SLAMmag is the electronic magazine of the School of Literature, Art & Media (SLAM) in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, providing updates on the activities of the School and celebrating our research and teaching achievements.

In this issue:
- Head of School welcome
- School news and events
- Department news and events
Welcome to the final edition of SLAMmag for the year. There are various theories about why time appears to pass more quickly with each ensuing year but none of them adequately explains my perception of the bullet-train speed of 2016, which seemed to make December from January in no time at all.

As the year comes to an end, we celebrate in this issue the achievements of colleagues who successfully applied for promotion or secured external research funding and we catch up with a range of activities across the School in the regular departmental reports from Chairs of Department.

Next year I will take up my new role as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and look forward to continuing to work with you all in that capacity. When I came to Sydney in 2011 as Head of the School I remember feeling both enlivened and challenged by the scale of my new job. Across that five-year learning curve, I know I have absorbed a great deal in your company about academic leadership that will stand me in good stead next year in the Faculty Office. I thank everyone who has worked with me for not just the effort but also the fun of the last few years. And I know I leave you in reliable hands with Vanessa Smith stepping back in for another year as Head of our School.

Wishing you all a safe and restful holiday break.

Professor Annamarie Jagose
Promotions

Congratulations to the following SLAM staff on their recent promotions:

**Level E**
Associate Professor Peter Marks (English)

**Level D**
Dr Monika Bednarek (Linguistics)
Dr Sarah Gleeson-White (English)
Dr Ahmar Mahboob (Linguistics)

**Level C**
Dr Benedetta Brevini (MECO)
Dr Frances Di Lauro (Writing Hub)
Dr Christopher Hartney (Studies in Religion)

**Level B**
Dr Olivia Murphy (English)

Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence

Congratulations to Dr Frances di Lauro, who has received a Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Outstanding Teaching.

Frances Di Lauro receiving her Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Outstanding Teaching.

Photo by Sharon Hickey
FASS Excellence in Teaching Awards

Dr Frances Di Lauro (Writing Hub) and Associate Professor Peter Marks (English) were awarded a FASS Excellence in Teaching Award. We would like to congratulate Frances and Peter for their hard work and dedication towards promoting excellence in teaching and learning.

Frances Di Lauro and Peter Marks accepting their awards from the Dean

Photos by Murray Harris Photography
The 2016 SUPRA Supervisor of the Year Awards were announced at a special ceremony on 15 November. Of the 114 supervisors who were nominated by research postgraduate students, a total of 22 awards were given across 15 faculties. Each faculty is usually allocated one award, however due to the quality of nominees FASS was awarded 4; Medicine 3; Business 2; and SCA 2.

Three of the FASS winners were from SLAM: Dr David Kelly (English), Dr Bruce Isaacs (Art History), Dr Anna Lawrenson (Museum Studies), and one from SSPS: Professor Alan McConnell (Government & International Relations).

Three supervisors who teach in SLAM’s Film Studies program received an award: Dr David Kelly, Dr Bruce Isaacs and Dr James Wierzbicki (the Conservatorium). This has special resonance for Film Studies as David Kelly, currently the Director of the Film Studies program, was Bruce Isaacs’ doctoral supervisor.

The SUPRA Supervisor of the Year Awards aim to promote, recognise and reward excellence in higher degree research supervision at the University of Sydney as nominated and judged by research postgraduates at the University. Nominees are assessed on the criteria of:

- Positive and constructive relationship with students
- Assistance with research and support for research career of students
- Knowledge of the field of research.

L-R: Bruce Isaacs, David Kelly and James Wierzbicki

Photo by Bronwyn Kelly
A associate Professor Mark Byron has been awarded a Future Fellowship. His project, ‘Modernism and the Early Middle Ages’, aims to understand how Modernist writers engaged with early medieval thought and texts. The project takes into account significant transformations in early medieval studies in recent decades, especially the production of (digital) critical editions and scholarship concerning linear commentaries and glossatory techniques. More information can be found here.

Professor Nick Enfield has secured Discovery Project funding of $638,000, making his the second-largest of the 52 Discovery Projects funded this round across the University. The project, entitled ‘Do Language Boundaries Stabilize Ethnic Boundaries?’, aims to use language to study the causes and effects of ethnic diversity, focusing on a Southeast Asian case study. The project expects to provide a better understanding of the mechanisms underlying ethnic and cultural diversity.

Discovery funding has also gone to Dr Olivia Murphy. The project ‘Jane Austen and Maternal Disinheritance: The Leigh Family Archive’ aims to research Jane Austen’s (1775-1817) mother’s family, the Leigs, to better understand the influence of family history on Jane Austen’s novels, contributing to our knowledge of British women’s literature and history.

Professor Mark Ledbury is part of a successful external team that received Discovery Project funding. The project, ‘Modernism and the Early Middle Ages’, aims to use the illustrated songbook, a performative genre which fuses image, music and text, to study the transdisciplinary nature of eighteenth-century print culture. The project’s model of rich digital understanding has potential benefits for cultural institutions whose complex objects lie dormant or underused.

Associate Professor Ian Maxwell is part of a successful external team that has secured LIEF funding. The project, entitled ‘AusStage Phase 6 Visualising Venues in Australian Live Performance Research’, aims to construct a two- and three-dimensional visual interface and digital curatorial space, improving the existing AusStage open-access live performance database. Expected benefits are better understanding of the physical parameters of live performance and improved decision-making for metropolitan and regional communities about managing theatre sites and venues. More information can be found here.
Congratulations to Professor Mary Roberts

Professor Mary Roberts (Art History) was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities at its Annual General Meeting on 19 November. In its official Media Release, the Academy said “To be elected to the Australian Academy of the Humanities is the highest honour for achievement in the humanities in Australia”, and quoted its President, Professor John Fitzgerald FAHA, “Our new Fellows were elected in recognition of the excellence and impact of their scholarship. Their work highlights the importance of the humanities for understanding cultures and societies, here and abroad, past, present and future”.

FASS Research Mentoring Awards

Congratulations to Professor Nick Enfield (Linguistics), who was one of three recipients of a 2016 FASS Research Mentoring Award. Allan McConnell, Pro-Dean Research, said “It is my great pleasure to announce the FASS Research Mentoring Award recipients for 2016. The Faculty Research Committee has determined that the three colleagues would receive an award this year for their long standing efforts in building research excellence both within and outside of their discipline groups. All three are deserved colleagues through the overwhelming praise from those within and outside of the institution, particularly from early career researchers”.

FASS News
Welcome to the world ...

Silvie Rose
Daughter of Lili and Sam Pâquet
Born 26 November
It has been a very busy end of the year for us here in the Department of Art History. We were delighted to hear of Jennifer Barrett’s important new role as Director of Cultural Strategy in the Vice-Chancellor’s office, and wish Jennifer every success. As a result of Jennifer’s secondment, we are delighted to be able to welcome Helena Robinson to a fixed-term position in Museum Studies, and she joins us in 2017 along with another familiar face, Anna Lawrenson. Anna, who last month gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, Toby (Congratulations, Anna and family!), will join the Department as Scholarly Teaching Fellow in Museum Studies from July 2017.

We’ve been celebrating the great success of the last exhibition curated in the old University Art Gallery space. “Floating Time” was curated by Stephen Whiteman with Bingqing Wei and Minerva Inwald, PhD students in History and Art History, and garnered both encouraging audiences and critical plaudits. Stephen has been busy, as he was also a speaker at the opening of the new University of Sydney Suzhou Centre in China, a launch attended by the Vice-Chancellor and many senior university leaders.

The winners of the Power Institute’s Terrence and Lynette Fern Cité Internationale des Arts Residencies, who will be travelling to Paris next year to develop their projects in one of the world’s most inspiring cities, have just been announced. Congratulations to John Di Stefano, established visual artist, filmmaker and Associate Professor at Sydney College of the Arts, the University of Sydney; Ben Ferris, Artistic Director, lecturer and one of the founders of the Sydney Film School; Tracey Lock, Curator of Australian Paintings and Sculpture at the Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide; and drawing-based artist Catherine O’Donnell, represented by Brenda May Gallery in Sydney.

We also congratulate Zhe Zhang, Kate Ahern, Jonathan Dennis and Marcus James, all students studying Art History here, on their being chosen to participate in the Art Gallery of New South Wales’ Sydney Students Speak initiative - a prestigious and competitive honour.

All of which show the ways in which Art History students at all levels as well as departmental colleagues are out in the world, demonstrating the fascination and interest of their subject, engaging with audiences and bringing their passions to the community.

Roger Benjamin’s exhibition at the Institut du Monde Arabe, Biskra: Visions of an Oasis, continues until January - and is another example of departmental scholarship impacting on the international world.

Department colleague Mark De Vitis, who won a prestigious fellowship to study at the Newberry Library in Chicago, was unfortunately involved in a nasty traffic accident, and is recovering in Northwestern University Hospital. Amazingly, the ever-diligent Mark managed to complete an article while lying prone in his hospital bed! We all wish him well and eagerly await his recovery and safe return.

I would like to thank all my colleagues, and all our students, for their energy and enthusiasm this year, and look forward to another bumper year of research, teaching and engagement success in 2017.
Excellence in Internship Industry Partnerships

Words by Jane Johnston
Internship Officer, Museum and Heritage Studies | Art Curating

On 22 November we hosted an event at the Nicholson Museum for our industry partners on internships for the Art Curating and Museum and Heritage Studies programs. It was an opportunity for us to recognise the invaluable contribution of our partner organisations and to extend our thanks to them, and also to highlight the significant contribution of our interns to the work that is done across the museum, gallery and heritage sector. It’s a broad and diverse sector and our hosts include museums and galleries of a variety of sizes and types, but also libraries, auction houses, heritage sites, heritage consultants, corporate art collections, exhibition organisers, art advisors and sector support organisations. We also opened discussion on the new internship agreements that will be in use in our Faculty from next year. It was a well-attended and highly convivial evening and we were delighted to see so many hosts from the past 5 years or so gathered together in conversation with each other and with us as University staff.

Recent publications

Sydney Intellectual History Network

Words by Professor Jennifer Milam

SLAM academics and postgraduate students continue to foster interdisciplinary research collaborations within the Sydney Intellectual History Network (SIHN). Amelia Dale (English) and Elias Grieg (English) coordinated the Eighteenth-Century Periodisation Intensive workshop, which was held on 18 November (supported by a grant from SSSHARC). Speakers included Clara Tuite (English, University of Melbourne), Mary Spongberg (History, UTS), Kate Fullagar (History, Macquarie University), Dalia Nassar (Philosophy) and Elizabeth Stephens (Cultural Studies, Southern Cross University). Over 25 researchers participated in the workshop, discussing the cultural, aesthetic and geographic complications of period categories including ‘the long eighteenth-century’ and ‘Romanticism’. This workshop caps off another productive year for the Long Eighteenth Century Reading Group, which will recommence in first semester 2017. Postgraduate students, staff, and researchers at all stages of their careers whose research takes place within the broad boundaries - theoretical and temporal - of the long eighteenth century are invited to attend in the new year.

Furthering SIHN’s interests in the theme of periodisation, October Scholar-in-Residence Lino Pertile (Harvard University) was the special guest at a Roundtable on the Future of Medieval and Early Modern Studies, organised by Francesco Borghesi (Italian Studies, SLC). Panelists included Daniel Anlezark (English, SLAM) Nicholas Baker (Modern History, Politics and International Relations, Macquarie University), Nicholas Eckstein (History, SOPHI), Vrasidas Karalis (Modern Greek and Byzantine Studies, SLC), Esther Klein (Chinese Studies, SLC), and Frances Muecke (Classics and Ancient History, SOPHI). Discussion centred around the issue of what it means to study the ‘medieval’ and the ‘early modern’ in a global perspective and what repercussions this perspective could have on assumed visions of the Western world and its interactions with the East. This panel tackled the basic questions of definition and of periodisation, interrogating some assumed notions associated with the pre-modern world, such as the role of Byzantium, the various facets of Christianity and other religions, the China versus the West binary dichotomy, the significance of the Renaissance, and the role of disciplines in a renewed vision for the future of these studies.

A new partnership with the Southampton Centre for Eighteenth-Century Studies (SCECS) was launched by a study day dedicated to Experiencing the Transatlantic Garden at Chawton House Library in Hampshire, England. Olivia Murphy (English) and Amelia Dale (English) will take up Visiting Fellowships at Chawton House in 2017, with plans in place to accelerate the relationship between SIHN and SCECS during this time.

SIHN collaborations led to a number of new initiatives involving SLAM academics, including a successful FCRS bid for the Sydney Digital Humanities Group, led by Francesco Borghesi (SLC) and involving three researchers from SLAM: Mark Byron from English and Jennifer Milam and Stephen Whiteman from Art History. Linda Barwick (the Conservatorium, but formerly of Linguistics), Shane White (History, SOPHI), and Mark Allon (Buddhist Studies, SLC) are also involved. A number of digital humanities events in 2017 and 2018 will be jointly sponsored by SIHN, so please get in touch if you have interests in this area.

We have two final events for 2016, including a Women in Nineteenth-Century Philosophy seminar led by Dalia Nassar (Philosophy) and SIHN’s December Scholar-In-Residence Kristin Gjesdal (Temple University), and Food for Thought, part of the new SIHN workshop series On the Margins of Intellectual History. Robert Applebaum (English, Uppsala University), recommended to SIHN by Huw Griffiths (English) will be one of several participants speaking from a literary perspective on the relationship between food and the history of ideas.
In September, the Ninth Australian Conference of Celtic Studies was a great success. Keynote lectures by our special guests Will Christie (ANU), Cairns Craig (University of Aberdeen), Cynthia Neville (Dalhousie University, Canada), and Tomás Ó Carragáin (University College Cork) were outstanding and warmly welcomed, as was the address to our conference reception by Mr Charles Curran AC. Special thanks are due to Anna, Liz, and Madeleine - our student helpers - and to all who helped make this a special event. See the Winter 2016 edition of SLAMmag for more details.

Also in September, a public lecture by Dr Martin Goldberg (National Museums of Scotland) in the University Library, sponsored by the Scottish Antiquaries and Sydney Society for Scottish History, was a spellbinding account of how a team at the National Museums of Scotland have reconstructed artefacts depicted in medieval art and literature.

In October, Jonathan Wooding was invited to Trinity College Dublin to speak at a conference on martyrologies and calendars of saints. He also took the opportunity to visit Thurles in County Tipperary, on the trail of Eugene Ryan (1864-1905), a Sydney publican who was a teacher of Irish (Gaelic) and Australia’s first notable proponent of the Gaelic revival. He was surprised and delighted to find that Ryan is very well-remembered in his home parish, despite having left for Australia 132 years ago!

The programme continues to benefit from the generosity of many donors, including the gifts that make possible studies in Scottish Gaelic and Welsh. A series of scholarships are now in place, thanks to the generosity of Mrs Rosemary Samios, to support students in studies of Scottish Gaelic who wish to make exchanges or visits to Scotland to further their studies of the language.
The Department's staff were recognised via a range of awards in teaching and a new Teaching Fellow was announced for 2017. Amelia Dale received a Dean's Citation for Excellence in Tutorials with Distinction, Peter Marks received a Teaching Excellence Award, and David Kelly won a SUPRA Supervisor of the Year Award. Doctoral student Jyhene Kebsi, supervised by Robert Dixon, was awarded a Postgraduate Teaching Fellowship for 2017.

Mark Byron was awarded an ARC Future Fellowship (2017-2020), for his project 'Modernism and the Early Middle Ages'. This project seeks to provide a systematic account of how leading Modernist authors – James Joyce, Ezra Pound, Samuel Beckett, among others – absorb late classical and early medieval thought and textual practices into their work. The project takes into account significant transformations in early medieval studies in recent decades, especially the production of (digital) critical editions and scholarship concerning linear commentaries and glossatory techniques.

Olivia Murphy and Mary Spongberg (UTS) were successful in the Discovery Projects scheme with their project on ‘Jane Austen and maternal disinheritance: The Leigh family archive.’ The project aims to research Jane Austen's (1775-1817) mother’s family, the Leis. Olivia and Mary will use detailed archival research to recover and repossession the Leigh family in Austen biography and read Austen’s juvenilia and novels as informed by and contributing to this history. The project aims to better understand the influence of family history on Jane Austen’s novels, contributing to our knowledge of British women's literature and history.

Anthony Cordingley, DECRA fellow in the department, published Collaborative Translation: From the Renaissance to the Digital Age (Bloomsbury, 2016) which he co-edited with Céline Frigau Manning. Theo Hermans, Director of the Centre for Translation Studies UCL, called it a ‘scintillating collection’ that 'engages in detail with some of the many facets of collaborative translation, from the ways authors debate with their translators to the dynamics of translator collectives, from crowd-sourcing and institutional agendas to an ecological vision of shared translation in the future’.

Vanessa Smith co-edited with John Frow a special double issue of the Journal of Language, Literature and Culture (63.2-3, August-December 2016) entitled ‘Novel Worlds’.

Matthew Sussman reports that the second annual special event in nineteenth-century studies was held on 17 November and drew people from across the University and the broader community to discuss Daniel Albright’s 2014 book Panaesthetics: On the Unity and Diversity of the Arts. There were two panels – one on Panaesthetics and Research, the other on Panaesthetics and Teaching – and speakers included Matthew Sussman, Bruce Gardiner, Jessica Sun (who just finished her PhD in our department), Cat Moir (German, SLC), David Larkin (the Conservatorium), Michael Olson (Philosophy, Macquarie University), and Emily Simmons (Australian Film Radio Television School). The group had lunch together, then discussion, and then adjourned to drinks and canapés at Holme Café in conjunction with the Novel Network. Matthew writes: ‘It was great to have a conversation across interdisciplinary lines about questions that strike to the heart of what we do as critics and historians of art’.

On the same day, the Novel Network, convened by Vanessa Smith, hosted a masterclass and public lecture with Jonathan Arac, Andrew W. Mellon, Professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh and Director of Pitt’s Humanities Center. The masterclass focussed on Moby Dick, and the lecture engaged with debates in world literature via Amitav Ghosh's Ibis trilogy, a timely event as English looks forward to its inaugural first-year Global Literatures unit in 2017.
On 13 September Liam Semler and some of the Shakespeare Reloaded team (Penny Gay, Jackie Manuel, Linzy Brady, Claire Hansen and school teacher and doctoral student Michael Marokakis) co-hosted a roundtable discussion on the topic of international collaborative projects on Shakespeare and Education at King’s College London with Sonia Massai from the London Shakespeare Centre. The event included scholars Sarah Olive (York), Ros King (Southampton), Pen Woods (Queen Mary UL) and Tracy Irish (Warwick and RSC). Warwick doctoral student Jen Kitchen tweeted from the roundtable: ‘Plotting an educational revolution’.

Central West LINK visit

Members of the Department of English LINK project - Kieryn McKay, Olivia Murphy and Brigid Rooney - visited central western NSW High Schools at Gilgandra and Coonabarabran on 23 and 24 November. Among other things, Olivia presented Year 11s with lectures on Austen’s juvenilia and Irish Literature; Brigid delivered her rebooted module on Australian Literature: Place, Identity and Belonging to Years 9 and 11, and Kieryn presented a session on Frank Hurley and Photographic Truth to Year 11. The students were highly responsive, contributing thoughtful questions and comments – it was a joy to work with them and the learning was mutual. Teachers responded positively, talking about connections they might make between materials presented and work going on in their own classrooms.

Some students from both Gilgandra and Coonabarabran High Schools, together with students from other LINK partner schools, were then involved in a campus visit on 12 and 13 December.
Our dear colleague Sebastian Fedden is leaving Sydney to take up a position as Full Professor in the Department of Linguistics at the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris III. This is a very well-deserved recognition of Sebastian’s research and teaching accomplishments, and international standing, and we congratulate him on this achievement. Of course, he will be very sorely missed in our department! We thank him for his fantastic contribution over the last two years. Sebastian will take up his new position in Paris from January 2017.

In October, Maïa Ponsonnet was invited to the Université de Nouvelle-Calédonie (Noumea) to teach at a week-long workshop on the preservation of minority languages in the Pacific. The event gathered members of the ARC’s Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language and various linguists and language activists from New Caledonia, Hawaii, Tahiti, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna, and more. It was the first step of a longer term trans-Pacific collaboration around language preservation.

Monika Bednarek recently gave a plenary at the International Conference on Language and Emotion in Madrid, Spain (via videolink), and at the Third Asia Pacific Corpus Linguistics Conference in Beijing, China. She also gave invited guest lectures at Beihang University, Beijing, and at Shanghai Jiao Tong University. Monika also presented a paper at the Festival of Methods mini-conference at Macquarie University. In this context, she further organised a morning of research talks by Professor Paul Baker and Professor Tony McEnery from Lancaster’s ESRC Centre for Corpus Approaches to Social Science (CASS). The first talk, on online patient feedback, was co-hosted by the Department of Linguistics, the Centre for Translational Data Science, the Faculty of Dentistry, and the University of Sydney at Westmead, while the second talk, on public discourse about prostitutes in the 17th century, was co-hosted with the Department of English.

Gwen Hyslop is on sabbatical in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She presented ‘On the Role of Manner and Place in Kurtöp Tonogenesis’ (with Sarah Plane) at LABPHON15 at Cornell U, Ithaca NY.

Nick Enfield has won an ARC Discovery award for a project titled “Do Language Boundaries Stabilize Ethnic Boundaries?”. Funds will go towards fieldwork-based grammatical descriptions of three minority languages spoken in close proximity to each other in upland Laos, in parallel with a sociolinguistic study of the networks and interrelations between the three speech communities. Nick and a post-doctoral researcher will work together with PhD students to carry out the field work and analysis. Collaborators Stephen Matthews and Umberto Ansaldo from Hong Kong University and Pittayawat Pittayaporn from Chulalongkorn University will also contribute to the project. The project begins in mid-2017.

Nick Enfield also won a FASS ‘Research Mentoring Award’. See the ‘School News’ pages of this edition of SLAMmag for more on this.

Ahmar Mahboob organised the 10th Annual Free Linguistics Conference, held in Padang, West Sumatra from 30 September to 1 October. Prior to the conference, Ahmar gave presentations at the University of Malaya and Bung Hatta University.

Ahmar also gave a keynote address “Language Sciences and Development” at the 2nd International Conference on Social Sciences at Ağrı İbrahim Çeçen University, Ağrı, Turkey on 12 October.
Workshop at Yonsei University in Seoul

Dr Jonathon Hutchinson and Associate Professor Tim Dwyer presented a paper entitled ‘Digital Media Contexts for Policy Interventions in Australia: Regulating the Share Economy’, in Seoul, Republic of Korea (RoK), at a Workshop at the University of Yonsei on 11 November. The Workshop (‘Disruptions, Regulations, Responses’) was funded under a Joint International Project Development grant from the Office of Global Engagement. The project with researchers from Yonsei is titled: “Aligning technological advancement and regulation in the broadband mobile age: comparing digital media business and policy in Australia and South Korea”. The purpose of this, the first of two workshops, was to present joint research plans/ideas for comparative analyses of the RoK and Australia’s policy, regulatory, technological and industrial contexts in relation to digital media.

Their visit to Seoul coincided with mass protests against President Park Guen Hye.

University of Delhi Visit

Dr Alana Mann delivered a lecture entitled ‘Competing Sovereignties: State and Non-State Actors in Global Governance’ at the Developing Countries Research Centre, University of Delhi, on 24 November. Center Director, Professor Sunil Choudhary, graciously hosted the event, with Professor Veena Kukreja acting as Chair. Dr Mann was visiting India with the Global Engagement team to explore opportunities for student and staff mobility in Mumbai and Delhi in November 2017.
Other news

Dr Penny O’Donnell presented a research paper entitled ‘Once a journalist, always a journalist? Industry restructure, job loss and professional identity’ to the Department of Communication Studies and Media Research, Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich, on 23 November, during her two-week stay as a visiting scholar. Another highlight of her visit was a research collaboration agreement with Professor Thomas Hanitzsch, to extend the ARC-funded New Beats Project (LP140100341, DP150102675) to include a survey of job loss in German journalism. Penny is a Chief Investigator on this five-year collaborative industry-university study of the aftermath of job loss in Australian journalism and responsible for the project’s internationalisation to include Canadian, German and Indonesia case studies.

Australia’s first Code of Ethics for online community and social media managers was launched recently. The Code sets professional standards for community management and aims to help combat trolling and abuse in social media channels and online discussion forums. The Code was developed by the Australian Community Managers’ Association in consultation with Dr Jonathon Hutchinson and Dr Fiona Martin.

Congratulations to MECO casual tutor Jock Cheetham, who received a Dean’s Citation for Excellence in Tutorials.

Congratulations also to MECO undergraduate student Aparna Balakumar, who has won the very competitive 2016 JERAA Ossie Award for Investigative Journalism. Aparna has also been selected to be an intern at Korea Herald in Seoul for a month in April 2017 as part of our AKF fellowship program.

Dr Grant Bollmer and Dr Kathy Cleland are both moving on to new challenges. Grant is leaving us in December, while Kathy leaves in February. Kathy has been a key figure in the development of the Digital Cultures Program, including in the current curriculum transformation project.

Grant is returning to the US to his alma mater, the University of South Carolina. Fortunately for MECO, Grant is able to continue his association as an Honorary Associate.

New recruits Dr Marcus Carter (University of Melbourne) and Dr Justine Humphry (Western Sydney University) join MECO in the New Year.

Recent publications


At the beginning of October Daniel Anlezark took over as Director of the Centre from Jonathan Wooding. Jonathan’s last year was a busy one, with the hosting of two conferences and leading our contribution to the review of the Centre. The new Director and Executive will steer the Centre through the implementation of the review’s recommendations in 2017.

Two projects affiliated with the Centre were successful in the recently announced ARC funding round.

John Gagne (History), Associate Director of MEMC, has been awarded $253,000 in funding under the Discovery scheme for the project “Document loss in pre-modern Europe”. This project aims to map out the social and cultural effects of paper’s introduction to Europe from 1200-1800. The project expects to uncover how obliteration led to both open repression and blank-slate reinvention, a powerful form of cultural creativity.

Mark Byron (English), whose research plans will lead him into more active involvement in the Centre, has been awarded a Future Fellowship for $872,000 for the project “Modernism and the Early Middle Ages”. This project aims to understand how Modernist writers engaged with early medieval thought and texts. The project expects to provide a foundation for and counterpart to the newly vibrant field of Modernism and the High Middle Ages.
Research Update

Carole Cusack is part of the team that submitted a successful grant application to the Centre for Advanced Study (CAS) at the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (2018/2019 academic year) on “The Demise of Religions”. The Chief Investigators are Michael Stausberg (University of Bergen) and James R. Lewis (University of Tromsø), and there are ten other academics involved. Carole’s contribution will be a six-month residency in Oslo as an expert on the demise of new religious movements. Her two scholarly outputs will be: “Demise By Transformation: The Process Church of the Final Judgment and the Holy Order of MANS” and “The Afterlife of Dead Religions: Online Museology and Memorialisation” (examining Kerista and Heaven’s Gate). Two volumes are anticipated, one with Brill and one with Oxford University Press.

Student News

Doctoral student Breann Fallon, supervised by Carole Cusack, was awarded a Postgraduate Teaching Fellowship for 2017. Congratulations also to Breann on receiving a 2016 Dean’s Citation for Excellence in Tutorials.

Departmental Seminars

The Department runs a regular research seminar for staff and graduate students. It has been a delight to welcome distinguished scholars, both international and local, this year. The presentations since the last SLAMmag were:

30 August: Frances Di Lauro (Writing Hub): “No Rest for the Dead: Intercession and Indulgences in Central and Southern Italian Cities in the Late Modern Era”.


4 October: Chand Sirimanne (Studies in Religion): “Meditation in Theravada Buddhism and as a Secular Therapeutic Method Today”.

1 November: Doru Costache (St Andrew’s Greek Orthodox Theological College/ Sydney College of Divinity): “Natural Contemplation in Clement of Alexandria”.

Research Update

Carole Cusack is part of the team that submitted a successful grant application to the Centre for Advanced Study (CAS) at the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (2018/2019 academic year) on “The Demise of Religions”. The Chief Investigators are Michael Stausberg (University of Bergen) and James R. Lewis (University of Tromsø), and there are ten other academics involved. Carole’s contribution will be a six-month residency in Oslo as an expert on the demise of new religious movements. Her two scholarly outputs will be: “Demise By Transformation: The Process Church of the Final Judgment and the Holy Order of MANS” and “The Afterlife of Dead Religions: Online Museology and Memorialisation” (examining Kerista and Heaven’s Gate). Two volumes are anticipated, one with Brill and one with Oxford University Press.

Student News

Doctoral student Breann Fallon, supervised by Carole Cusack, was awarded a Postgraduate Teaching Fellowship for 2017. Congratulations also to Breann on receiving a 2016 Dean’s Citation for Excellence in Tutorials.
In late October and early November, the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies hosted a residency by the celebrated theatre- and performance-maker Mike Mullins. Mullins is best known for, in the early 1980s, establishing Sydney’s Performance Space as a venue for experimental performance. His most infamous performance work involved the creation of a character dubbed ‘No One’, a faceless, speechless figure with which Mullins ‘inhabited’ places, and for which he was arrested on Anzac Day 1981.

The first part of Mullins’ workshop involved training a group of 11 performers, ranging from first year students through to established actors, to create a ‘No One’ performance on Eastern Avenue. The group worked together over eight afternoons; the mornings were spent with Mullins as he delivered a lecture series on his work over the decades since his meeting and collaboration with the Polish theatre teacher, director and theorist, Jerzy Grotowski in the early 1970s.

Rehearsals in the Quadrangle (two days before the demise of the jacaranda) attracted the attention of Campus Security, alerted to the presence of 11 silent figures, faces swathed in gauze wrappings, doing nothing (other than posing for selfies with the constant stream of tourists). The performers were unable to speak, which served only to further pique Security’s interest, who demanded to know ‘what this is all about’, and to see ID. No charges were pressed.

The performance itself, the following Wednesday, involved a three-hour inhabitation of Eastern Avenue. The performers had trained to maintain their stillness, and to not construct poses; rather, the brief was simply to ‘be’. The work culminated in a silent political rally, led by a magisterial, suited, faceless character in the courtyard of the Old Teachers’ College.

The second part of the residency was a two-day symposium, convened by Ian Maxwell in collaboration with Mullins, titled ‘10 Questions about the Australian Theatrical Avant Garde’. Over 30 speakers, including performers and a range of academic colleagues, contributed to what was an often fiery discussion. Performance artists recalled the work of groups such as ‘The Human Body’, which, inspired by the fluxus movement, eastern mysticism and the effects of various substances, convened happenings in venues such as the old PACT theatre and the Cellblock theatre, in collaboration with the Ubu group, led by Ellis D. Fogg, an experimenter renowned for his work with psychedelic lighting. Others spoke of the all-but-forgotten, undocumented alternative theatres that flourished at the edges of the establishment theatre companies of the New Wave Years. As a useful corrective, young firebrands denounced the nostalgia for distant and presumably irrelevant practice, and demanded a focus on the current situation.

A series of publications is planned in the wake of the symposium.

Words by Associate Professor Ian Maxwell
In The Rex

The Turquoise Elephant Surfaces at Griffin

Words by Barbara Campbell

The Turquoise Elephant has just finished its season at Griffin Theatre and received great reviews; as one might expect with its combination of award-winning script by Stephen Carleton, design by Brian Thompson and the direction of Gale Edwards. But success doesn’t happen overnight, as they say. Following on from its period of script development last year, the play was intensively rehearsed at a workshop in the department in May this year - a process that students were able to observe as part of the PRFM3611 Dramaturgy course taught by Laura Ginters. Between then and now, the production has developed significantly. Playwright Carleton said in this online conversation in September, “It could all have gone spectacularly awry, but it’s been wonderful. Impeccable casting. Smart, experienced actors who move the work forward. A production and design team with big, bold imaginations and hearts. Having Ben Winspear and Tim Roseman and Laura Ginters work on the play’s dramaturgical process. A team of people who love the play and love what it’s saying. I feel blessed.”

Belinda Giblin as Olympia in The Turquoise Elephant, Griffin Theatre. Photo by Brett Boardman.

Martin del Amo and Sue Healey rehearse Arvo in the Arvo during their artists-in-residency in the Rex Cramphorn Studio in October. Del Amo is currently making Champions a sports/dance piece featuring a cast of eleven female dancers for the Sydney Festival in January 2017. Healey has recently secured funding from Arts NSW, for a new work entitled The Seeing Space, which will also feature a duet with del Amo.

Words by Martin del Amo
The Writing Hub was delighted to host “Your technology, my technology, our technology: Investigating learning technologies used by university students to complete assessment tasks” presented by Maria Northcote, Director of the Centre for Advancement of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (CASTL) at Avondale College of Higher Education, and David Bolton, Professor of Educational Research, Statistics, and Measurement at West Chester University.

Notable achievements include a recent publication by Louise Katz. Her article ‘Feeding Greedy Corpses: the rhetorical power of Corpspeak and Zombilingo in higher education, and suggested countermagics to foil the intentions of the living dead’, appeared in Borderlands e-journal (Vol. 15, No. 1, 2016, pp.1-26).

The Writing Hub congratulates Zoe Alderton and Frances Di Lauro, who received FASS Teaching Excellence Awards, and Lili Pâquet on her deserved Dean’s Citation for Excellence in Tutorials. As mentioned here in ‘SLAM news’, Frances Di Lauro also received a Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Outstanding Teaching.

The Writing Hub is delighted to announce the birth of Silvie Rose, whose parents, Sam and Lili Pâquet, are over the moon. See a photo and more details on the ‘SLAM baby news’ page of this edition of SLAMmag.
Presentations

On 30 August, Frances Di Lauro presented ‘No Rest for the Dead: Intercession and Indulgences in Central and Southern Italian Cities in the Late Modern Era’ at the Religious Studies research seminar.

Frances also presented an EdTech Talk on 16 September. Her talk centered on her use of Collaborate software as a meeting space for students to plan and develop their collaborative group work and for teaching team meetings.

Susan Thomas was an invited plenary speaker at the “From the Margins to the Centre: The Future of University Literacy Support and Writing Across the Curriculum” symposium at Flinders University on 27 September. Susan's talk, ‘Writing Centres, Learning Centres, and Writing Across the Curriculum’, distinguished between the work of writing centres and learning centres and discussed how Australian deficit remediation approaches to literacy are being superseded by writing across the curriculum initiatives, which reflect diversified approaches to writing instruction in globalised universities.

Omid Tofighian presented ‘Why is my Curriculum White?’ at the Australian Political Studies Association Conference 2016, on 28 September at the University of New South Wales, and at BLACK Mount Druitt from 22-23 October.

Louise Katz presented ‘Eros Vs. Thanatos, or Vampires and Zombies in the Ongoing Battle Between Enduring Life and Living Death’ on 17 November at the New Research on Horror conference hosted by the Department of Media, Film and Communication at the University of Otago.

On 25 November Alyssa O’Brien presented her research on ‘A Strange Strain of Populism in Silicon Valley and the Implications for Sydney’ at the fifth annual Historical Materialism conference on new Marxist research, held, ironically, at the University of Sydney Business School.

Benjamin Miller presented his paper on life writing at the Australasian Association of Writing Programs annual conference (28-30 November). Ben demonstrated how indigenous biography can draw on indigenous rhetorical traditions as well as English literary techniques.

Writing Hub Research Seminars


14 October: Benjamin Miller ‘Learning to Write and Teaching Writing: David Unaipo’s Life Stories’, and Meg Ivory ‘The epistemology of research into emotions in non-human organisms’.

21 October: Bronwen Dyson ‘The second language acquisition of speaking and writing: Insights from research on language processing’.

11 November: Gayatri Kotnala ‘Bow Down B*tches: Authority, Authenticity, and Authorship in Beyoncé’s ***Flawless’.

25 November: Lucinda Holdforth ‘Is there a new case for old rhetoric’.
The following departments and programs are located in the School of Literature, Art and Media:

- Art History
- Celtic Studies
- English
- Linguistics
- Media and Communications
- Medieval and Early Modern Studies
- Museum Studies
- Studies in Religion
- Theatre and Performance Studies
- The Writing Hub