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
Summer in Sydney persisted through May this year with colder weather and some uncommon rain finally signaling the transition to Winter. The view out of my office window on to Manning Road looks like a remake of the title sequence of Les parapluies de Cherbourg/ The Umbrellas of Cherbourg. Time to look back on the season that wasn’t with the Autumn edition of SLAMmag.

After a year of research leave, it’s been a pleasure to step back into my Head of School role. From every account I’ve heard, Vanessa Smith did a great job in 2015, even marking her tenure by changing the name of the School. A warm thanks, Vanessa.

The Faculty appoints ten Scholarly Teaching Fellows by competitive assessment each year and this year SLAM spectacularly scooped half of these - two in English and one each in Studies in Religion, Theatre and Performance Studies and Film Studies. You can read their profiles in this issue.

For those leaving Sydney across the mid-semester break for research or annual leave, safe travels.

Professor Annamarie Jagose
The SLAM Prizes and Awards Ceremony, held on 26 April in the Refectory, was a great success, attended by 193 guests including SLAM students, academic and professional staff, and several esteemed donors. 63 awards, scholarships and fellowships were presented to students, alongside the University’s Literary Prizes.

Prizes were awarded in the Disciplines of:

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<tr>
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<th>Presenter</th>
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<tr>
<td>Art History</td>
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<td>Australian Literature</td>
<td>Associate Professor Peter Kirkpatrick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Celtic Studies</td>
<td>Professor Jonathan Wooding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English and Literary Prizes</td>
<td>Professor Liam Semler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linguistics</td>
<td>Dr Sebastian Fedden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Media &amp; Communications</td>
<td>Dr Alana Mann</td>
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<tr>
<td>Studies in Religion</td>
<td>Dr Christopher Hartney</td>
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Our Head of School, Professor Annamarie Jagose, said, “The School’s Prizes and Awards night is a major logistical endeavour but we undertake it each year to mark the academic excellence of our students. It’s always a fun and much anticipated occasion”.

Professor Jagose’s welcome address commended the prizewinners for their hard work, but also acknowledged the support given by friends and family.

One very supportive family was that of Monique Duggan, a student who was awarded the Catharine Lumby Prize for Excellence in Media and Communication Studies. Thirteen family members gathered in Sydney to celebrate Monique’s success. Her mother said it was “Very exciting for her to be acknowledged”. Monique’s family are no strangers to the University of Sydney: her grandparents met here while studying Pharmacy in 1960.

Other students were cheered on by friends, including Eda Gunaydin, whose housemates were happy to see her receive the AC Stephen Memorial Prize for her story ‘Waiting for Waiting for Godot’. Eda said the ceremony was “Unexpectedly formal, really well done”.

Academic staff were equally pleased to see their students succeed, including Dr Sebastian Fedden who said that he had come to see Department of Linguistics student Weijian Meng as “More of a junior staff member than a student”, due to his work as a tutor. Weijian was awarded the GS Caird Scholarship in Linguistics III and The Appen Prize for Excellence in Linguistics.

Dr Jason Johnston, a former academic in the Department of Linguistics who presented the Appen Prize, said that prizes encourage students to “keep at it – Above all, it’s an affirmation”.
For many students, success is hard-won. “It was an edifying experience”, Alexander Cigana, who won the Mary Makinson Prize, said of his Honours thesis on 18th Century decorative art. Professor Mark Ledbury, who supervised Alexander’s thesis, appreciates the way that prizes and awards encourage a higher calibre of students who can energise academics and keep them on their toes. “You need students who can achieve and lead people.”

For some, our prizes create opportunities for further study. The recipient of the Kenneth Reed Postgraduate Research scholarship, Jonathan Dunk, was able to transition from part-time study into full-time research on his PhD. “This has enriched my project immensely”, Jonathan said.

Our prizewinning students expressed deep gratitude for the role their academic mentors played in their success. After completing his PhD thesis by distance education, the recipient of the John Cooper Memorial Prize, Alan Boag, said “I could not have completed my paper without the guidance and knowledge bestowed upon me from my supervisors. I am deeply indebted to them for their patience and expertise”.

SLAM would also like to thank all donors for their generous contributions and commitment to our students.

A complete list of all the prizewinners can be viewed here.
The School is delighted to introduce the 5 SLAM recipients of the 2016 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Postgraduate Teaching Fellowships. The awarding committee noted the strength of the competition for places this year.

Jarrad Cogle
Department of English

Jarrad Cogle came to the University of Sydney to undertake his PhD after completing his undergraduate degree at La Trobe University. Jarrad’s thesis concentrates on Fredric Jameson and the novel, with his other research looking at representations of urban space in contemporary Hollywood cinema. He has turned his diverse skills in first semester to teaching across two units, ENGL 1026 Constructing the Fictive Self and ENGL 2638 Literature and Cinema.

~ Professor Liam Semler

“In my first semester as a teaching fellow, I have taught across two units and have also had the opportunity to guest lecture in Constructing the Fictive Self, where I delivered three lectures on the film Her. The whole experience has been very rewarding and hugely educational, as well as a great distraction while I wait out my PhD’s examination period. I look forward to developing my pedagogical skills throughout the year.”

~ Jarrad Cogle
Raphael Lataster  
Department of Studies in Religion  

“The Teaching Fellowship has enabled Raphael Lataster to develop his skills in new areas, including unit coordination, devising lecture materials, managing BlackBoard sites, and so on, at all of which he has proved to be adept. Raphael is an attentive tutor, prompt in responding to student emails, giving students feedback on tutorial presentations, and marking essays. Feedback regarding Raphael from students enrolled in RLST 1002 A History of God, Deities & Demons has been uniformly positive and appreciative over the three years he has taught in Studies in Religion. In addition to his knowledge of the disciplinary material, Raphael’s facility with the internet and contemporary modes of communication, as well as his open, friendly personality, make students willing to engage with him, and to extend their learning beyond the classroom.”  
~ Professor Carole Cusack  

“I was delighted at being awarded a Teaching Fellowship, which served as some recognition of my recent successes in tutoring and lecturing for the Department of Studies in Religion. This has all been very sudden and surprising, given my background in health and finance. The award has allowed me to further immerse myself in the life of an academic, and to refine my time-management and pedagogical skills. I have thankfully been assigned a range of tasks, including lecturing, tutoring, and acting as unit coordinator for a seminar-style unit. I have also been allowed to attend departmental meetings and contribute to our marking rubrics. There have been challenges, such as in preparing a unit outline, and learning how to use Turnitin and other online systems; overcoming these has empowered me and increased my (over?) confidence. Though the year is not yet half finished, the experience thus far has further endeared me to academic life, and I will be forever grateful - to the University, the Faculty, and my supervisors - for the experience.”  
~ Raphael Lataster
Elisabetta Peruzzi  
Department of Theatre & Performance Studies

“Elisabetta Peruzzi was awarded one of the highly competitive International Postgraduate Scholarships and joined the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies in 2013, relocating from Italy to commence her PhD under the supervision of Dr Amanda Cord. Working in her third language (as well as her native Italian, she also speaks Russian), Elisabetta has been researching the Ballets Russes émigrés to Australia in the 1930s and 40s for her thesis “Kangarusskies: Behind the Revolution. Ballet technique and approaches to acting among Ballets Russes émigrés in Australia”. After a rich and wide-ranging candidature – Elisabetta has undertaken research in archives in Russia; guest lectured in Italy (University of Macerata; University of Urbino); taught in the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies, delivered conference papers internationally (in Transylvania) and locally; and has submitted articles to several internationally renowned journals in her field (Dance Chronicle and Dance Research) – she is looking forward to submitting her thesis in August. As a Teaching Fellow, she’s a very welcome addition to the Department this year, and is currently co-ordinating, with Dr Paul Dwyer, PRFM603 Between Impro and Text, where her Italian background and linguistic expertise has been invaluable for the “hands on” Commedia dell’Arte workshop component of the course. In Semester 2 she will draw on her research into turn of the 20th century avant-garde performance (and especially dance), to lecture and tutor in one of our core 1st year courses, PRFM1602 Dangerous Performances.”
~ Dr Laura Ginters

“The selection of teaching fellows seems to be one of the most competitive in this University. Being awarded a Teaching Fellowship helped me understand the value of working with the interdisciplinary approach that the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies has adopted for the units offered to undergraduates and postgraduates. Being in contact with curious and witty students is probably the best reward I could ask, as for me the relationship between student and teacher represents a rich, bidirectional exchange that can serve as a stimulus for both of us.”
~ Elisabetta Peruzzi
Jessica Sun  
Department of English

“Jessica Sun’s PhD is on imagery of metamorphosis and fragmentation in Baroque opera culture and its reception in Italy and England. Her research also explores the complex attitudes to nature and artifice, wholeness and fragmentation, in opera’s first superstars, Italian castrati singers. She has been a wonderful addition to the teaching of ENGL2667 Reading Drama and contributes to the Long Eighteenth Century Reading Group and EMLAC.”

~ Professor Liam Semler

“Four months into the Fellowship, I can say it’s a very challenging workload to manage alongside my research, but also a practical lesson in time-management and an all-round fantastic opportunity. When you teach, you learn; it’s a clichéd sentiment, but it’s undeniably true. It requires you to think on the spot, to think one step ahead, to be confident in discussing ideas and, most importantly, to see the merits in the ideas of others; skills that certainly don’t go to waste in any area of academic life. And no matter how distant teaching material might initially seem from the specificity of doctoral research, with an open mind, the interconnecting threads can be really astonishing.

“Beyond the surprise of seeing my name on an office door, or the strange feeling of sitting in staff meetings, the inclusion into Departmental life has been eye-opening. It makes me realise just how much I’d always taken for granted when I see the work and administration it takes to keep the Department running.

“Fingers crossed, my mid-year thesis submission will happen without a hitch while I wrap up my teaching for semester one; for second semester, I hope to have a go at lectures and curriculum development. I’m treating the Fellowship as a one-year trial period of academic life. By the end of this year, whether I’ve floundered or flourished, I’ll have a much better idea of whether a career in academia is something I can realistically pursue. For now though, I’m optimistically enjoying the challenge.”

~ Jessica Sun
Joshua Wheatley
Department of Art History

“Josh Wheatley, is a PhD candidate in the Film Studies Program who researches trash, specifically cinematic trash. Everything from Pink Flamingos (John Waters, 1972) to Trash Humpers (Harmony Korine 2009) to The Hangover 1, 2 and 3 is worthy of consideration in Josh's work. Josh's concept of trash sets aside the prescriptive nature of genre. Unfortunately Josh is not being asked to teach trash as part of his Teaching Fellowship, instead he will be teaching more mundane areas such as national cinemas. In second semester he will be teaching Hollywood, the home of trash, where he will be able to dish up films such as Unfriended (Levan Gabriadze, 2014), Cabin in the Woods, (Drew Goddard, 2012) and Only Lovers Left Alive (Jim Jarmusch, 2013) and Burn After Reading (Joel and Ethan Coen, 2008).”
~ Dr Richard Smith

“Garbage has a lively and shocking quality, speaking to us in profound ways and producing certain orientations of world. Cinema presents us with worlds formed in dynamic relations, spaces that bind imagination with action. To explore the idea of trash in relation to cinema is to unpack the worlds of the weird, transgressive and disavowed. Rather than ask what a bad movie 'is', or what makes a 'trash' film, we can begin to explore the ecological potentialities of cinema through its complex aesthetic productions of waste. In mapping the connections between scatological humour, VHS tape degradation, and sublime waste-heaps, my thesis aims to explore new directions in film studies from the bottom up.

“I have taught in the Film Studies department since 2013, in units on National Cinema, along with Contemporary Hollywood. I have lectured at Macquarie University and the Sydney Film Festival, and delivered presentations at multiple academic conferences. My teaching aims to explore the movements across aesthetic philosophy, film history and criticism, and post-structuralist and ecological thought.”
~ Josh Wheatley
It’s been another eventful semester for the Department of Art History. We’ve been celebrating prizes and publications – the publication of Donna West Brett’s *Photography and Place: Seeing and Not Seeing in Germany after 1945* (London: Routledge, 2016) and Stephen Whiteman’s co-authored book *Thirty-Six Views: The Kangxi Emperor’s Mountain Estate in Poetry and Prints* (Harvard University Press, 2016). We congratulate Stephen, too on the fact that his recent essay, "From Upper Camp to Mountain Estate: Recovering Historical Narratives in Qing Imperial Landscapes" was awarded the essay prize of the Society of Architectural Historian’s Landscape chapter.

We also congratulate Stephen Gilchrist for his pioneering and very well received exhibition “*Everywhen: The Eternal Present in Indigenous Art from Australia*”. We anticipate two further exhibitions curated by colleagues in the Department over the coming months. Stephen Whiteman has collaborated with graduate students on what will be the last exhibition in the old University Art Gallery space (before work begins on the new Chau Chak Wing Museum, which of course, we in the Department are very excitedly anticipating, along with many of our colleagues in the University). The exhibition, “Flying Time” features rare and fascinating Chinese printmaking from the post-1945 era, many of them collected by the University on the advice of our Professor Emeritus, John Clark. The exhibition opens on 2 August, and it has been generously supported by Sabrina Snow, who has long sustained our Asian art teaching, in particular through her sponsorship of the Francis Stuart prize. Meanwhile Roger Benjamin is planning a ground-breaking exhibition which opens in October at the *Institut du Monde Arabe*, Paris on the oasis town of Biskra, and its multiple and complex artistic and cultural communities.

We were delighted too, to hear of the success of our colleague Mark De Vitis in winning a coveted Newberry Library Fellowship. This competitive scholarship will enable Mark to carry out primary research in one of the great (and rather less well known) research libraries in America.

I am also pleased to report that our new fieldwork unit, ARHT3672 Art and the City, has moved from idea to reality and its first running, in Paris in 2017, is already fully subscribed. We’re delighted at the take-up and are looking forward to giving students the vital opportunity to engage directly with works of art, spaces and cities in an intensive way ‘in situ’. We’re also looking forward to the first running of a unit pioneered by Mark De Vitis, on fashion and dress, which will debut next year, and we’re already thinking of the many opportunities that the new museum will present for exciting and innovative developments in teaching.
At the Power Institute, the rhythm of book launches, lectures and events has been intense, and we welcomed distinguished guest speakers including Alex Nagel, Pat Simons and Eugene Wang, and collaborated with partners at the Art Gallery of New South Wales on the “Tang Cosmopolitanism” symposium in May. We also launched books including Jackie Redgate: Mirrors and most importantly, Hegel’s Owl, a new biography of Bernard Smith, the founding Power Professor and a major figure in Australian Intellectual life. The new Power Publications website, funded in part by support from the Nelson Meers Foundation, is giving us the chance to sell books and ebooks and get our publications and events better known both locally and internationally. We were also delighted to receive funding from the Keir Foundation for a series of talks to be hosted jointly with the University of Melbourne.

We wrapped up a wonderful project sponsored by the Getty Foundation, “Ambitious Alignments: New Histories of Southeast Asian Art” - organised with partners here at the University, including Adrian Vickers of Asian Studies, and in Indonesia and Singapore - with a final seminar and public event in Singapore. We’re delighted that the Getty Foundation have recognised the success of the project and we’re currently planning a follow-up project.

Recent publications


Celtic Studies was represented strongly in the conference of the Australian Early Medieval Association, hosted by the University in February, with presentations by Professor Anders Ahlqvist, Professor Jonathan Wooding, Dr Lyn Olson and Dr Pamela O'Neill, as well as research student Erica Steiner.

In September 2016 the Ninth Australian Conference of Celtic Studies will see another occasion for strong participation by Sydney scholars across a range of departments and disciplines. The generosity of ANU’s Humanities Research Centre and the University of Sydney’s Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in supporting this event is warmly acknowledged.

The programme continues to develop a core element in the teaching of Scottish Gaelic, through generous endowments by members of the Scottish community.

In January Professor Wooding was invited by the National Library of Wales to talk about his researches in their archive of letters of Sir John Rhys, the first Professor of Celtic at the University of Oxford. In 2016 he has also been invited to make presentations at conferences in Bristol, Canberra, Dublin and Edinburgh.
In semester 1, the Department of English welcomed the arrival of our newest member of staff, Dr Isabelle Hesse. Dr Hesse is an expert in modern and contemporary world literature with a particular focus on Palestinian and Israeli literature and film. Her first book, *The Politics of Jewishness in Contemporary World Literature: The Holocaust, Zionism and Colonialism*, was published by Bloomsbury in February.

The Department immersed itself in a wide range of activities and events, on and off campus, over the first half of 2016. On 10 March Dr Olivia Murphy organised a one-day Romantic Climates symposium at which Dr Nikki Hessell (Victoria University, Wellington) gave a keynote and Australian academics and postgraduates participated.

On 16 April the Australian Literature Program hosted a professional development day for teachers in collaboration with the English Teachers’ Association (NSW), which saw 150 teachers from metropolitan and regional NSW schools in attendance. The Reading Australian Literature series of talks, a part of Sydney Ideas, continued through 2016 with celebrated Australian writers reflecting on Australian literary works. In the most recent event, on 3 May, Nicholas Jose spoke to Dorothy Hewitt’s *Bobbin Up*.

At the University of California Berkeley conference *Active Aesthetics: Innovation and Aesthetics in Contemporary Australian Poetry* (14-17 April), Associate Professor Kate Lilley and Dr Peter Minter participated along with thirty Australian poets some of them also closely associated with the Department of English. Dr Minter presented in a keynote panel alongside Aboriginal poets Ali Cobby Eckermann and Natalie Harkin, and Griffith University creative writing and literary studies academic and poet Stuart Cooke. This groundbreaking conference on Australian poetry was the biggest of its kind ever held in the US. Dr Minter said “It was an honour to be invited to Berkeley to present the keynote, with fellow Indigenous poets Ali Cobby Eckermann and Natalie Harkin. The conference was unique for bringing together Indigenous and non-Indigenous poetry avant-gardes.”

Associate Professor Lilley, Dr Beth Yahp and Dr Minter were among the Department’s participants in events at the Sydney Writers’ Festival. The Creative Writing Program hosted leading Australian poets Pam Brown and Michael Farrell reading their works on 23 May and the great US writer Eileen Myles reading on 26 May.

Associate Professor Peter Kirkpatrick, Honorary Associate Dr Jessica Milner Davis and Will Visconti convened the 22nd annual Australasian Humour Studies Network conference at The Women’s College on 6-8 February 2016. ‘Laugh Lines’, an exhibition of Australian comic art, opened as part of the conference and runs in Fisher Library till 31 August.

The interdisciplinary Long Eighteenth-Century Reading Group, coordinated by Dr Amelia Dale and Elias Greig, hosted a talk on 8 April by Departmental visiting research fellow Jessica Hamel-Akré (Université de Montréal) on eighteenth-century diet doctor George Cheyne. *The Novel Network*, which includes a number of members of the Department, has entered into a three-year Memorandum of Understanding with the Society for Novel Studies in the United States, which is currently under the directorship of Professor Jonathan Arac (University of Pittsburgh). The memorandum will foster increased interaction between the two novel studies groups, beginning with a visit to the Department by Professor Arac later this year. The Nineteenth Century group, convened by Dr Matthew Sussman, continued its series of invited speakers including Dr Alexander Bubb from King’s College London (31 March).
Literary Anniversaries:
Emma200 + Shakespeare400 + Cervantes400 + Brontë200

December 2015 marked the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen’s *Emma*. Dr Olivia Murphy and Dr Amelia Dale gave talks on ‘Celebrating Austen’s *Emma*’ at Marrickville Library (10 December 2015) which addressed the composition and reception history of *Emma* from Walter Scott’s famous review of it in 1815 to the multi-platform web series *Emma Approved* (2013-4).

2016 is the 400th year since Shakespeare’s death (23 April 1616) and this notable ‘deathiversary’ has been marked by various events around the world including a number supported by colleagues from the Department of English.

Dr Griffiths, Dr Dale and Professor Emerita Penny Gay contributed to the podcasts from the Instituto Cervantes, talking about the legacy of Cervantes (who also died 400 years ago) and interconnections between Cervantes, Shakespeare and Fletcher.

The Better Strangers collaborative project led by Professor Liam Semler launched its ‘Shakeserendipity’ activity on the Shakespeare Reloaded website. This blended-learning approach to teacher professional development and classroom teaching advocates a serendipitous approach to exploring Shakespeare’s works that is not limited by ‘intended learning outcome’ models of pedagogy.

April also saw the 200th anniversary of Charlotte Bronte’s birth and Professor Vanessa Smith published ‘Why Charlotte Bronte still speaks to us’ in *The Conversation* in response.

The Early Modern Literature and Culture group (EMLAC) convened by Dr Huw Griffiths hosted a two-hour session on 27 April comprising eight 10-minute research papers on ‘Varieties of Shakespeare’. These papers are available as podcasts on the Shakespeare TwentyScore website.
The English Department’s Link Project has received further funding from the Nelson Meers Foundation. In 2015-16 members of the team have conducted school visits, campus visits, acted as critical friends and presented on the project at conferences. The Link project is a discipline-focused social inclusion initiative headed by Dr Melissa Hardie and Dr Kieryn McKay. Dr Brigid Rooney will be team leader in second semester.

On 18 May Professor Liam Semler was a panelist for the State Library of NSW’s ‘Love Affair with Shakespeare’ event hosted by Radio National’s Michael Cathcart as part of the Sydney Writers’ Festival which included actress Kate Mulvany, Bell Shakespeare Associate Director James Evans and Year 12 student Christina Nguyen.

The Department of English is thrilled to welcome its two new teaching fellows on board for 2016: Jessica Sun and Jarrad Cogle. See the feature on Teaching Fellowships in the ‘News’ section of this edition of SLAMmag.

Recent publications


On 6 February, Ahmar Mahboob and his partner welcomed their son Alex Mahboob into the world!

Ahmar Mahboob’s 2014 book ‘Englishes in Multilingual Contexts: Language Variation and Education’, edited with Leslie Barratt, was recently reviewed in TESOL Quarterly. The review states, “This is a very ambitious book, bringing together a number of issues relating to the ever-increasing complexity of describing, analysing, and teaching ‘Englishes’, considering a variety of audiences and aspects”.

In February, the Linguistics Department welcomed Dr Maïa Ponsonnet, a DECRA Postdoctoral fellow. Her project explores the language of emotions in Australian Indigenous languages of Arnhem Land, as well as in a number of Australian languages spoken elsewhere on the continent.

Gwen Hyslop has finalised her long-awaited book ‘A Grammar of Kurtöp’, which is due to be published in September by Brill. This link to the work provides a comprehensive description of all aspects of the grammar of this previously undescribed Tibeto-Burman language of Bhutan.

During the Easter break, Jim Martin visited the Pontifical Catholic University of Santiago to deliver a series of lectures on knowledge structure, reporting on research exploring knowledge-building in science and history in junior secondary school. Weekly metropolitan research seminars focusing on functional linguistics featured a range of speakers from the metropolitan region and abroad.

Sebastian Fedden (with Grev Corbett and Tim Feist) organised the 2016 Dissemination workshop “Gender and classifiers: diachrony and variation” at the University of Surrey, 28-29 January 2016. He also presented at the 17th International Morphology Meeting (IMM17) in Vienna, 17-21 February.

Nick Enfield gave an invited plenary address at the Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research Conference in Melbourne, on January 7. The talk was entitled “What is not Language?”. He also gave an invited lecture at the ‘Body Talk’ workshop, hosted by the Centre for Language, Interaction, and Culture at UCLA (19-20 February), and delivered his inaugural address at the General Lecture Theatre at the University of Sydney on 10 March. His lecture was titled 'The Conversation Machine'.
Visiting researcher Giacomo Figueredo has conducted a weekly research student course in systemic functional linguistics, with a focus on language typology.

Monika Bednarek will soon finish her stay at the Freiburg Institute of Advanced Studies (Germany) where she was FRIAS Senior Fellow and a Marie Curie Fellow of the European Union. She completed a co-authored research monograph which will be published with Oxford University Press and started work on a book on language use in globally successful US TV narratives. While in Europe she gave several invited talks in Germany, Austria and Switzerland and a plenary lecture at the 8th International Conference on Corpus Linguistics at the University of Malaga (Spain). She was also invited to participate in an interdisciplinary workshop on Doing Digital Humanities, where she presented a talk on "Corpus linguistic approaches to the analysis of fictional televisual narratives".

Congratulations to our Linguistics Award winners. See the feature on the Prizes & Awards Ceremony in the ‘News’ section of this edition of SLAMmag.

Recent publications

Five Go to South Korea
Words by Associate Professor Timothy Dwyer and Adriana Hernandez

Congratulations to five of our MECO students who have been selected to receive a Media Student Scholarship supported by Korean Australian Community Support Incorporated (KACS).

The KACS Scholarship Program has been established to provide students studying journalism or media at Australian universities with an opportunity to learn about Korea and the Korean Media Industry.

KACS quite rightly see this scholarship as a small but positive contribution by the Korean community in Sydney to enhancing the bilateral relationship between Australia and Korea by investing in future Australian journalists.

The Scholarship covers all the costs including airfare, accommodation and transport, estimated to be valued at around $4,000 per person. The participants will have opportunities to visit various Korean cultural, social, media and industrial organisations, with their stay in Korea being organised by KACS and other Korean government agencies.

The study tour is very consistent with the MECO degree, which is focused on producing graduates with a portfolio of practical media skills, relevant industry knowledge, cultural experiences and critical intelligence blended with a liberal arts education.

A healthy response produced the fantastic result of five successful placements out of the total number of 10 students selected from Australian universities.

This is an excellent outcome guided by MECO’s Undergraduate Internship Coordinator, Adriana Hernandez. Adriana was responsible for the promotion and recruitment process, involving an information session and reviewing of the applications.

The successful MECO students are Nina Harriott, Eleanor Clitheroe, Emily Shen, Bronte Small and Caitlin Gauci.

Recent publications
Hosting the Australian Early Medieval Association (AEMA) Conference from 11 to 12 February 2016 was the main activity for the Medieval and Early Modern Centre (MEMC) in 2016. This, the 11th AEMA Conference, turned out to be the most popular ever, with 50 presentations of a very high quality. Keynotes by Ash Lenton, ANU (on archaeology and ethnicity), and Haraldur Bernharðsson, University of Iceland (on Icelandic manuscripts), set the tone for a conference in which scholars discussed topics across a very wide disciplinary, methodological, and geographical range.

The AEMA conference was accompanied by a Postgraduate Advanced Training Seminar (PATS) from 9 to 10 February, conceived and organised by MEMC honorary research associate Nicholas Sparks. This received generous support from the Australian and New Zealand Medieval and Early Modern Association, as well as MEMC. Over the two days two leading paleographers, Professors Rodney Thomson and Margaret Mannion, led over 20 participants through the intricacies of manuscript studies, with the generous support of the staff of the Special Collections of the Fisher Library. Keynote lectures by Haraldur Bernharðsson (University of Iceland) and David Andrés Fernández (Universidad Austral de Chile) examined manuscript research in settings of majestic landscapes, and soundscapes, respectively.

The MEMC continues to act as a venue for presentations by visiting scholars, as well as many visitors to the Sydney Node of the Centre for the History of the Emotions (Director: Juanita Ruys).

Throughout the year the reading–groups in medieval languages continue to be very active, with membership of present and retired academic staff, as well as a very enthusiastic contingent of graduate students from English, Medieval Studies and Archaeology. Our graduate students and early-career scholars played key roles (along with Department of English Lecturer Tarrin Wills) in planning and supporting the AEMA Conference and PATS seminar. This leadership and ownership of the MEMC by its early-career scholars is an exciting aspect of our research culture.
NSW Regional Outreach Success

Treasured Possessions Project Launched in Regional New South Wales

Words by Dr Kimberley-Joy Knight

Dr Kimberley-Joy Knight and Wollongong Lord Mayor, Councillor Gordon Bradbery OAM

The program incorporates talks from historians and curators, museum visits, oral histories, memoir writing, filmmaking and photography, and will culminate in an exhibition of Treasured Possessions and a memoir book created by the participants. The exhibition will be held at the Wollongong Art Gallery in August and September. A preview exhibition will be hosted by the Wollongong City library in June.

Objects have the power to carry and evoke strong emotions. With CHE research at its core, the project aims to utilise the affective value invested in personally meaningful objects and address issues associated with isolation and disadvantage. It is hoped that investigating the emotional attachments between people and their treasured possessions will help foster lasting connections between community and personal heritage and show how seniors are a valuable source of knowledge and life experience with much to offer Australian communities.

The response to the Treasured Possessions project so far has been overwhelming. With each place on the program filled, the participants, aged between 65-95, have shown a real enthusiasm and interest in the History of Emotions. The seniors have listened to talks on material culture, debated key themes in the history of emotions, visited Meroogal House, and begun to share their pasts through oral histories. The participants learned more about curating and beginning to create their own exhibition as well as preparing their memoirs for publication.

In early May the project was recognised with a certificate of appreciation for its contribution to the community by the Wollongong Lord Mayor.

Hear more about Treasured Possessions in Dr Knight’s interview with Patricia Karvelas on ABC RN Drive or read more on the project here.
Research Update

In Semester 1, Jay Johnston has been in Orkney doing archival research for a new monograph, *Landscapes of Lived Belief: Prehistoric ‘Religion’ and Its Antiquarian Spirit*, which investigates the enduring legacy of antiquarian thought on the contemporary construction of the categories of “Prehistoric Religion” and “ritual landscapes”. As a visiting scholar at the Centre for Nordic Studies, University of Highlands and Islands, Jay gave a seminar on “Troublesome Objects: Ritual and ‘Magical’ Material Culture of the Highlands and Islands”. She also chaired panels on Medieval Icelandic literature and Viking Age mythology and archaeology at the 3rd International St Magnus Conference: Visualising the North, and delivered a paper titled “Ritual Lore: Northern Landscapes of Lived Belief”.

Departmental Seminars

The Department runs a regular research seminar for staff and graduate students. It has been a delight to welcome so many distinguished scholars, both international and local, this year. The presentations in Semester 1 were as follows:

8 March: Angela Burt (Oxford): “Krishna in the West: Key issues in the International Society for Krishna Consciousness since the death of the founder”.


12 April: Bernard Doherty (St Mark’s Theological Centre, ACT): “Marian Arks Cut Adrift: The Post-Roman Catholic Careers of Two Australian Marian Visionaries”.


10 May: Cristina Rocha (WSU): “Hillsong in Brazil: Establishing a Transnational Religious Field between Brazil and Australia”.


Teaching and Learning Note

Although general writing support is provided in various places at the University, Studies in Religion offers discipline-specific voluntary writing workshops to contribute to the First Year Experience. These workshops assist students with referencing, research, and writing. Two workshops were offered in Semester 1. The first focused on academic writing for Studies in Religion. It was scheduled an hour before the start of a semester social event on 15 March, and was successful, with over 35 first-year students present. Workshop slides were uploaded to Academia.edu for those unable to attend.

On 5 April a workshop on Zotero was facilitated. Similar workshops on the referencing program “Endnote” are run by staff at Fisher Library, but Zotero, which is free and simpler to use across a number of platforms, is often favoured by students. The workshop was well-attended, and the presentation slides were made available.
Finding Innovative Solutions to HDR Supervision
Words by Dr Christopher Hartney

Each department faces its own pedagogical challenges. In Studies in Religion we do not offer postgraduate coursework, but our cohort of higher degree research candidates has always been very healthy; sometimes more than healthy. Thus we often face the question: ‘How does any supervisor innovatively manage a large number of doctoral students?’ One great solution is to get doctoral students to share their research amongst themselves and intersupervise. When topics overlap this is a productive way to proceed. The symposium on Pentecostalism hosted by the department on 18 March 2016 was designed with this in mind.

One of the consequences of a successful ARC grant I held with Marion Maddox (Macquarie University) was a fully funded doctoral position. We soon found an enthusiastic and well-qualified student in Mairead Shanahan, who began studying the phenomenal rise of Pentecostalism with a focus on the links between church, state, and the financial trails that connect Pentecostal churches. With Marion on leave in 2015-2016, I took over as Mairead’s primary supervisor. My supervisory ‘dance card’ was already quite full, and an extra student made it necessary to think about supervision in new ways. An innovative way to manage this was a symposium that was also a supervision.

A number of doctoral students in and around Sydney working on Pentecostalism agreed to share their research. Associate Professor Cristina Rocha (heading the Religion and Society research cluster at WSU) was able to join Marion Maddox (still on leave) and myself who acted as auditors, while a range of great research was presented. Zoe Alderton (Writing Hub), who has a scholarly interest in Pentecostal cultures and self-harm, joined doctoral students Breann Fallon (Pentecostalism in Uganda), Christine Winter (studying the healthcare programs of Mercy Ministries, Hillsong), and Mairead Shanahan (Economics of Pentecostalism) on the programme. Interested staff and students from other parts of the University listened and shared their thoughts. A collective research outcome based on the day’s proceedings, such as a journal special issue, is mooted.

The symposium provided a hot-point for the exchange of ideas and new understandings. The conversations, comments, contacts, and friendships generated were valuable and powerfully constructive. Enthusiastic emails after the event confirmed this. My supervisory unease at taking on another student this year had provoked a great solution; one that merits further use.
Students in PRFM3611 Dramaturgy are currently taking part in a three day workshop of a new Australian play by award-winning playwright, and University of Queensland academic, Dr Stephen Carleton. The Turquoise Elephant won the Griffin Theatre Award last year and will be produced by Griffin later this year. Directed by eminent Australian director, Gale Edwards, and with Artistic Director of Playwriting Australia Tim Roseman acting as dramaturg, these workshops give students invaluable, and practical, insight into how a work is developed for the stage.

The Department of Theatre and Performance Studies is delighted to welcome to our staff this year PhD candidate Elisabetta Peruzzi who was awarded a Faculty Teaching Fellowship. Elisabetta is, among other things, teaching into PRFM2602 Between Impro and Text and PRFM1602 Dangerous Performances. See the feature on Teaching Fellowships in the ‘News’ section of this edition of SLAMmag.

Research

Among other research activities, Dr Paul Dwyer is collaborating with Powerhouse Youth Theatre to create a new work, Tribunal, which will be presented at Griffin Theatre later this year. Tribunal brings together artists, human rights activists, lawyers, young leaders and outlaws to create on stage an Australian Truth and Reconciliation Tribunal in which the truth and lies around the politically contentious labels of ‘refugee’ and ‘asylum seeker’ will be interrogated. See separate article on this from Paul in this edition of SLAMmag.
In The Rex

The Rex Cramphorn Studio, the Department’s special teaching and production resource, continues to be used by a diverse range of performance-makers and researchers.

Monkey Baa Theatre Company returned to the Rex to rehearse a new work, The Peasant Prince, the true story of Li Cunxin, Mao’s so-called ‘last dancer’. In the creation of this work, adapted by the creative directors of Monkey Baa and directed by Tim McGarry, the company engaged Danielle Micich, Artistic Director of Force Majeure to create the contemporary movement elements to further enhance the storytelling. Students in PRFM3961 Rehearsal Studies were able to observe the process, while for the cast, this provided the perfect opportunity to test the work before an audience. The production is currently touring nationally to 38 theatres throughout rural and regional Australia.

Tess de Quincey Company worked with video artist Martin Fox to develop the video component for Tess’s 20 minute solo Pure Light. Tess also worked with dancer Peter Fraser to add new choreographic sections to their duet Moths & Mathematics prior to its premiere in Melbourne this September. In a workshop open to the general public, Tess introduced participants to the discipline of ‘BodyWeather’, a way in which to explore through sensing and perception the internal “weather” of our bodies. Tess de Quincey also offered a workshop designed for the PRFM3961 Rehearsal Studies students.

Jo Elliott forged a unique collaboration between the Department and the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning. During her residency Jo explored the visual effects of lighting design methods that manipulate the apparent size of space. Her discoveries have assisted in experimental designs for her PhD thesis, ‘Light and the Illusion of Space’.

Jo Elliot explored contrasts of colour with light during her residency in the Rex Cramphorn Studio.

Tess de Quincey and Peter Fraser, rehearsing Moths & Mathematics. Photo: Sam James.

Tess de Quincey rehearsing her solo work Pure Light with video artist Martin Fox. Photo: Sam James.
Dr Paul Dwyer has been collaborating with Karen Therese and other artists, human rights activists, lawyers and health professionals on the development of new documentary theatre work by Powerhouse Youth Theatre, to be presented at Griffin Theatre from 12-20 August 2016.

Tribunal is taking shape as a people’s commission of inquiry, bearing witness to the stories of asylum-seekers and refugees, acknowledging the hurt and damage that they are suffering, as well as the contributions that they make to this society, when given the chance, through their resilience, joy and creativity.

While parts of the show will be scripted, each night’s session of Tribunal will be different as guest artists and speakers take part in a curated conversation on issues which directly affect the communities of Western Sydney – their perspectives, aspirations and connections to culture. Audience members will also be given the choice to actively participate – to respond, to ask questions – and these responses will have the potential to shift the performed conversation and ultimately affect the outcome of Tribunal.

A little later in the year, Paul and the Tribunal team will be showing work-in-progress to the Theatre and Performance Studies Research Seminar, while high school students, alongside our own undergraduates who will be studying the work, will have the chance to meet the artists for a Q&A session after one of the August performances.

See more details here.
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