundamental challenges our world faces. At the University of Sydney, we are committed to doing just that.

We are proud of the extensive range of subjects we are able to offer our students, which is unrivalled in Australia and the Asia Pacific region. We are also committed to linking our undergraduate and postgraduate teaching programs with our research ambitions.

In 2011, our faculty was relaunched as a genuinely comprehensive Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, with the addition of a new School of Economics, joining us from the Business School. We are excited about the new pathways and collaborations this development opens up for our students and researchers – cementing our distinctive position as one of the most comprehensive faculties of our kind in Australia.

I invite you to discover more about our faculty, the work we do, and how our ideas are helping to illuminate new pathways in research in the humanities and social sciences.

Professor Duncan Ivison
Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
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The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences carries on this proud tradition through our commitment to rigorous research and innovative teaching across the breadth of the humanities and social sciences. This vision guides the daily work of the five schools, forty-eight departments, almost 10,000 students (including over 500 PhD candidates) and more than 400 academic staff that make up the faculty.

We believe in the inherent value of research in the humanities and social sciences and our research agenda is driven by the pursuit of new knowledge that will be of benefit to Australia and the world. We offer one of the most comprehensive programs in the humanities and social sciences in Australia and the Asia Pacific region. Our strength in European, American and Asian studies means we are particularly strong in comparative work, a vital capacity in our highly interconnected world.

We are also committed to collaborating with leading institutions around the world. Our research partners include premier institutions in Europe and North America, the Middle East, China and Southeast Asia. Complementing our research connections with leaders such as the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Harvard University and the Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences, our students and staff have many opportunities to go on exchange and work with international partners. Our rich partnerships see students study a broad range of disciplines worldwide, including International studies at Georgetown University, French at the Sorbonne, Hebrew studies in Tel Aviv, medieval studies at King’s College London and contemporary media in Seoul.

Established in 1852, our faculty is the founding faculty of the University of Sydney and was the first Faculty of Arts in Australia.

KEY FACTS 2013

9,537 student enrolments, which includes:

– 1,538 international students
– 707 research students
– 1,443 postgraduate coursework students
– 616 academic and professional staff
– 48 undergraduate majors
– 33 Master’s degree programs
– Ranked among the top 21 universities in the world for arts and humanities

(Times Higher Education 2012-2013)
OUR RESEARCH
As a leading institution for humanities and social sciences research, our faculty continues to attract the foremost thinkers across our diverse disciplines. One indicator of our excellent performance is the recognition we have received from external funding bodies, including the Australian federal government.

In the Federal Government’s most recent (2012) round of Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) funding – the benchmark for assessing university research performance – our faculty achieved truly outstanding results. Our research ranked at the highest possible level (well above world standard) in the broader research fields of: Language, Communication and Culture; History and Archaeology; Philosophy and Religious Studies. Three further discipline groupings were rated at above world standard – Economics, Studies in Human Society, and Studies in Creative Art and Writing. All of our research areas were assessed at world standard or above, demonstrating our research performance as among the best in Australia for the humanities and social sciences.

In 2012 the faculty also continued to excel in the Australian Research Council’s (ARC) highly competitive grant schemes, including notable successes with the postdoctoral ‘Discovery Early Career Researcher Awards’ (DECRAs) and mid-career ‘Future Fellowships’, which are intended to support the nation’s next generation of research leaders. Among our DECRAs are projects ranging from environmental history, democratisation and global media studies, to bank regulation and state formation. Our new and prestigious Future Fellows include: Professor Peter Anstey (Philosophy) for his work on the nature and status of principles in early modern philosophy; Dr Ute Eickelkamp (Anthropology) for her work on cultural resilience in Central Australia; Dr Michele Ford (Indonesian Studies) for her work on trade unionism and trade union aid in Indonesia, Malaysia and Timor-Leste; Dr Baoping Li (Asian Studies/Archaeology) for his work on Chinese trade and diplomacy in Southeast Asia from the 9th to the 19th century; and Professor Jennifer Milam (Art History and Film Studies) for her work on visual cosmopolitanism, national identity and imperialist ambitions in garden spaces.

RESEARCH INCOME 2007-2012

OUR PEOPLE
Driving our ongoing success in securing highly competitive grants and fellowships and making major contributions to our disciplines and public debate is the dedication and innovation of our academic staff.

In 2012, the faculty cemented its relationship with Harvard University with the arrival of Professor Pippa Norris, McGuire Lecturer in Comparative Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government and now Professor of Government in International Relations at Sydney. Professor Norris began her tenure with the faculty as Director of the ARC-funded Electoral Integrity Project. This ambitious and timely global initiative seeks to monitor and understand the
causes of vote-rigging and electoral fraud in order to help address the violent instability these practices can spark. Professor Norris received the inaugural 2011 Kathleen Fitzpatrick Australian Laureate Fellowship, which provides $2.6 million in funding over five years to women academics in the humanities and social sciences for their research excellence. Her expertise bolsters the faculty’s already strong reputation in the fields of human rights and democratisation and neatly complements the work of the Department of Government and International Relations more broadly. She joins our other ARC Laureate Fellow, Professor Warwick Anderson (profiled in our last edition), who holds a joint appointment in History and Medicine.

The faculty’s pioneering position in the field of human rights and international development has been boosted by the European Union’s renewed funding pledge of €1.5 million to the Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (Asia Pacific) program. This unique program not only extends our understandings of human rights research across the Asia Pacific region, but also funds up to 30 scholarships each year for students to spend a semester abroad at one of four partner institutions: Gadjah Mada University (Indonesia), Kathmandu School of Law (Nepal), Mahidol University (Thailand) and the University of Colombo (Sri Lanka). The overwhelming success of this program was made possible under the leadership of the inaugural Program Director, Associate Professor Danielle Celermajer, whose own project on democracy and torture in Sri Lanka and Nepal was also awarded €1.5 million in funding by the European Commission in 2011. Moreover, in 2012, the Faculty consolidated its extraordinary expertise in the area of human rights and democratisation with the launch of the Institute for Democracy and Human Rights, led by Professor John Keane, which brings together our leading researchers and students working across these vital issues. The Institute will provide a focal point for our work on human rights and democratisation, not only in the Asia Pacific, but globally as well.

Two of our philosophers were awarded US$1.5 million from the John Templeton Foundation in 2012 to explore the nature of time under the project, ‘New Agendas for the Study of Time: Connecting the Disciplines’. Led by Professor Huw Price and involving Dr Kristie Miller, this three-year project will foster collaborations between our faculty and colleagues in the Faculty of Science. This exciting project attempts to answer age-old questions over the mysteries of time, elucidated through a philosophical and scientific approach. Our academics are also forging research pathways into new territory. Professor Iain McCalman (History) was awarded a prestigious A. W. Mellon Foundation Award for the establishment of a ‘Mellon Australian Observatory in Environmental Humanities’. Professor McCalman will lead an innovative research program into how insights from the humanities and social sciences can help address the deep challenges presented by climate change. This project builds on the success of the faculty’s Environmental Humanities Research Group, also coordinated by Professor McCalman, in collaboration with colleagues from Archaeology, English, Gender and Cultural Studies, Government and International Relations, the Macleay Museum and Sociology and Social Policy.
CURRENT RESEARCH STRENGTHS

As a genuinely comprehensive faculty of humanities and social sciences, we boast research strengths across the breadth of our disciplines – including in Applied Economics, Archaeology, Art Theory and Criticism, Communications and Media Studies, Cultural Studies, Econometrics, Historical Studies, History and Philosophy of Specific Fields, Linguistics, Literary Studies, Performing Arts and Creative Writing, Philosophy, Political Science, and Sociology. All of these disciplines have been independently assessed through the 2012 ERA process as ‘above world standard’. Those that received the highest rating (‘well above world standard’) include:

ARCHAEOLOGY
Our archaeologists are unearthing the treasures of the past both around the world and in our own backyard. Current projects include ongoing work at key sites in Southeast Asia (particularly at Angkor Wat), Central and West Asia, digs at notable locations from the classical world (including Ancient Paphos in Cypru, Pella in Jordan and Zagora in Greece), as well as important discoveries at Tasmania’s World Heritage Listed Port Arthur convict site.

CULTURAL STUDIES
This multidisciplinary field draws strength from important research strands in media and culture studies, gender and sexuality studies, critical race studies, visual culture, postcolonial theory and everyday life studies. Our groundbreaking research includes such projects as Professor Annamarie Jagose’s Orgasmology (Duke University Press), which challenges conventional notions surrounding our understanding of orgasm, from the rich interdisciplinary perspective of sexuality studies (See Professor Annamarie Jagose’s profile on page 22).

HISTORICAL STUDIES
Our expertise in this field spans an exceptionally broad spectrum of historical research. Significant research contributions have been made in several key areas, including ancient history, classical studies, Chinese history, Australian history, Medieval, early modern and modern European history and the history of the United States. In 2012, the prominence of our work was in evidence with sixteen of our researchers receiving highly competitive ARC grants. Our historians have also been awarded some of the discipline’s foremost honours, including the American Historical Association’s 2012 Award for Scholarly Distinction (See Professor Sheila Fitzpatrick’s profile on page 10).

LITERARY STUDIES
Spanning both ancient and modern languages across a myriad of cultures, our researchers in Literary Studies cover themes in European, Middle Eastern and Asian languages, as well as English. Areas of particular strength include early modern and medieval literary studies (incorporating Anglo-Saxon and Old Norse), nineteenth-century and modern literary studies (See Associate Professor Liam Semler’s profile on page 14).

PHILOSOPHY AND HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SPECIFIC FIELDS
Offering one of the most comprehensive Philosophy programs in the Asia-Pacific region, our philosophers have been recognised for excellence in areas that include the philosophy of science, philosophy of biology, feminist philosophy and the history of philosophy (particularly early modern philosophy). Our philosophers are also involved in a range of collaborative projects, including the History and Philosophy of Science, the new Charles Perkins Centre for obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease and classical studies.

POLITICAL SCIENCE
The dynamism of political science research in our faculty is evidenced in this field’s impressive growth in recent years and its consistently high rankings in international league tables. Significant contributions have been made in comparative and Australian politics, political theory, public policy and
international relations. Our faculty has also been at the forefront of burgeoning research in important emerging fields, such as non-traditional security studies, democratisation and human rights, migration studies and environmental politics.

**EMERGING RESEARCH STRENGTHS AND RESEARCH TRAINING**

As well as taking pride in our heritage, our faculty embraces a future-focused outlook that recognises the value of cutting-edge research. Our scholars are involved in a number of interdisciplinary and cross-faculty projects within the University of Sydney. Working with other faculties, we have invested in research ventures across the faculties of law, business, education and social work, as well as broader university-wide fields such as science and public health.

Our researchers occupy a prominent place in new collaborations such as the University of Sydney Southeast Asia Centre (SSEAC). Led by the Centre’s inaugural Director, Associate Professor Michele Ford (Indonesian Studies), this is Australia’s premier centre for interdisciplinary academic research and regional engagement in Southeast Asia. (See Associate Professor Michele Ford’s profile on page 32).

Our faculty is deeply involved with the multidisciplinary China Studies Centre, which under its new Director, Professor Kerry Brown, has grown to become a leading hub for scholarship and commentary on Chinese culture, politics and language (See Dr Minglu Chen’s profile on page 18). We are also major contributors to the University’s new Charles Perkins Centre, which is addressing the major challenges of diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular disease in innovative ways by bringing together scholars from the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and life sciences to seek effective solutions to some of the world’s biggest killers. And we continue to develop research initiatives that bring together the strengths of the humanities and social sciences in new ways - for example, through the ‘environmental humanities’, as well as security studies and the media (See Professor James der Derian’s profile on page 34.)

The diversity of our research enables us to offer an unparalleled intellectual community for our higher degree research students. At any one time our faculty is supervising hundreds of doctoral and other research students from around Australia and the world, working across a wide array of disciplines areas, with many of the leading scholars in the world in their disciplines.
Our people:
Professor Colm Harmon

The Economics of Education:
How to Increase the Return

In the age of Gonski, the My Schools website and high-stakes national testing regimes such as NAPLAN, there have been increased public efforts to raise education standards across Australia. But what is the value of an educated public, and how can we measure a return on investment that will allow our governments to justify their spending in this sector? Professor Colm Harmon, Head of the School of Economics, believes these questions are worth asking if we hope to achieve effective social policy.

“Education is the great policy ‘superpower’ on a range of fronts,” says Professor Harmon, “and is rare amongst policy choices in promoting equity for individuals and generating returns for society more generally.”

A variety of ‘returns’ on an investment into education can been identified, the most significant measurable one being a person’s rise in earnings, which increases by as much as 8-10% per year of education.

“The job you get will be better, you will be healthier, more socially engaged, and happier... education has perhaps the best rate of return to any investment you can make,” says Professor Harmon.

He has found that the investment pays off the most when directed towards early education, as this will have the most effect, regardless of social class. Professor Harmon argues that early education can actually work to “level the playing field” between the social classes.

“It raises social engagement, lowers the chance of ‘bad’ outcomes like falling into crime, and is actually the policy most likely to encourage people to choose to go into higher levels of education later in their adolescence.”

The fallacy in policy terms is that spending more welfare to spend on education - will encourage more participation in education. “The decision not to stay in education,” he argues, “is actually a question of how individuals value the present over the future - a much much tougher issue to deal with.”

Professor Colm Harmon joined the University of Sydney in July 2012, after having worked at a number of the world’s premier educational institutions, including University College Dublin in his home country of Ireland, as well holding visiting positions at Princeton University, University of Chicago and University College London.

Having appointments far and wide has allowed Professor Harmon the vantage point to witness economic education factors in different economies. So, what has he learnt from the Australian case?

“For Australia, the lessons to learn from other countries is to invest and be consistent in that investment - ‘stop-start’ is a terrible plan, and investing in early years while then not following through into later education levels is also a mistake,” he says.

In an election year when education is high on the national agenda, research such as that being undertaken by Professor Harmon is incredibly timely. Given that he passionately believes that universities should be actively involved in the public debate, he plans to get his message of the economics of education to the right ears. And this is what he plans for much of the critical research being undertaken in the School of Economics.

“Australia has a relatively low visibility of economists from the Academy in public debate - the exceptions are very good but very few,” he explains.

“However, when I see what academic economists produce, I see it all has relevance.”
“Education is the great policy ‘superpower’ on a range of fronts, and is rare amongst policy choices in promoting equity for individuals and generating returns for society more generally.”

PROFESSOR COLM HARMON
SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

Story by Kate Mayor
Rarely are historians afforded the chance to write on a historical era with reference to their own experiences. But Honorary Professor Sheila Fitzpatrick, from the Department of History, is doing just that in her newest project, offering a unique glimpse into one of the most secretive regimes of recent memory: life in the Soviet Union.

Fitzpatrick is finalising a memoir on her time as a postgraduate student in Moscow in the 1960s, evocatively titled *A Spy in the Archives* (Melbourne University Press). The celebrated academic is widely regarded as one of the world’s preeminent scholars on this dark chapter of modern history, devoting her life’s work to a bottom-up historical perspective of the Soviet Union for nearly 50 years.

“It was incredible to go there as a postgraduate student in the late 1960s, when access to that society was still very difficult,” she says. “Then it was a great moment when formerly closed archives opened with the collapse.”

In recognition of her groundbreaking work in the field, Fitzpatrick was awarded the prestigious American Historical Association’s (AHA) Award for Scholarly Distinction in 2012. The annual prize is considered America’s highest distinction in historical studies, awarded to senior historians who have primarily studied in the United States. The majority of Fitzpatrick’s academic career was spent overseas before she joined the University of Sydney in 2007.

Despite being the first recipient in the field of Soviet history to ever be granted the AHA prize, Fitzpatrick maintains a modest response to the accolade, recalling her reaction to the news as “a nice start to my day.”

“I was completely taken by surprise by the award, and of course delighted,” she says. “It has only once before gone to a Russianist, and never to a Soviet historian.”

The AHA award is the latest in a line of accolades recently accumulated by Fitzpatrick. She received the award for Distinguished Contribution from the US-based Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, and her memoir, *My Father’s Daughter: Memories of an Australian Childhood*, won Australia’s Magarey Medal for Biography.

It seems Fitzpatrick was destined for a career as a historian. Her father was an Australian economic historian; her mother taught history at Monash; while her brother is currently Professor of Modern Irish History at Trinity College Dublin.

“My passion for history perhaps came from my family,” she says. “But I remember that it was doing the research for my 4th-year honours thesis on Soviet music at the University of Melbourne in about 1960 that it really hooked me.”

Among her forthcoming projects is a new book on Stalin and his close political associates, *Stalin and his Team* (Princeton University Press). This work presents an opportunity for Fitzpatrick to pursue a long-time intrigue not just of Joseph Stalin but also his inner circle, including Vyacheslav Molotov, Georgii Malenkov, Lavrentii Beria, and Nikita Khrushchev.

“Despite war, purges and all sorts of turmoil, this team more or less stayed together from the late 1920s to the mid 1950s, even after Stalin’s death, when they became known as the ‘collective leadership’,” she explains.

With an ARC-funded project on displaced persons from the Soviet Union and their migration to Australia, writings on the Russian composers Shostakovich and Prokofiev, as well as lecturing and mentoring commitments, the 71-year-old historian shows no signs of slowing down just yet.

“This has been the happiest transition period one could imagine,” she says. “I had a very warm welcome from my colleagues at the University of Sydney when I arrived in early August. And now we have this [AHA prize] to celebrate together.”
“It was incredible to go there [Soviet Union] as a postgraduate student in the late 1960s, when access to that society was still very difficult. Then it was a great moment when formerly closed archives opened with the collapse.”

PROFESSOR SHEILA FITZPATRICK
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
For Annie Herro, the completion of her PhD with the University of Sydney’s Centre for Peace And Conflict Studies (CPACS) was a culmination of her long interest in social issues and policy-making. “I’ve always been passionate about social and political sciences,” says Herro, who began working with non-government organisations such as UNICEF after completing her undergraduate degree. Herro decided to further her passion by enrolling in a Master of Human Rights at Columbia University in New York. “New York was amazing. I took full advantage of the internship opportunities and I was regularly exposed to distinguished speakers such as Mary Robinson, the former President of Ireland and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. But I knew I wanted to pursue my study in a smaller and more nurturing community - a place where I wasn’t just a number.” Herro found this welcoming community when she decided to undertake her PhD with CPACS. “There is nothing else like CPACS in Australia,” she says. “They encourage a study of topics that are academically rigorous, but practical in regards to policy.” Herro’s thesis, *A UN Emergency Peace Service: An Ambitious Idea Whose Time Has Come?* fits this category. In order to examine the attitudes towards the establishment of a permanent emergency peace service, Herro interviewed many political, military and non-state figures. In addition to the interviews, which took place in Canberra, Jakarta and New York, she also attained documents from UN conferences. Contrary to the idea that a PhD is a solitary pursuit, Herro found that her approach has been hands on. She says that CPACS encourages its students to be “politically bold”.

“Peacekeeping at the moment is very ad hoc when dealing with international conflict,” Herro explains, “and the idea for a standing UN Peacekeeping Service has garnered some attention in recent years.” Herro’s PhD doctoral research is the first to explore the topic in-depth and to gather a range of opinions on the issue. She uncovered that there are differing responses to the proposal of the Peace service. “The reasons my interviewees gave could never just be put down to their nationality or occupation,” says Herro, who advocates for a more nuanced approach. “Those who supported the establishment of the UN Emergency Peace Service [UNEPS] proposal tended to believe that the international community has the responsibility to intervene with force if a state fails to protect their population against atrocities such as genocide,” Herro explains. “Those who didn’t support the proposal were opposed to the UN for various reasons and believed that UNEPS would not be used to the purpose for which it was intended - to save lives.” After teaching and studying at universities both in Australia and abroad, Herro believes the University of Sydney is aesthetically on par with those in the Ivy League. However, it is the support, and not the sandstone, that she finds most inspiring. “CPACS is housed in one little building and everyone is always there. It’s a relaxed environment and there’s such camaraderie, but it’s so motivating at the same time.” Herro completed her thesis in 2012, and has been lecturing at the University of Sydney in the time since. She remains positive about her own future and is still passionate about CPACS. “It is a super-tight, super hard-working group of people. They are realistic, but they’re full of hope for change. And they’re so committed to their research.”
“Peacekeeping at the moment is very ad hoc when dealing with international conflict, and the idea for a standing UN Peacekeeping Service has garnered some attention in recent years.”

ANNIE HERRO
PHD CANDIDATE, CENTRE FOR PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES (CPACS)
Our people:  
Associate Professor  
Liam Semler

**SHAKESPEARE IN SCHOOLS: EXAMINING THE LEARNING GAP**

“It’s apparent to me that the way we teach literature at high school is different to the way we teach literature at university,” says Associate Professor Liam Semler from the Department of English. “When first year students arrive to study at uni their brains not only have to figure out the new content, but also the new systems of learning.”

In order to investigate this more deeply, Semler co-created Shakespeare Reloaded with Shauna Colnan, a secondary school teacher from Barker College in Sydney. Beginning in 2008, it was initially a linkage project co-funded by the Australian Research Council and Barker College with “the aim to get teachers and academics talking to each other” about their methods and the ways in which students learn.

“We wanted to imagine what it might be like for the student,” says Semler. The project, used Shakespeare’s body of work as a lens to examine different teaching methods. “Students are nurtured in the high school system. The HSC is about reproducing knowledge. When they arrive at university, these students are uneasy about open parameters, such as creating a thesis or having authority in their own voice”.

Semler believes Shakespeare Reloaded has helped bridge this gap. The project ran until 2010, when it was replaced by a sequel project called Better Strangers, which continues the conversation between the University of Sydney and Barker College to this day. The name Better Strangers is not just lifted from a Shakespeare quote. It also aptly describes the workings of the project, where teachers and academics become more acquainted with one another.

“Academics are not familiar with the high school system,” Semler states, “So by engaging in conversation with each other we begin to understand the different methods of teaching and learning.”

Using Shakespeare’s plays for the projects made sense for Semler on two levels. One of his key research areas is William Shakespeare, and more specifically the way his work is taught and comprehended. Furthermore, Shakespeare’s prevalence in both the school and the university systems made for easier comparisons.

“Shakespeare just permeates the culture,” says Semler, “It really is a global phenomenon. Shakespeare deals with universal themes that go above and beyond the specific concerns of his time.”

Perhaps this explains why Semler’s research has achieved international attention. In 2012 he co-ran a conference in the UK called Unlearning Shakespeare. Semler asserts that the lack of cohesion and communication between high school and university systems is similar across the world.

This year is also proving to be fruitful for Semler in his area of research. The Better Strangers team is due to host The Shakespeare Imaginarium, a four-week short course on Shakespeare and innovative pedagogy for high school teachers that is already booked out. Semler will also publish his book *Teaching Shakespeare and Marlowe: Learning Versus The System*, which explores the increasingly standardised ways of learning at school and university.

“The thing that preoccupies me is systems of learning in opposition to creativity,” says Semler of the book. “What [high school] students think learning is isn’t what we [university academics] think learning is.”

Since arriving at the University of Sydney over a decade ago, Semler has found that the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences encourages creativity and broad thinking through its multidisciplinary approach. “The Faculty extends the way you think,” he says. He also believes the Department of English is thriving as well. “Across Australia, English departments are shrinking, but here it is still a great size. It’s a dynamic climate to be in.”
"The thing that preoccupies me is systems of learning in opposition to creativity. What [high school] students think learning is isn’t what we [university academics] think learning is.”

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
LIAM SEMLER
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
“I’m interested in the blur between fashion and expressions of selfhood online, as well as the outflowing consequences of style blogging on communication of fashion knowledge, notions of publics and privacy, and the increasing commodification of individuals’ identities.”

ROSIE FINDLAY
PHD CANDIDATE, PERFORMANCE STUDIES
Rosie Findlay, PhD candidate from the Department of Performance Studies, is shining an academic spotlight on personal style blogs, and discovering that this growing area of the fashion industry is worth taking seriously.

“To the untrained eye, style blogs, like fashion, can be seen as purely superficial,” she says. “Yet the opportunity they present to bloggers to engage with fashion at a personal level, to share, perform and express their style before a curious readership, is unprecedented.”

Not one to research from a distance, Rosie has truly immersed herself in her topic by taking a methodological approach and creating her own personal style blog, aptly named Fashademic.

On the blog, in addition to publishing her research findings, the self-confessed ‘fashion nerd’ outlines some of the filters through which she analyses these relatively new blogs.

“I’m interested in the blur between fashion and expressions of selfhood online, as well as the outflowing consequences of style blogging on communication of fashion knowledge, notions of publics and privacy, and the increasing commodification of individuals’ identities,” says Rosie.

But in keeping with the format of style blogs, a medium she explains as being “a particular kind of fashion-based web blog, concerned with the personal style and interest in fashion which is practiced in an individual’s life,” Rosie also uploads ‘outfit posts’ of her own fashion journey; a practice which brings into play the interceptions of public and private life.

“Style blogging is a particular sharing of your private life for a public forum,” she says. “At the same time, there’s a particular audience, a particular purpose; it’s not supposed to be a journal so certain aspects of their lives are kept private.

“As a viewer you feel a sense of intimacy, but you don’t have an intimate relationship with them. When you meet someone in the blogosphere there’s a funny duality,” says Rosie.

Findlay says this communality amongst bloggers is often taken offline, with meet-ups and conferences designed to help them improve their blogs, both visually and with a mind for commercialisation.

“It’s not always a hobby, it’s about how you can monetise your blog, how you can be a professional blogger, build your audience and target the brands you want to work with. It’s now becoming about blogging as a business.”

In an industry dominated by women, Rosie believes “this is an exciting thing. It fits in with feminist theory as well,” she states, “particularly theories of representation.

“This is one of the first times in history girls as a demographic have had a means to self-publish their thoughts, opinions and ideas in public, where no one is representing them or editing them in any way,” she says.

Rosie sees style blogging as taking a different role to the more traditional media of fashion magazines, and points out that there are trends proliferating through the style blogosphere that are not apparent in mainstream fashion media.

“The companies whose goods are key to these trends do really well out of it.”

And it seems the bloggers can turn a profit too. In addition to making money through advertising, some earn ‘perks’ such as free clothes, invitations to industry parties, and even attendance at international fashion events such as New York Fashion Week. With incentives like these, it’s no wonder the style blogosphere is growing rapidly.

“That so many people have started one of their own speaks to the importance of personal style blogs as a cultural phenomenon,” says Rosie.
RISE OF THE ‘TIGER GIRLS’:
CHINA’S FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS

They say behind every great man is a great woman, but China’s ‘Tiger Girls’ are doing it for themselves. This growing group of female entrepreneurs represent the surprising, under-publicised side to China’s phenomenal rise as a world power.

Dr Minglu Chen, from the Department of Government and International Relations, first encountered this emergent group of women while conducting PhD fieldwork in 2003. Over the following three years, she travelled to several provincial areas to unearth the truth behind China’s glossy façade of economic prosperity. Conducting 170 interviews with businesswomen in charge of state-owned or private enterprises, she uncovered some fascinating insights into the socio-cultural transformation accompanying China’s economic awakening.

“Whenever I tell people about the term ‘Tiger Girls’ in China, people just laugh!” Dr Chen says. “Female Tiger Girls, or tigresses, refer to a very powerful female character. She’s dominant, bossy, and capable, but it’s not always a positive idea.”

This intriguing case study into the shifting state of gender and political relations in China informed Dr Chen’s book, *Tiger Girls: Women and Enterprise in the People’s Republic of China* (Routledge). This work contributes to the University of Sydney’s China Studies Centre, a cross-faculty initiative drawing on the expertise of scholars working across many China-related fields.

While China’s public face to the world is one of towering skyscrapers and booming economic development, this progressive image belies some staunchly entrenched traditions. Upon scratching the surface, Dr Chen discovered the Tiger Girls’ radical potential was mired by convention; the expected correlation of economic success with political clout only half-realised.

“It was very obvious that this group is very closely connected to the Communist Party,” she says. “The bigger the business is, the more attention they get. “But quite often they run the business either with their husband, or they just took over from their father,” she explains. “For lots of these women, though it was probably their idea to start the business, it was actually registered under the husbands’ name. They mentioned a lot that as a woman, they didn’t want to come up on stage too much and overshadow their partners.”

Dr Chen sees this reluctance to overstep social mores as an indication that customary gender stereotypes still hold sway in modern China.

“In traditional China, women were just not supposed to be powerful. A good woman was expected to be uneducated and very obedient. They just had to listen to men; to their fathers, to their husbands, and if the father and husband died, they had to listen to their sons. So it’s always a subordinate role.”

She notes this same dynamic continuing across the political spectrum, with the few female officials within China’s Communist Party relegated to what are regarded less significant roles, such as education or culture. “It would be very rare to see female officials in charge of things like finance, industry and agriculture,” she says.

These findings have drawn Dr Chen towards a further examination of the distribution of wealth and influence in China. She is currently working with Professor David Goodman (China Studies Centre) and Beatriz Carrillo Garcia (Department of Sociology and Social Policy) on the ARC-funded project, *The new rich and the state in China: the social basis of power*.

But Dr Chen has plans to follow the rise of China’s Tiger Girls. She and colleague Associate Professor Ben Goldsmith (Government and International Relations) are working together to further investigate the relationship between the Party-state and female entrepreneurs in China. “We are re-analysing my data by adopting a quantitative method to better reveal the connection between business success and political capital,” she says. “I haven’t abandoned my Tiger Girls topic; I quite like it.”
“Whenever I tell people about the term ‘Tiger Girls’ in China, people just laugh! Female Tiger Girls, or tigresses, refer to a very powerful female character. She’s dominant, bossy, and capable, but it’s not always a positive idea.”

Dr Minglu Chen
Department of Government and International Relations

Story by Emily Jones.
FEARLESS FILMMAKING: UNVEILING THE HIDDEN PLIGHT OF SAUDI ARABIAN WOMEN

Braving sandstorms, nervous partners and conservative bystanders don’t often top the list of challenges facing most directors. But for Saudi Arabia’s first female filmmaker, Haifaa Al Mansour, these were just some of the hurdles confronted along the way to producing her feature debut, Wadjda.

Thankfully with pluck and ingenuity, the cinematic vision of the former Master of Film Studies student was finally brought to the big screen with the film’s premiere at the Venice Film Festival in September 2012. Written and directed by Al Mansour, Wadjda depicts the quest of a spirited 10-year-old girl who wishes to own and ride a green bicycle, following her journey growing up in the deeply patriarchal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

It is a pioneering film on many levels: the first movie to be filmed entirely within Saudi Arabia, with an all-Saudi cast and by a female filmmaker and director. The film has enjoyed both international success and critical acclaim, winning the Art Cinema Award in the Orizzonti category at the Venice Film Festival and being named Best Movie at the 9th Dubai International Film Festival in 2012.

But shooting the movie in a Kingdom renowned for its widespread skepticism of the film industry presented some unique difficulties.

“Without the basic infrastructure of a film industry, every aspect of the film’s development presented challenges,” she says. “People aren’t used to having cameras around so we were especially cautious, even though we had permission to shoot publically... we had to be ready to work with what we had on any given day.”

For some of the film’s outdoor scenes in Riyadh, Al Mansour filmed from the seclusion of a van to obscure her interactions with male crew members. Even from casting stage, the team struggled with open callouts for the lead role due to sensitivities around women acting in Saudi Arabia.

Yet she remained undeterred, driven to bring the hidden plight of women in her home country to the global stage. And despite the struggles, Al Mansour points to some small but significant changes.

“Saudi is a different place than it was for girls of my generation, and the new generation has access to information and different cultures and ideas that we couldn’t even imagine growing up,” she says. “Of course there are still issues with gender equality, and lots of other issues, but change is a reality now, and in Saudi it is always a delicate and dangerous process.”

It’s hard not to draw parallels between the fearless filmmaker and her intrepid subject, but Al Mansour insists the film’s protagonist is more an amalgamation of influential figures from her childhood than a strictly autobiographical portrayal of life in Saudi Arabia.

“Growing up I knew so many girls with so much potential, and most of them never had a chance to do anything, so Wadjda is more a story about them and their situations than my own.”

Al Mansour maintains she felt unfettered in her career decision to become a filmmaker, even if her dream lacked precedent. Compelled by aspirations to further develop Saudi Arabia’s fledgling film industry, the director enhanced both her technological skills and her appreciation of the medium through undertaking a Master of Film Studies at the University of Sydney.

“I really can’t stress enough how much education and training can advance a person’s vision and capabilities,” says Al Mansour. “I had so much fun experimenting with the 16mm cameras and shooting stop-motion films in my garage. But I benefited most from all of the amazing international films I was exposed to through the courses. The discussions and readings on these films really helped me to think about the messages and techniques I wanted to build into my own project.”

As Wadjda opens in cinemas internationally, Al Mansour is carrying the weighty moniker of Saudi Arabia’s first female filmmaker in her stride.

“I definitely want to continue to tell stories about Saudi Arabia. It is such a rich environment for storytelling and has so many unexplored narratives just waiting to be tapped.”
“Growing up I knew so many girls with so much potential, and most of them never had a chance to do anything, so Wadjda is more a story about them and their situations than my own.”

HAIFAA AL MANSOUR
ALUMNA, FILM STUDIES
Professor Annamarie Jagose, Head of the School of Letters, Art and Media, has become used to the public scepticism that studying orgasms can generate. From the outset, her New Zealand government-funded research grant caused a three-week media frenzy, a response she says was not wholly unexpected.

“My work in sexuality studies has previously attracted negative tabloid attention, but I was surprised at the length of time the story was sustained in the national media,” she says.

Despite previous criticisms, Jagose maintains that orgasm is worth taking seriously, and that the humanities is an excellent lens through which to uncover fresh perspectives on sex, sexual orientation and histories of sexuality.

In her new book Orgasmology, Professor Jagose has traced the curious career of orgasm across the twentieth century, from early marriage manuals to recent sex advice, from simultaneous to fake orgasm.

“Paying critical attention to orgasm let me think differently about not just sex and sexual orientation but also seemingly unrelated ideas such as democracy, ethics, modernity and politics,” she says.

Professor Jagose notes how public perceptions of what Andy Warhol preferred to call “organza” have changed significantly over time.

“In 2013, most people think they know all that can be usefully known about orgasm. But my book suggests that orgasm still has plenty to teach us.”

And it is this importance of public awareness around sexuality that has seen Professor Jagose participate in a number of public forums on other topics she feels strongly about, such as same-sex marriage and feminism.

In a recently televised IQ2 debate on the highly contentious issue of same-sex marriage, Professor Jagose argued that same-sex marriage should not be legalised, but not for reasons you may expect.

“Allowing some gay men and lesbians to marry will not stop marriage from being exclusionary,” Professor Jagose said. “Marriage recognises the worth of some relationships by raising them over the worth of others.

When asked about the symbolic nature of marriage for gays and lesbians, Professor Jagose said: “I am drawn instead to the symbolism of the collective refusal of marriage as a political goal for lesbians and gay men.”

With an upcoming forum at the Sydney Opera House, in which she will be arguing the negative case for ‘Can Men Be Feminists?’, Professor Jagose will continue to bring her often counterintuitive ideas to a variety of audiences.

“Often our scholarly work is not directly accessible to interested public audiences so I welcome these invitations to contribute to popular discussions of issues that have a broad bandwidth of relevance for academic and non-academic publics”.

Professor Annamarie Jagose joined the University of Sydney in 2011, having previously held positions at a number of universities, most recently the University of Auckland. While there, she received an unexpected invitation to apply for a position at the University of Sydney, which she saw as “the opportunity to work with a very exciting set of disciplines in the School of Letters, Art and Media, in one of Australia’s leading arts faculties.”

Continuing to work at a research-intensive university was also important.

“Before coming to Sydney, I had done a fair bit of research development with colleagues on an institutional and national level,” she says. “I enjoy enormously the chance to work with colleagues - especially early and mid-career researchers - to plan, accelerate and deliver on research plans that matter to them.”
“Paying critical attention to orgasm let me think differently about not just sex and sexual orientation but also seemingly unrelated ideas such as democracy, ethics, modernity and politics.”

PROFESSOR
ANNA MARIE JAGOSE
SCHOOL OF LETTERS, ART AND MEDIA

Story by Kate Mayor.
“We are a society which revolves around stratification – we are built on haves and have-nots. Our entire system is somewhat designed to keep on reproducing that.”

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
TESS LEA
DEPARTMENT OF GENDER AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Story by Emily Jones.
For Associate Professor Tess Lea, the devil is in the details. Her latest fascination is the humble mosquito, a widely maligned pest that also happens to obscure many underlying social justice issues in the Northern Territory’s (NT) housing and infrastructure policies.

“Looking at this creature in detail allows you to question all kinds of things, like the politics of who lives near known mosquito breeding areas,” she says. “It will be the housing commission estates in these areas, not the elite suburbs.”

This microcosmic policy analysis animates Lea’s work in the Department of Gender and Cultural Studies. With even a study of the unassuming mosquito rippling out into some hefty questions over infrastructure effects, Lea has arrived at the core research question: ‘Can there be good social policy in regional and remote Australia?’ In Lea’s view, this seemingly simple question unearths an intricate web of implicit assumptions and contradictions.

“The short answer that I’ve come up with is ‘No, not really, but...’ she explains, “the question implodes – it and becomes part of the problem. Who is the ‘we’ that’s asking? Who is in charge of answering on behalf of others? What expertise does this ‘we’ claim?’

The ARC Queen Elizabeth II Fellow is plumbing the depths of this inquiry through several ethnographic projects across multiple policy fields, from housing and infrastructure to community development, health and education. Rejecting the need to generate singular answers, Lea has fought tirelessly to bring her research findings to bear on policy decisions.

Over the past decade she has held senior positions in the Northern Territory Departments of Health and Education, worked as a Ministerial Advisor, and led the first independent review of NT Indigenous education, Learning Lessons, in 1999. As a Churchill Fellow in 2005, Lea also travelled to the US and Canada to examine evidence-based education reform.

As a result, she implemented the first randomised control trial of a computerised literacy intervention in remote Indigenous education, ABRACADABRA, in collaboration with the Centre for Studies in Learning and Performance, Montreal. While such actions are steps in the right direction, Lea acknowledges the colossal task ahead in sparking the structural shifts necessary for radical social reform.

“We are a society which revolves around stratification – we are built on haves and have-nots. Our entire system is somewhat designed to keep on reproducing that,” she notes. “Take schools, for instance—they are in many ways sorting devices for deciding who’s going to end up in gaol and who is going to end up doing a law degree. Schools are both ladder and snake.

“Policy isn’t this abstract cold-hearted objective thing. It’s transactional, it’s between people, and it’s full of emotion,” she muses. “We have systems, habits and material interests in place, that pretty much conspire to keep things ticking away as they are.”

Lea hopes her work analysing differently enacted policy in regional and remote Australia will serve as a catalyst for national reform conversations. And ultimately, she sees her research as distilled into a meta question: What kind of country are we trying to be?

“Are we competing with China? Stewarding resources? Educating for a less vague endpoint than ‘work’?” she asks.

“My research is a portal to questions that I think are foundational for Australia. Because of its difference, dysfunction and extremes, the North forces you into an encounter with questions that are backgrounded for the southern majority.

But if you solve some of the things going on in the Indigenous/ non-Indigenous space, you can also nut through questions that are pressing for the rest of Australia.”
In the current mediascape, everyday citizens are gaining increasing control of the creation of content. The recent success of E.L. James’ erotic novel *Fifty Shades of Grey* is one shining example. James, a British housewife, rose from obscurity when her novel, originally published as fan fiction, sold over 40 million copies worldwide.

This makes PhD candidate Joseph Brennan’s thesis on Slash Fiction incredibly timely. A subset of fan fiction, slash queers the bonds between heterosexual male characters. Whilst it may be a more specific form of fan fiction than that epitomised in *Fifty Shades of Grey*, it is no less influential. Starting out in the 1970s, with underground fan zines, slash eroticised the friendships between *Star Trek’s* Kirk and Spock and *The Lord of the Rings’* Frodo and Sam among others. Now the practice takes place across all forms, and has paved the way for fans to become more influential in the creation of media content.

“[Media theorist] Henry Jenkins started off talking about fans as the ‘peasants’ of the cultural economy,” Brennan explains, “[But] in 2006 he changed that. He now talks about fans playing a central role in the cultural economy. What we’re seeing is that there is now the opportunity for actualisation of fannish interests within mainstream media texts. Slash is representative of a new era where there’s a dialogue between media producers and fans.”

It was as an undergraduate that Brennan realised he had an aptitude for media theory. Arriving at the University of Sydney inspired by academic work on active audiences and fan communities, Brennan decided to write his Honours thesis on Slash Fiction. He went on to receive the University Medal.

“That was a really good endorsement,” says Brennan of the award, “and it gave me the confidence to undertake my PhD in that research area.”

Brennan believes slash is responsible for the increased visibility of homosexual characters and same-sex desire on our film and television screens. Many shows are now acutely aware of, and cater to, their slash followers.

“Slash fans are perhaps the best example of engaged, critically aware media producers,” says Brennan.

Slash fiction may be a nuanced area of research, but it is also largely interdisciplinary, encompassing fields such as gender and sexuality studies, sociology and information technology. Brennan has uncovered that writing slash is a predominantly female practice, where an explicit critique of male sexuality and male desire subverts traditional patriarchal power structures. Whatever the impetus for writing slash fiction, it often “unhinges stereotypical depictions and leads to more variety.” Brennan believes that “this can only be a good thing.”

Brennan cites his proudest academic achievement as his Postgraduate Teaching Fellowship. Within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, up to eight Fellowships are awarded each year to outstanding PhD candidates. The Fellowship, which enables candidates to co-ordinate units of study, allows for “an opportunity to find that nexus between research and teaching”.

“As both a student and an academic I completely endorse the University of Sydney as a fantastic place,” Brennan states. “Arts at Sydney has an incredible reputation the world over, and if you want to be in this area it really is the place to be.”
“Slash fans are perhaps the best example of engaged, critically aware media producers.”

JOSEPH BRENnan
PHD CANDIDATE, MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS
After a prolific diplomatic career spanning 34 years, Adjunct Professor Richard Broinowski swapped his foreign affairs hat for an academic cap in 2000. Now the former Ambassador to Vietnam, South Korea, Mexico, the Central American Republics and Cuba, he is using his foreign policy know-how to shore up the expertise of a new generation of fledgling foreign correspondents, preparing them with deeper cross-cultural understandings through journalistic work across Asia.

Professor Broinowski is founder of the Myer Fellowship internship program, a successful scheme introduced to the University of Sydney upon his arrival to the Department of Media and Communications in 2002. Since its inception, more than 100 aspiring journalists have travelled to Bangkok, Phnom Penh, Manila, Kuala Lumpur, Seoul and Tokyo to work in local media organisations. With Broinowski’s assistance, in 2013 the Department of Media and Communications expanded these internships to include placements at media outlets in New Delhi, Santiago and Buenos Aires, made possible by new funding arrangements with country foundations administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

As former General Manager of ABC Radio Australia, Broinowski is all too aware of the need for journalists to contribute intelligent and incisive reporting on the region, and stresses the importance of a sound working knowledge of Asia.

“I frequently had the feeling that the Australian media, both electronic and print, didn’t get the story right on Asia,” he said. “Sometimes stories were opportunistic and superficial and they were just going for the main story without knowing any of the background.”

He points to the global coverage of Japan’s Fukushima Daichii meltdown in March 2011 as just one of many examples where a lack of critical background perspective among Western journalists led to misleading reports on the crisis.

“A large number of foreign correspondents descended upon Fukushima prefecture, many sent at short notice by distant editors desperate for a story. But few of them spoke any Japanese, they didn’t understand Japanese culture, and some had a tendency to caste Japan as some kind of third-world country.”

Broinowski has married these twin passions for diplomacy and current affairs reportage in his latest book, *Fallout from Fukushima* (Penguin). Chronicling the lead-up and causes of the incident, the book considers the meltdown’s contradictory aftermath in light of revelations uncovered during fieldwork in Fukushima.

“There’s been a huge reaction and a popular anti-nuclear movement has developed,” he said. “The nuclear industry has taken a knock, both in Japan and in the international community. But whether it’s a deathblow or not is unclear. I think there’s still a lot of propaganda about nuclear power that’s very potent.”

Despite retiring from diplomacy in 1997, Broinowski has not ceased his engagement with foreign affairs. As vice president of the Australian Institute of International Affairs in NSW, and as an active commentator in public media, he remains an outspoken observer of Australia’s foreign policies.

Among the troubling developments ahead, in Broinowski’s view, are the difficulties involved in Australia’s attempt to strike a balance between our security allegiance to the United States and our vital and growing commercial relations with China.

“Given our status as a major trading country, we have far too few diplomatic missions abroad,” he said. “Increased government spending to open more embassies is needed, as well as more qualified diplomatic staff with proper language skills.

“Diplomacy is at the front line of Australia’s defence. The cost of one new F 35 fighter jet ($90 million and counting) could finance several new diplomatic missions, which would be much more effective in pursuing Australia’s national interests.”
“I frequently had the feeling that the Australian media, both electronic and print, didn’t get the story right on Asia. Sometimes stories were opportunistic and superficial and they were just going for the main story without knowing any of the background.”

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR RICHARD BROINOWSKI
DEPARTMENT OF MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

Story by Emily Jones.
Master of Cultural Studies alumna Amanda Shalala lives by the mantra: “Sport is life, the rest is mere detail.”

With words like these, it’s not hard to see the passion that has driven this self-confessed sports addict to a remarkable start to her reporting career. Shalala has already accumulated a slew of impressive experiences on her resume. She was selected as the first ever female recipient of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation’s (ABC) Television Woman Sports Broadcaster Internship in 2007. This opened doors into her current sports reporting positions at ABC News 24, and her role as presenter and reporter for Grandstand TV. Added to this are recurring sports segments on Triple J Radio, her own rugby league show on Grandstand Digital Radio, and featured panellist spots on various ABC programs.

Now the talented young journalist has kicked a new goal as a reporter at the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games. This offered Shalala the chance to interview some of Australia’s sporting treasures, including gold medal-winning cyclist, Anna Meares, and Australian Paralympic flagbearer, Greg Smith.

“Covering the London Olympics and Paralympics was definitely a career highlight,” she says. “I felt really privileged to be reporting from some of the biggest sporting events in the world, and sharing that with Australians watching back home. I got to witness some of the most inspiring sporting feats ever achieved and that’s something I’ll never forget.”

Prior to that, Shalala worked on the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games; another feat she ranks amongst her proudest achievements.

“It was incredible to cover an event of such a massive scale in another country that has its own customs and traditions. This coverage won the ABC a lot of awards and I felt really proud to be a part of that.”

Despite entering a highly competitive and male-dominated industry, Shalala maintains an unshakable confidence in her ability to climb the career ladder.

This stems from a deep admiration of her parents, who immigrated to Australia 35 years ago from a small village in Lebanon “without much to their name.”

“I can’t believe that they came from a war-torn country and have built a life here so they could provide me with everything I ever needed. That’s why I grew up without any doubt, knowing that I could always achieve anything I wanted - because I saw my parents do that.”

Grounding Shalala’s reporting experience is an appreciation of the sociocultural factors underlying sport, gained throughout her Master of Cultural Studies degree.

“Going to the University of Sydney was incredible - I felt like this was where I belonged,” she says. “I was challenged every day and was learning constantly. Having been at the University of Sydney, I know that it gives you a grounding to excel and you can’t be intimidated by what’s outside of the University walls.”

Bringing these insights to bear on her reporting, Shalala hopes to promote female and disability sports in Australia - two areas, in her estimation, with “a lot of room for improvement”.

“The ABC’s charter is very much about representing all facets of Australian society and I’d really like to see these areas getting the coverage they deserve,” she says. “I love communicating my passion about these particular areas to others so I can convert the ‘non-believers’ into loving it.”

Though she’s already realised her lifelong dream of covering the Olympics and the Paralympics, Shalala has set her sights ahead to the 2014 Football World Cup in Brazil. Until then, she remains focused on the long-term goal of perfecting the craft of sports reporting.

“I’m driven by being the best sports journalist and broadcaster I can be. I set very high standards for myself and I always strive to achieve them. I don’t really accept anything less than that from myself.”
“The ABC’s charter is very much about representing all facets of Australian society and I’d really like to see these areas getting the coverage they deserve. I love communicating my passion about these particular areas to others so I can convert the ‘non-believers’ into loving it.”

AMANDA SHALALA
ALUMNA, CULTURAL STUDIES
The stern-faced girl appears square-jawed and defiant, one arm raised in salute to a crowd of comrades standing in solidarity behind her. Her name is Marsinah, and with her death in 1993 she became the inspiration for a generation of labour activists fighting for Java’s ‘little people’.

This stony-faced figure stares out from a poster on the door to Associate Professor Michele Ford’s office in the Department of Indonesian Studies; a constant reminder to those passing by of the precarious state of Indonesian workers’ rights.

The complex flow of power dynamics, so beautifully epitomised by Marsinah, is what fascinates Ford, one of the world’s foremost scholars on the Indonesian labour movement.

“There was this discourse in Indonesia about how the ‘little people’, the ordinary people, had no power – that they didn’t know anything and couldn’t do anything, and they just had to accept the benevolent dictatorship from above,” Ford explains. “Marsinah showed that that wasn’t true. She’s part of that great tradition of individuals really standing up when it matters.”

Ford is leading the charge for such stories to gain greater visibility in Australia and beyond as inaugural Director of the new Sydney Southeast Asia Centre (SSEAC), a multidisciplinary initiative bringing together more than 200 academics and honoraries from across the University of Sydney. The Centre is unique in its multifaceted approach, combining a broad spectrum of academic disciplines, deep area studies expertise, and regional engagement.

Ford believes SSEAC opens up a wealth of new possibilities by breaking down the academic silos that have traditionally constrained scholars and scholar-practitioners.

“SSEAC is about building bridges internally within Sydney, but also in the region. It’s not just about academic research, but about bringing academic research to bear on real problems in the region. That’s where it’s very different from traditional area studies centres.”

Despite only commencing operations in July 2012, SSEAC has already enjoyed remarkable success. In addition to showcasing Sydney’s Southeast Asia expertise, the Centre has been instrumental in initiating meaningful dialogue between the University and key players in the region. In November last year, a SSEAC delegation was invited to present their research at an international conference in Bangkok to mark 60 years of Australia-Thailand relations. They also had an opportunity to discuss development policy with members of the Laos National Assembly. Not long after, the Centre hosted a visit by the Laos Education Minister to Sydney. The Centre’s formula certainly appears to be working.

“Asia, especially Southeast Asia, offers an opportunity for Australian graduates to really give something back,” Ford says. “They can really put in practice all the values we try to impart to students. The Centre is built on the premise that the same is true for our academics. It’s a way of getting out of the ivory tower and really turning our academic insights into something very real.”

As one of Australia’s leading experts on Indonesia, Ford has also taken an active role in debates surrounding the federal government’s renewed commitment to Asia through its ‘Asian Century’ White Paper. She says a more nuanced appreciation of Southeast Asia is needed if the White Paper’s good intentions are to be turned into practice.

“As more Australians have structured opportunities as young people to not just think about Asia but to live, study and work in the region, they’ll see that things are different, and yet the same. There’s nothing revolutionary in that idea, but it will help Australians to move beyond the idea of Asia as the ‘Other’ and start to really embrace it. This is another area where SSEAC plans to do its bit.”
“Asia, especially Southeast Asia, offers an opportunity for Australian graduates to really give something back. They can really put in practice all the values we try to impart to students. The Centre is built on the premise that the same is true for our academics. It’s a way of getting out of the ivory tower and really turning our academic insights into something very real.”

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
MICHELE FORD
DEPARTMENT OF
INDONESIAN STUDIES
Recently joining us from Brown University, Professor James Der Derian, Michael Hintze Chair of International Security Studies and Director of the Centre for International Security Studies, considers the University of Sydney as being uniquely placed to witness and participate in a significant global power shift in international politics.

“I wanted to see firsthand what it means when power reconfigures on an East/West, North/South axis, as part of the so-called ‘Asian pivot’” says Professor Der Derian.

With a shift in economic power towards the East, a redeployment of US forces from the Atlantic and Middle East to the Pacific region, and the rise of new city-states and regional powers, Australia enjoys a geographical as well as intellectual advantage for observing and influencing new trends in international security.

“Universities are the last of the quasi-autonomous institutions,” says Professor Der Derian. He believes this is why universities have a special responsibility to educate and inform the public on international affairs that are often distorted by partisan views or over-hyped for commercial purposes.

Many of the areas that Professor Der Derian specialises in, such as military transformation, diplomatic practices, and global media, combine traditional and non-traditional approaches. He prefers - indeed insists - on the need to get his message out through multiple media, particularly given our information-saturated environment.

“If you really want to have an impact in international politics today you have to be media fluent, which means not just consuming but producing information through multiple media.”

And Professor Der Derian has been actively producing media through early development of MP3 file sharing, online discussion boards, and videoconferencing (now known as podcasts, blogs, and skypping). He has also produced award-winning documentaries on topics that include the virtualisation of global politics, the revolution in military affairs, the impact of 9/11, and the role of culture in the Iraq and Afghan wars.

Creating teams of students, graphic designers, and programmers, he produced cutting-edge websites (infopeace.org and globalsecuritymatrix.org) to challenge conventional thinking about security issues. And he began producing documentary films to raise dissenting views about 9/11 and the war in Iraq.

“People kept using this line (about Iraq): ‘If we only knew then what we know now’. Well, people did know then but they weren’t heard, the story didn’t get out, and it subsequently didn’t have any policy impact,” he explains. “So our team, the InfoTechWarPeace Project, made a documentary, After 9/11, to show what was known but not heard and hopefully prevent another unnecessary war like Iraq from happening.”

Der Derian’s third feature-length documentary, Human Terrain: War Becomes Academic (co-directed with David and Michael Udris), was originally intended as a film to show “how the military was trying to transform itself in the face of losing an insurgency in Iraq and Afghanistan”. But after a member of his research project was killed by an IED in Afghanistan, the film morphed into a story about what happens when academics join the effort to map the ‘human terrain’ as part of a new counter-insurgency strategy.

Taking a highly complex and controversial topic and making it accessible for a wide audience, the film attracted international acclaim, receiving the Audience Award at the Festival dei Popoli in Florence and getting accepted into almost every major European and Canadian film festival.

Having proved that the medium is ever more a part of the message, Professor Der Derian plans to expand his approach to disseminating knowledge and influencing policy now that he is based at the University of Sydney.

“I see an opportunity here for a convergence of security, media, and film studies, one that will allow us to take the good ideas that percolate in major institutions like the University of Sydney and help them reach a wider audience - not just the Australian or the Pacific, but a truly global audience.”
“If you really want to have an impact in international politics today you have to be media fluent, which means not just consuming but producing information through multiple media.”

PROFESSOR JAMES DER DERIAN
CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES

Story by Kate Mayor.
“I’ve done interviews with chefs who have said women get to this age where they want to get married and have kids and so it’s not really conducive to a career as a chef. You really have to make a choice. And that’s just sort of the line I’ve been given, but it’s something that I can’t really let go of.”

NANCY LEE
PHD CANDIDATE, CULTURAL STUDIES
When deciding on a topic for her PhD, Nancy Lee was conflicted between building on her honours expertise around masculinity, or following her family-ingrained passion for food. When her supervisor suggested that she do both, the penny dropped on what has developed into a fascinating examination of the male-led industry of celebrity chefs.

Focusing on the Sydney food scene, where men reign supreme, Nancy has conducted extensive interviews that have shed light onto this demanding domain.

“It’s really hard to get to the top if you’re a woman. It’s hard for anyone really. It takes years and years of experience before you gain the authority for people to rally around you,” she says. “I’ve done interviews with chefs who have said women get to this age where they want to get married and have kids and so it’s not really conducive to a career as a chef. You really have to make a choice. And that’s just sort of the line I’ve been given, but it’s something that I can’t really let go of.”

Despite the emergence of hospitality programs targeted at women to give them the skills to keep going and “advance the chef ladder”, the female chefs Nancy has interviewed seem dubious. “I have been told that it seems patronising; you need this special help because you’re a woman, because it’s a man’s world,” she explains.

Similarly patronising can be the way the media reiterates gender differences in the kitchen. “There’s a review that (Sydney Morning Herald food critic) Terry Durack did of the all-female kitchen at Bistrode and he said, ‘It looks like the Bistrode team has the strategy right: send the bloke off to earn a crust in the city, allowing the girls to stay at home and look after the family (business). They divide and conquer; we all win’ and I think that really effects how women are seen in the industry.”

But it is another form of media that Nancy is finding the most crucial to her research, and that is social media. In addition to utilising Twitter as a platform for sourcing interviews, she also uses it to observe the ways that chefs are interacting online. “The cult of celebrity chefs is very participatory. They are inviting you to tweet at them, and follow them on Instagram,” she says. “I sit on Twitter a lot and observe what’s going on. Chefs tweet at each other, they tweet Instagram photos of new menu items. It’s all happening on Twitter!”

In between researching traditional and online media around the Sydney food scene, and interviewing the likes of Hamish Ingham of Bar H, Jowett Yu from Mr Wong, and Analiese Gregory, of Quay fame, Nancy has her postdoctoral research kept in check by ‘work in progress’ meetings every fortnight. PhD candidates, Masters researchers, and curious observing honours students come together to present their work. Nancy finds this “experience in practice” and the feedback she receives from academics and colleagues invaluable.

“The staff in the Department of Gender and Cultural Studies, because it is quite small, make an effort to really make the experience collegial and encouraging,” she says. Describing her first Gender Studies subject as being “like an epiphany”, she says she appreciates the discipline because, “you’re not constrained by any styles of research or any principles of theory. You draw from lots of different disciplines, and that gives you a lot of room to move. It’s a really great department to be in.”
ANCIENT CLASSICS: A CONTEMPORARY VIEW

When pressed on why the Classics and Ancient History are still meaningful to study, Dr Alastair Blanshard doesn’t hesitate in his reply. “Why do our banks look like Greek temples? Why do we sculpt our bodies to look like a Greek statute? Why is the script in which we write called Times New Roman? From our notions of beauty to where we do our banking, so much of the furniture of our lives is classical in origin. And often, we don’t even realise it.”

Throughout his academic career, Dr Blanshard has been studying the origins of that “furniture”. “What I’m really interested in is the impact of the classical world on the modern,” says Dr Blanshard. “The ways in which the classics influence political debates and the ways in which classics can speak to us today.”

As a way of looking at these new understandings of the ancient in the contemporary, Dr Blanshard has tracked various classical ideas through history to now. His first book *Hercules: A Heroic Life* traced interpretations of the figure of Hercules throughout the ages, from the Renaissance to 18th Century France to modern comic books and cinema.

His latest published work, *Classics on Screen: Greece and Rome on Film*, also looks at the cinematic representations of the Ancient world. “We took ten films, from Cecile B. DeMille’s *Cleopatra* [1934] to *Gladiator* [2000] and looked at how they interpreted the ancient world to tell the audience something about their own particular context. We were interested in the myths.”

It was such myths that originally sparked Dr Blanshard’s interest in ancient history as a child. “No one in my family has any background in history,” Dr Blanshard recalls. “[But] I loved the Greek stories and legends. And after taking a holiday to Athens I knew that ancient history was something I wanted to study.”

After completing his Arts/Law degree, Dr Blanshard won a scholarship to Cambridge, where he pursued a PhD on Greek Law. What started as a passion translated into a career when he took up a teaching position at Oxford. He went on to hold a fellowship at the Center for Hellenic Studies, an institute run by Harvard that is based in Washington D.C. He returned home to Australia and has been at the University of Sydney since 2005.

He believes the Department of Classics and Ancient History is “hands down the best department in the country”. “The Australasian Society for Classical Studies [ASCS] runs competitions for both translations and essays,” Blanshard explains, “And for the second year running, our students have taken out every prize. A clean sweep.”

Blanshard says that the quality and diversity of his colleagues in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is world-class. “Ancient History is very interdisciplinary. We look at literature, philosophy, archaeology, art history. I’m constantly in touch with people from other departments, and having great colleagues makes such a difference. The depth of skills that surround me is invaluable.”

After studying at some of the most prestigious universities around the world, Blanshard has found the environment at the University of Sydney to be a questioning one. “In England no one asks you “Why study Latin?” or “Why study Greek?” I think the Australian academic environment is very egalitarian, which provokes a greater self-reflexivity. I’m put on the spot here, and I’m often asked why I think the Classics are still relevant to study.”

And for many of the reasons outlined above, he always answers these questions with ease.
“What I’m really interested in is the impact of the classical world on the modern. The ways in which the classics influence political debates and the ways in which classics can speak to us today.”

DR ALASTAIR BLANSHARD
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND ANCIENT HISTORY
AN ICONIC LEGACY: 
THE BIRTH OF SCULPTURE BY 
THE SEA

When David Handley (BA '87 LLB '89) founded Sculpture by the Sea 16 years ago, it was a one-day show that he had to underwrite by putting up his own apartment as security. Now, the public sculpture exhibition, set against the dramatic backdrop of the Bondi to Tamarama Coastal Walk, has grown to become one of Australia's most iconic events.

From humble beginnings, Sculpture by the Sea has earned its place as a welcome fixture on Australia's cultural calendar. Held in spring each year, the three week event is considered a major tourism beacon, attracting up to 500,000 visitors annually. The exhibition's formula has been replicated in Cottesloe, Western Australia and Aarhus, Denmark.

Outside of Australia, Sculpture by the Sea is perhaps better known as the well-publicised site of their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Frederik and Crown Princess Mary of Denmark's first date in 2000; a fortuitous setting that helped bolster the exhibition's international reputation.

"The Crown Prince has said to the people of Denmark that as he was taking the first steps around Sculpture by the Sea, he was taking the first step in his relationship with Crown Princess Mary," says Handley. "While he was there, he immediately thought of a location that he'd like the exhibition to be held in Denmark, and I worked with them to make it a reality."

Handley first found inspiration for the open-air arts event while working as a lawyer in Prague. Upon discovering a sculpture park featuring contemporary works set among medieval ruins, he realised how to channel his love of free public events into a reality. With the help of volunteers, a shoestring budget, and media exposure, David launched the first Sculpture by the Sea with great success.

Reminiscing on his time as a student, Handley's single happiest memory is of playing in his band 'Boiled Lolly Seduction' for Manning Bar band competitions. "I was a mediocre singer but it was great fun," he jokes.

But it was in the University's lecture halls where Handley says he learned more about the world and his place in it, strengthening his resolve to make a difference in his career.

"I felt the Department of History was world class – the academics were fantastic, inspiring, passionate and knowledgeable in their fields of study," he says. "My favourite professor was Robert Dreher (now retired), who introduced me to the intellectual thinking of Europe in the 19th Century and did it in a really fun way. But not just light-hearted fun – he made it engaging by taking us back to that time and to see how the world today exists as a result."

"Understanding history inspired me to want to create something that might make the world a slightly better place."

For his work as founding director of Sculpture by the Sea, Handley was presented with a University of Sydney Alumni Award for Community Achievement in 2012. Yet there are many elements to Handley's success. He has also overseen the introduction of Fiji Swims, an annual event drawing swimmers from across the globe to participate in the 'most beautiful swim in the South Pacific.' Additionally, in 2011 he launched the ‘What Degree? Which University?’ website as a go-to resource to assist school leavers in selecting their university courses.

Of all of his many achievements since graduating, Handley says Sculpture by the Sea still holds a most special place.

"I remember back in 1997, on the first afternoon of Sculpture by the Sea, I sat back and thought that after a decade of contemplating what I wanted to do, I felt I had now achieved something that was worthy," he says.
“I remember back in 1997, on the first afternoon of Sculpture by the Sea, I sat back and thought that after a decade of contemplating what I wanted to do, I felt I had now achieved something that was worthy,”

DAVID HANDLEY
ALUMNUS, ARTS/LAW

Story by Emily Jones.
As immigration policy becomes an increasingly divisive issue both in Australia and globally, one academic is examining an unspoken undercurrent of the debate: gender.

Dr Anna Boucher, from the Department of Government and International Relations, is currently working on a new book analysing the gendered dimensions of migration, titled *Gender, Migration and the Global Race for Talent*.

Through comparing Australian and Canadian migration policies, Boucher hopes to uncover the ways in which women enter the migration cycle as skilled workers, and the particular barriers they face.

“The book looks at how gender plays into the focus for the ‘best and the brightest’ skilled migrants around the world,” she says. “We often think of a skilled migrant as being genderless, but then when we start to interrogate our assumptions a bit more, they are actually probably an IT expert or a doctor, and often the assumption is that’s a male migrant.”

By harnessing insights from 90 interviews with high-level bureaucrats, key policy makers, feminist and ethnic groups, as well as original archival research and statistics, Dr Boucher is attempting to piece together a more nuanced picture of the ways in which gender enters the design of immigration policy. According to her preliminary findings, some visa types are “more or less gender friendly”, leading to an underrepresentation of female migrants in skilled immigration policy.

“There’s no real country that is a great exemplar of gender awareness in skilled immigration policy,” she posits. “Sadly, the focus on highly skilled temporary labour in recent years seems to not really accommodate female migrants very well.”

Dr Boucher believes the media-saturated focus on asylum seekers, while important, is nonetheless distorting public perceptions of the broader immigration milieu.

“I think the asylum seeker debate is a bit of a red herring,” she says. “Asylum actually makes up a pretty small percentage of Australia’s immigration intake: less than 8 per cent. A lot of other areas of immigration that are really important are ignored because of the disproportionate focus on asylum. There’s a gender story in all types of immigration, and yet usually it’s totally absent from mainstream debates.”

To further understand the complexities of global immigration patterns, Dr Boucher is collaborating with Dr Justin Guest from Harvard University on another project, *Crossroads of Migration: A Global Approach to National Differences*. This work represents the first scholarly attempt to create a systematic typology of immigration outcomes, based on OECD data and original data collected from countries such as China, Singapore and South Africa.

“Unlike other migration studies, we try to bring in much more of a focus on the global South,” she notes. “What we’ve noticed is that 48 per cent of immigrant stock is in the global South, yet a lot of the scholarship is antiquated and focuses on mainly Western Europe. And of course that’s just anachronistic in the current world, where the global South is becoming a central economic power bloc.”

Dr Boucher says her interest in immigration studies was likely sparked from being of migrant background herself, with her mother migrating to Australia from Poland in the 1950s. Such family migration motivates another of Dr Boucher’s research projects on elder migration from China to Australia; an issue she considers of increasing importance as Australian immigration becomes more Asian-based.

“It’s a good time to be a migration researcher in Australia,” she says. “There’s a lot to write about as there has been an absence of scholarship for quite a while. The Department of Government and International Relations is very big now and there are a lot of new staff from overseas, so there’s an exciting and vibrant energy here.”
“There’s no real country that is a great exemplar of gender awareness in skilled immigration policy. Sadly, the focus on highly skilled temporary labour in recent years seems to not really accommodate female migrants very well.”

Dr Anna Boucher
Department of Government and International Relations
“We need to divest ourselves of a language that uses words like authenticity. If a digital image is not authentic, then what is it? What are some of the rich potentials of digital?”

DR BRUCE ISAACS
DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY AND FILM STUDIES

Story by Andrew Court.
As a specialist in film aesthetics and the evolution of American cinema, Dr Bruce Isaacs from the Department of Art History and Film Studies, is “interested in how cinema has evolved, from the classics up until the present moment, and particularly the contemporary forms of cinematic experience”. And with advancements in film leading to digital cinema, he has been taking a close look at the shift from celluloid film to digital film.

“I wanted to come to terms philosophically with the way we experience cinema,” explains Dr Isaacs. “What are the differences between the way we experience celluloid images and digital images? A celluloid image is a complete photograph, whilst a digital image is never complete. What does that mean for the way we understand film?”

This is one of the questions he has asked in his newest book, titled *The Orientation of Future Cinema: Technology, Aesthetics Spectacle* (Bloomsbury 2013). The book is receiving high praise, with one reviewer stating that it “breaks new ground in cinema and media studies”. When researching his book, Dr Isaacs talked with technicians and theorists about the tension that exists in the industry between celluloid and the digital future of film. Celluloid films, with their scratches and imperfections, have been seen by the media to be in genuine crisis, but Dr Isaacs takes a more positive approach.

“We need to divest ourselves of a language that uses words like authenticity. If a digital image is not authentic, then what is it?” He believes instead that we should be asking: “what are some of the rich potentials of digital?”

The book is the latest academic achievement for Dr Bruce Isaacs, whose affiliation with the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences goes back to his days as a student. After majoring in English, Dr Isaacs went on to pursue postgraduate study. In 2010, he made the move to the Department of Art History and Film Studies, where he has been researching and lecturing ever since.

“I’ve been interested in cinema since I was a child,” Isaacs explains, “I’ve become increasingly fascinated with it.” Isaacs’ passion for film was cemented when he undertook an examination into the works of filmmaker David Lynch for his honours thesis.

With his book now in print, Dr Isaacs is turning his attention to research on genre cinema. Looking at the films of Sergio Leone, Dario Argento, Brian De Palma and Quentin Tarantino, he will explore the subversion of genre and how these filmmakers have influenced each other.

For Dr Isaacs, The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is proving to be both an inspiring and nurturing space in which to undertake this research. “I feel that the University has a strong investment in the Arts, and in cultural engagement, and so I’m privileged to be part of such an environment.”

Dr Isaacs believes that cinema today is as important a form of cultural engagement as it ever was. “In that sense,” he says, “I feel a real sense of purpose in what I do.”
Kim Anderson loves a good book. So, despite a long and diverse career in the media, this proud alumna continues to find satisfaction in her successful online creation, literary hub TheReadingRoom.com.

In a global society rapidly becoming more reliant on online media, Kim believes the creation of TheReadingRoom.com, launched in 2009, could not have been timelier for readers, authors and publishers alike.

“What we really want is for people to be able to discover new books,” Kim says, “particularly as audiences are not going into bookshops as much as they did in the past and we’ve seen many independent booksellers and book chains (like Borders) close down. Our role is to provide a way for publishers to connect with their audiences and a way for readers to discover and browse new books and new authors, manage and share their reading life. So we see ourselves as the independent bookseller of the future.”

The Reading Room is a life-log of people’s reading patterns. It allows members to create their own bookshelf, keep a reading diary, and share their views and reviews with others. And it provides access to expert reviews from The Guardian and the New York Times, as well as providing recommendations and updates about the current bestselling books on the market.

While seeming an obvious idea in hindsight, Kim says it was her love of reading and her experience in online platforms that led her to create a place where like-minded readers could meet online to discuss and share their passion for books. They are not a social network, but rather use these tools in addition to providing curated content.

From relatively humble beginnings, TheReadingRoom.com now caters to more than 400,000 members worldwide. The broad appeal of literature translates into the similarly broad demographic of the website, with members from dozens of countries using the forums and reading lists to share their love of books.

“We have a global audience; but while we wanted the site to be global, we also wanted it to be local, to support the local reading community, local authors and local voices,” Kim says. “We loved the idea that someone in Germany could be talking to someone in the US about a German writer, or an Australian could be talking to someone in China.”

After completing a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Sydney and then serving as a Fellow of Senate from March 2004 to February 2011, Kim knows how important it is to maintain a sense of community in life.

“I studied Arts ... and I was fortunate enough to be trained as an editor, and went on to edit many of Australia’s leading historians and academics,” she says.

“I don’t think that opportunity would have come along without having a degree from an institution like Sydney University, that has as an outstanding international reputation as a centre of teaching and learning, and first class research,” Kim says.

“Later, I was elected a Fellow of Senate, serving for seven years, which was a huge honour and I continue to think about ways in which I can serve the University in the way it has served me. It’s an inspirational place.”
“Our role is to provide a way for publishers to connect with their audiences and a way for readers to discover and browse new books and new authors, manage and share their reading life. So we see ourselves as the independent bookseller of the future.”

Story by Byron Howard.
NOT JUST SCIENCE:
THE SOCIAL SIDE OF GLOBAL WARMING

When Professor David Schlosberg arrived in Australia two years ago, he was pleased with the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences’ willingness to embrace the teaching and research of climate change.

“The Faculty has identified interdisciplinary environmental studies as a key area of research. They’re supporting it and investing in it, and there’s going to be a growing emphasis on it as we move into the future,” he says.

Professor Schlosberg asserts that the problems facing the environment “are not just an issue for the sciences”, so being part of a large humanities faculty will benefit his research on the social aspects affecting changing climate.

Schlosberg is a member of the Faculty’s Environmental Humanities Group, which is a multidisciplinary group of scholars examining the environment in relation to cultural practices, led by Professor Iain McCalman from the Department of History.

“We really want to establish the University of Sydney as a leading centre for thinking about the relationship between humans and nature,” says Schlosberg. And with the Environmental Humanities Group receiving a major grant from the Mellon Foundation in 2012 to establish an Environment and Humanities Observatory in the Asia Pacific, partnering with four other such observatories in the US and Europe, it appears they are on the road to success.

Professor Schlosberg also heads up the Sydney Network on Climate Change and Society (SNCCS), which is dedicated specifically to examining the social and cultural impacts of climate change. “We’re not going to stop climate change,” says Schlosberg, who is more interested in the politics of adaptation as opposed to the sciences of prevention. “It’s important to think about slowing it down, but the real focus has to be on how to adapt.” SNCCS is examining this transition, looking at vulnerability, adaptation, and governance in social, political, and cultural realms.

Schlosberg and his team in SNCCS are undertaking research into the new “environmentalism of everyday life,” as he calls it. For Schlosberg, these initiatives for “sustainable materialism” illustrate how environmental movements are changing their tactics and foci.

“The groups used to rally Congress (or Parliament) to change national law, but they were constantly shot down,” says Schlosberg of his findings. “Now there’s been a devolution to a state level and a local level. Rather than persuading the government to ban pesticides, communities are beginning to grow their own food. There are new circulations and flows of food, and a support of local products and institutions.” This shift is a result of a desire for people to live in a way that is more in tune with their values. “It’s about stepping out of the processes and practices that are environmentally destructive,” he explains. Many of these themes are discussed in Schlosberg’s forthcoming co-authored book, *The Climate-Challenged Society* (Oxford 2013).

The depth and variety of Schlosberg’s research areas reflect the expanding nature of environmental studies at the University of Sydney. When Schlosberg arrived in 2011 there was one class in Environmental Politics. In a short space of time, three more classes have been added and “the students just love it.”

Schlosberg is now feeling at home in Sydney and is “interested in how it is going to adapt to climate change as an urban environment- from its food processes to its architectural designs.” He is also feeling at home and thriving in the Faculty. “It really is a great climate to be working in.” There’s no pun intended.
“We really want to establish the University of Sydney as a leading centre for thinking about the relationship between humans and nature.”

PROFESSOR DAVID SCHLOSBERG
DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Story by Andrew Court.
How does a Chinese academic end up teaching German Studies at an Australian university? For Associate Professor Yixu Lu, it was a passion for German literature, most notably the works of Heinrich von Kleist, that led her on a path to Sydney, and into the oldest German Studies program in the country.

“I became fascinated by Heinrich Von Kleist’s writings when I was in China,” says Associate Professor Lu. “He was one of those authors with a very small oeuvre: he wrote a total of only eight dramas and eight stories, and some poems and essays.”

“I started to read Kleist and I thought: such richness! How can you do that in 20 pages? Create a whole universe of problems? I found him fascinating. I thought: ‘I am going to go to Germany to study his works’.”

Associate Professor Yixu Lu was already fond of the German language prior to arriving in Europe, but she was not expecting to be as taken by the culture and history of Germany as she was; a culture that in some ways was vastly different from her own.

“I found it very interesting that Germans who were born during or after the Second World War, who did not actively contribute to the atrocities, could deal with all that. It’s not something they avoid talking about; actually, they talk about it constantly… That is very different to the culture where I come from. If something bad happens (in China) and you are guilty of it, it’s a shame, you don’t talk about things you are ashamed of.”

But when it comes to her own learning of the history of Germany, Associate Professor Lu prefers to explore it through the literary canon.

“In literature you don’t only find how many people died, how many houses were destroyed, but you also learn how people felt in those times;” she says. “That’s something you won’t get from a strict historical account. I think history and literature are intertwined for me, and I think that with literature I can know the past emotionally, not just factually.”

In this same vein, Associate Professor Lu is also researching adaptations of Greek myths in German literature. She has found that German culture is interlinked with ancient Greek culture, and as a result this affinity has played out through the retelling of ancient Greek myths since the Enlightenment.

Although her research on German literature extends beyond her original interest in Heinrich von Kleist, it was inevitably the “most played German playwright” in contemporary German theatre that led her to Australia. Associate Professor Yixu Lu saw a postdoc position focused on Kleist at Adelaide University advertised in a German newspaper. From Adelaide she went on to hold positions at a number of other Australian universities, but she has found her academic home in Sydney, where the Germanic Studies program is thriving.

“In our discipline the choice is not big,” she says. “German is not flourishing like China Studies, so there is a limit to what you can choose. I’m really lucky to be able to work in Sydney because this is one of the very few (universities) left in Australia that still has a very strong German program, where students can learn more than just the language. You can still specialise in German Studies doing a major, honours and PhD, which is no longer the case at many universities.

“The University of Sydney has a very long tradition in Germanic Studies. It is the oldest Germanic Studies program in Australia, so I am happy and proud to be a part of it.”
“I became fascinated by Heinrich Von Kleist’s writings when I was in China. He was one of those authors with a very small oeuvre: he wrote a total of only eight dramas and eight stories, and some poems and essays.”

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
YIXU LU
DEPARTMENT OF GERMANIC STUDIES

Story by Kate Mayor.
“I’m very much indebted to the University of Sydney. I owe them my education, and they gave me my first job in the arts industry and a scholarship that allowed me to study in the first place.”

RHIANNA WALCOTT
ALUMNA, ART HISTORY

Image courtesy of Lachlan Nicholls and Karina Wijamto.
Story by Emily Jones.
A lightning bolt moment on a Year 10 excursion from her hometown of Tamworth to Brett Whiteley’s studio in Sydney first sparked Rhianna Walcott’s aspirations for a career in the art world.

Fast forward just ten years later, and the former Art History and Theory student has put her passion into practice as Gallery Manager of Artereal Gallery, a space for contemporary art with a strong focus on international content.

Rhianna’s career is a case study in persistence and passion. Unfazed by the challenges of finding a foothold in the highly competitive industry, she arrived at the University of Sydney with a Bruton Educational Trust Scholarship in hand. Awarded to rural students based on their academic merit, the scholarship provides $10,000 in support for each year of an undergraduate degree.

Once settled at the University of Sydney, she maximised her opportunities by volunteering at several galleries to build insight and connections in the local art community, taking the move from country to city life in her stride. But it was when she took up a placement at the University Art Gallery that the door was truly opened for Rhianna, leading to a paid position curating the University of Sydney Union Art Collection.

“The Union Art Collection position was really what helped me cement my first full time job when I graduated; the experience that I gained was priceless,” she says. “I’m very much indebted to the University of Sydney. I owe them my education, and they gave me my first job in the arts industry and a scholarship that allowed me to study in the first place.”

Rhianna says her rigorous Art History major was essential in equipping her with the conceptual writing and analytical skills that she harnesses daily when liaising with the media, curators and artists.

“A typical day in the gallery is quite frenetic,” says Rhianna. “Our exhibition program is usually developed at least 12 months in advance, and so we are always focused on both our current exhibition as well as those scheduled for the future.”

“I felt it was important to learn as much as I could about the various art historical periods and movements. By the time I finished my degree, I was able to narrow down my interests and was convinced I wanted to work with contemporary Australian and international artists. I’ve had the pleasure to work with many amazing artists through Artereal Gallery.”

As a Museum of Contemporary Art Young Ambassador and founding board member of the Rozelle Contemporary Art Precinct (a project affiliated with the University of Sydney’s College of the Arts), Rhianna is now taking an active role in boosting opportunities for Australia’s future curators and artists.

“Getting to work so closely with the artists, you develop very strong relationships with them,” she says. “Over the years, you get to see how their practice expands and evolves and you’re there for all of the exciting moments. It’s wonderful when one of the artists wins a major prize and you get to celebrate alongside them. They are the highlights that make it all worth it.”

And when considering her fondest memories while studying in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Rhianna’s tenacity for art rings true.

“I know it’s probably a bit nerdy, but the best times were just sitting in the Art History lectures in the dark and taking it all in!” she laughs. “I think Art History students are so lucky; I never went to a single lecture and found it boring. The lecturers in the Art History Department are amazing, so getting to learn from them was invaluable.”
Research in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences extends across a diverse range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, embracing traditional, emerging and cross-disciplinary subjects.

Many of our students choose to undertake higher degrees in research in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences because of its international reputation and the many different areas of study available. Students may choose from the following list of subject areas available within the faculty:

- Anthropology
- Arabic and Islamic Studies
- Archaeology
- Art History and Film Studies
- Asian Studies
- Buddhist Studies
- Celtic Studies
- Chinese Studies
- Classics and Ancient History
- Creative Writing
- Digital Cultures
- Economics
- English
- French Studies
- Gender and Cultural Studies
- Germanic Studies
- Government and International Relations
- Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies
- History
- Indian Subcontinental Studies
- International and Comparative Literary Studies
- International Security Studies
- Italian Studies
- Japanese Studies
- Korean Studies
- Linguistics
- Media and Communications
- Medieval Studies
- Modern Greek
- Museum Studies
- Peace and Conflict Studies
- Performance Studies
- Philosophy
- Political Economy
- Public Administration
- Sociology and Social Policy
- South East Asian Studies
- Spanish and Latin American Studies
- Studies in Religion
- US Studies

To find out more information about any of the subject areas listed, visit the faculty website: sydney.edu.au/arts/future_students/postgraduate_research/index.shtml
CENTRES AND GROUPS
The Faculty’s affiliated centres enhance the University’s role as an internationally recognised centre of excellence. The Faculty is a lively and diverse research community that contributes to postgraduate and postdoctoral training. Our centres and groups include:

RESEARCH CENTRES
- The Medieval and Early Modern Centre
- Centre for International Security Studies
- Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies
- Centre for Time
- Sydney Centre for the Foundations of Science
- Australian Centre for Asian Art and Archaeology
- Centre for Classical and Near Eastern Studies of Australia
- The Institute for Democracy and Human Rights

RESEARCH GROUPS
- Early Modern Literature and Culture (EMLAC)
- Modern and Contemporary Literature and Culture (MACLAC)
- Archaeology of Sydney Research Group
- The Sydney University Research Community for Latin America
- The Nineteenth-Century Study Group
- Contemporary China Research Group
- Markets and Society Research Network
- Biopolitics of Science Research Network
- Social Transformation and International Migration
- Human Animal Research Network (HARN)
- Environmental Humanities
- Gender and Modernity
- Nation Empire Globe
- Race and Ethnicity in the Global South

2012 COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH SCHEMES
‘Undoing the Ancient’ Research Group
This research group brings together scholars examining the classical tradition who are united by a concern with recovering modes of thought and practice that are excluded from standard accounts of the classicism. The group is interested in the intersection between the classical and the ugly, the pornographic, the comic, the forgotten, the crassly popular, and the marginalised. It proposes an alternate version of the classical tradition; one that it is not idealising and hagiographic, but nevertheless attests to the power of the classical to stimulate ideas and act as an instrument for cultural and intellectual change.

Putting Periodisation to Use: Exploring the Limits of Early Modernity
Periodisation is one of the most significant means by which knowledge is codified and professional practices organised within the humanities. This research group interrogates the conceptual work periodisation performs in the work of a variety of disciplines in reference to early modernity. Researchers from English, History, Musicology, Art History, and the History and Philosophy of Science are brought together in a series of specifically focused research forums. This will provide a framework to examine and explore questions of periodisation, its impact on our research parameters, and the possibilities for new work that such reconsiderations might provoke.

Social Studies of Finance
The aim of the Social Studies of Finance research group is to bring together scholars who research the cultural, social and political aspects of the expansion of financial markets and their growing prominence in contemporary life. Its activities consist of a regular seminar series that will provide a permanent platform for the collaborative efforts of researchers based at
Sydney, and two major international workshops that will result in high-profile publications.

**Global Sensibilities – The New History of Ideas**

Global Sensibilities brings together an interdisciplinary team to develop a ‘new’ history of ideas. This approach replaces the emphasis upon texts as a source of ideas, insisting on the importance of the social, cultural, visual, economic and political contexts in which ideas develop, on who is speaking, when and where. The cluster will focus on two research themes addressing ideas in novel ways: i) Biography ii) Literature, Art and Politics. Each theme will raise new questions about the history of ideas in respect of the boundaries between thought and feeling, and the universality or cultural specificity of particular beliefs and ideas.

**Writing the World – Transnationalism in Literary Studies**

This project considers the critical practice of transnationalism and involves the discussion of language, linguistic communities and translation broadly as the “movement” of narratives across cultural and national boundaries. Ever since Goethe’s development of the concept of Weltliteratur in the early 19th century, scholars have sought common ground in the international study of literature. However issues of nation, language and culture have rendered earlier models of understanding problematic. The nation remains, both as historical reality and residual idea, in the literary-cultural sphere. Transnational approaches to literary study must address ongoing questions regarding nation, culture and the language community.

**Religion, State and Society in the Muslim World**

The ‘Religion, State & Society in the Muslim World’ cluster aims to deepen and expand the existing crossdisciplinary research collaborations between academics in various Departments and Schools in the Faculty (as well as other faculties at the University) engaged in research on religion, state and society relations within the Muslim diaspora and across the Muslim World. The cluster boasts a successful track record of intra- and inter-faculty teaching, research, workshops, publications and public events collaborations dating back to 2008. This Faculty scheme assists in building on the robust track record and reputation in research and teaching on the Muslim World. The cluster is made up of academics at varying levels (B-E), area specialists covering the major regions in the Muslim World (Middle-East, North Africa, Southeast Asia) and beyond (Europe, Australia) as well as experts in security, socio-cultural, feminist, governance and comparative studies.

**Law and Society**

The Law and Society research group links researchers pursuing theoretical and empirical work in fields traversing law, social science and the humanities. The interdisciplinary field of socio-legal studies has its empirical, theoretical and methodological bases both in law and in the humanities and social sciences more broadly. Its central object is to understand legal ideas, institutions and practices in their social, historical, cultural, political and economic contexts. While retaining significant links both with the “black letter” approach to law and with jurisprudence, it is distinct from both to the extent that its methodology is more empirical, historical and social-theoretical.

To find out more about our research centres and groups, visit: sydney.edu.au/arts/research/research_groups.shtml
Standing testament to the quality of our research in the fields of human rights and democratisation is the success of Associate Professor Danielle Celermajer, from the Department of Sociology and Social Policy. The European Union awarded Associate Professor Celermajer 1.5 million Euros in December 2011 to develop a new program with an unprecedented approach to torture prevention, involving partnerships with universities in Sri Lanka and Nepal and the participation of the police and military in those countries.

This achievement will complement Associate Professor Celermajer’s previous European Union (EU) grant of the same value, which was awarded in 2008 to establish the Master of Human Rights and Democratisation program.

**ELECTIONS AS FELLOWS OF ACADEMIES**

Several of our academics have been elected to the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia. Professor of Economics, Tony Aspromourgos was elected for his research on the history of economic thought, monetary economics and macroeconomics.

Professor of Gender and Cultural Studies, Elspeth Probyn, was elected for her work on questions of identity, material and cultural practices. Professor Probyn is already a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities (elected 2002).

A number of our scholars were also elected as Fellows of the Australian Academy of the Humanities in 2011 and 2012.

Professor and Chair of English, William Christie, was elected for his recent work establishing a key network of Romantic scholars in the UK.

Professor of English Margaret Harris, was elected for her distinguished contributions to shaping Australia’s research culture.

Margaret Miller, Arthur and Renee George Professor of Classical Archaeology, was elected for her work in enhancing understandings of the Aegean world.

ARC Laureate Fellow and Professor of History, Warwick Anderson, was elected for his cutting-edge research at the intersections of medicine, culture and society in the colonial and postcolonial worlds of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Challis Professor of English, Paul Giles, was elected for his scholarship on transnational literary criticism focused on the US, Britain and Australia.

Professor Peter Morgan was elected for his work at the forefront of disciplinary developments in European Studies.

Professor Penny Russell was elected for her research on Australian colonial history, including the history of ‘small talk’ and manners in Australia and England.

Professor of Modern History, John Wong, was elected for his scholarship on the history of Anglo-Chinese relations in the 19th Century, and on the life of Sun Yatsen.

**AWARDS FOR ACADEMIC BOOKS**

Associate Professor Mark McKenna from the Department of History won five major literary prizes in 2012 for his stunning biography of Manning Clark – *An Eye for Eternity: The Life of Manning Clark*. Foremost among these was his success in taking out the 2012 Prime Minister’s Literary Award for Non-Fiction. The book was also awarded the Douglas Stewart Prize for Non-Fiction at the NSW Premier’s Literary Awards, the Victorian Premier’s Literary Prize for Non-Fiction, the Queensland Premier’s Literary Award, and the Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature (Non-Fiction).

In late 2011, Professor Alison Bashford (History) was awarded the prestigious Cantemir Prize for her book *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Eugenics* - the first ever world history of eugenics. The prize, which recognises outstanding works in the humanities and social sciences, was presented to Professor Bashford in a ceremony at the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford University.
As we continue to provide world-class education programs, private philanthropy - contributed by alumni, friends, and current and former staff - plays a critical role in supporting our success. Every gift makes a positive difference to research and teaching which contributes to the community, both locally and globally.

Major donations transform the reach and impact of our teaching and research agenda. A recent example is the visionary generosity of Tom Austen Brown, who in his lifetime and through his estate gave nearly $9 million to the Faculty. His personal fascination with Australia’s ancient Aboriginal past survives and thrives through the Tom Austen Brown Fund for Prehistory. Extraordinary acts of philanthropy like Tom’s spark fantastic transformations in our knowledge and understanding of the world around us.

An example of the positive difference that giving makes in the broader community is the Pratt Foundation’s generous pledge in 2012 of $150,000 to support the Faculty’s Refugee Language Program. This will enable the scheme to continue assisting some of Australia’s most vulnerable people, over the next three years. Already an estimated 600 refugees have received English language and writing training through this program to help them gain a foothold in their new homes.

In 2012 we launched The Dean’s Scholarship Fund in a bid to help gifted students reach their full potential. It is now helping many of our students take up life-changing and rewarding experiences abroad. From participating in a United Nations forum in New York to representing the University at an international conference in Beijing, this scheme opens up amazing opportunities for Australia’s future leaders to grow and thrive.

These are just a few of the stories that make up the rich fabric of our donor community. We are grateful for the generosity of spirit shown by nearly 1200 individuals and organisations who annually give, to help us enrich the diverse range of projects and disciplinary areas we offer. This growing support is a clear indication of the high regard for the humanities and social sciences felt by the Australian and international community, and is also a measure of what these disciplines give back to individuals and society.

Duncan Ivison
Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
WAYS OF GIVING
The generous support of donors helps our Faculty’s researchers, teachers and students to perform to the best of their ability in powerful ways. You may wish to consider helping us through the following programs:

- **Annual Gifts** – contribute towards a groundswell of support for our core programs
- **Memorial Gifts** – allow you to express your feelings for a family member, friend or colleague
- **Major Gifts** – make a significant impact in a discipline or project that’s special to you
- **Principal Gifts** – have a momentous and far-reaching impact on our mission
- **Legacy Gifts** – sustain your values and vision, for the benefit of future generations

Our funding priorities include the following key areas:

- Research and Teaching
- The Dean’s Scholarship Fund
- Special Projects
- Facilities and Equipment
- Unrestricted Giving

To find out more about gifting to the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, contact:

Guy Houghton
Associate Director - Development
T (02) 9036 6269
E guy.houghton@sydney.edu.au
sydney.edu.au/arts/donors

YOUR GIFT IN ACTION
Support from the Student Activity Fund, a part of the Dean’s Scholarship Fund, enabled former Arts student Tom Neale to travel to Vancouver to experience an inside glimpse into the United Nations in 2012.

“The time I spent in Vancouver for the Harvard World Model United Nations Conference 2012 was incredibly rewarding. It was a rare opportunity to debate international relations issues and solve problems with future leaders from around the world, while at the same time, developing my own personal skills and networks. I’m very grateful to the alumni donors who made this experience possible.”

TOM NEALE
Student Activity Fund Grant Recipient