Language and Culture

Language and Culture is the quarterly electronic magazine of the School of Languages and Cultures in the Faculty of Arts at Sydney University. It explores current issues in the field of languages and cultures and provides updates on the activities of the School.

This issue
- From the Head of School
- Making the Gods
- Where are they now?
- Selected Publications
- School and Department News

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This issue of our School’s magazine is—as the others before it have been—filled with the news of the teaching and research activities of the academics in our sixteen departments and programs. I also find it gratifying to glance through the two pages that list the many publications that our academics are contributing to their respective disciplines. But departing from my usual general comments, I am going to focus in my message to our readers on a particular strength of the School: our people working in the area of Southeast Asian Studies. In future issues I will highlight other parts of the School.

Our readers will immediately recognize our strengths in Southeast Asian studies from the news article on how our Indonesian Studies department recently hosted a group of high school students who are studying the Indonesian language. What is not publicized in the article is the fact that in terms of its students and innovative curriculum, our Indonesian Studies department is one of the best-regarded programs in the world. Moreover, already on an upward trajectory, our enrolments in the department have doubled in the last year alone. This is in large measure due to the efforts and reputation of the department’s staff: Dr Novi Djenar who chairs the department and ably coordinates the language program; and Associate Professor Michele Ford who, as is pointed out elsewhere in the magazine, received a highly prestigious Future Fellowship from the Australia Research Council to pursue her research interests in the Indonesian labor movement and other aspects of contemporary Indonesian Society.

I should add at this point that our School does very well in the Future Fellows competition. In the previous round, Professor Larissa Heinrich of the University of California, San Diego, was named a Future Fellow so that she could join our Chinese Studies department and pursue her research interests in the academic environment of our School and the China Studies...
Centre. We will be saying more about Larissa and her work in
the next issue of the newsletter. In the current round, in addition
to Michele, Dr Li Baoping of the Archaeology Department won
a Future Fellowship and will join our Asian Studies program to
continue his research on Chinese ceramics, especially artifacts
discovered in Cambodia and elsewhere in mainland Southeast
Asia and in the tropical waters surrounding Indonesia. We can
look forward to having Dr Li report on his fascinating studies in a
future issue of the newsletter and we warmly welcome him to our
School. I hope I will be excused if I boast that it is doubtful that
there is another School of Languages and Cultures in Australia
that has three ARC Future Fellows!

Equally exciting news with respect to Southeast Asia, our School,
and Dr Ford was the recent announcement that the University has
established a new Sydney Southeast Asia Centre and Michele
is its Acting Director. This is a major step in the University’s
academic engagement with Southeast Asia and, along with the
establishment of the China Studies Centre, demonstrates the
University’s long-term commitment to playing a leading role in
Australia’s involvement with Asia. The Centre brings together
the many scholars from across the University who specialize in
Southeast Asian studies and so we are proud that Dr Ford has
been singled out by the University’s administration to play a
leading role in the project.

My colleague Professor Adrian Vickers, the author of A History
of Modern Indonesia (Cambridge, 2005) and Bali: A Paradise
Created (first published by Penguin in 1989 and re-issued several
times), not only received his PhD in (what was then called)
Indonesian and Malayan Studies at the University of Sydney but
has become a distinguished Professor of Southeast Asian Studies
in the School as well as the Director of the Australian Centre for
Asian Art and Archaeology, a major organizer of academic events
related to Asia at the University. I am happy to get to share the
news that Professor Vickers’ most recent book Balinese Art:
Paintings and Drawings of Bali 1800-2010 (Tuttle, 2012) has
just appeared. I had a preview and it is a splendid publication
whose richly reproduced illustrations are annotated with Adrian’s
erudition.

The lead article in this issue of our magazine is a report by
Dr Martin Polkinghorne—an ARC Postdoctoral Fellow in our
School—on his work excavating ancient sculpture workshops at
the old site of Angkor in Cambodia. Martin is part of the Greater
Angkor Project that has been engaged in archaeological studies
at Angkor for over a decade. The home base of the project is the
University of Sydney Robert Christie Research Centre in Siem
Reap, a rare example of a foreign university being permitted
to establish a foothold in Cambodia. In my role as part of the
Greater Angkor Project team I have had the opportunity to visit
the Centre on a few occasions. It is deeply moving to see our
Australian students and their Cambodian colleagues working
closely together to unravel the complexities of Khmer history and
culture. With its Cambodian home at the Robert Christie Centre,
the Greater Angkor Project has also become a major research
partner of the École française d’Extrême-Orient (EFEO), the
illustrious French research institute that has done pioneering
work throughout East and Southeast Asia. Martin was recently
named the director of the Centre and we are extremely happy that
through him our connections with all our colleagues working in
Cambodia have been further solidified.
Making the Gods

Preliminary results from the sculpture workshops of Angkor

Dr Martin Polkinghorne, School of Languages and Cultures

Over the last decade Martin Polkinghorne has conducted extensive fieldwork in Southeast Asia, contributing significantly towards the Greater Angkor Project, and teaching and lecturing widely on Asian art history. He is an Australian Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow at the School of Languages and Cultures, and since 2011 the Director of the University of Sydney Robert Christie Research Centre, Siem Reap, Cambodia.

The art of ancient Cambodia is universally recognised for its simplicity of form, harmony of composition, attention to detail and mastery of technical execution. Every major public collection of art, including the Art Gallery of New South Wales includes Khmer sculpture in stone and bronze attesting to its world significance. Until recently, the methods of manufacture and the activities of the teams of artists who created these objects were unknown. Funded by the Australian Research Council, a three-year multi-disciplinary project has identified the location of numerous sculpture workshops at Angkor. Medieval ateliers and their techniques have not been the primary focus of any major study of Southeast Asian material culture. At Angkor we do not know the names of individuals who crafted the superlative sculptures, even when the quality of the work was exceptional. More research is required on the inscriptions, but of the few epigraphic references related to artists we only see personalities of the administrative elite who were conferred ceremonial titles associated with the control or leadership of these groups.

Led by the Angkor Research Program of The University of Sydney, a collaborative team from The Authority for the Protection and Management of Angkor and the Region of Siem Reap (APSARA), the Smithsonian Institution, and l’École française d’Extrême-Orient (EFEO) conducted excavations at the location of two sculpture
ateliers in late 2011 and early 2012. The first workshop, located just west of the 9th century Bakong temple was a focus of artistic activity in the 'early' Angkorian capital of Hariharalaya. French conservator Maurice Glaize originally discerned the site in 1943 during exploration of the outer Bakong enclosure when he identified two 2.4 metre tall rough-hewn and unfinished triads. Consisting of two large mounds either side of the western axis road of the Bakong, two associated occupation mounds, and a small pond, excavation has confirmed that the site was indeed the location of an atelier sheltered by at least one large building. Numerous characteristic artefacts including iron and stone tools for the manufacture of sculpture were also discovered. The stone tools probably used for sanding and polishing sculptures possess scratch wear consistent with being rubbed on sandstone. A road cut through the centre of the southern mound sometime in the early 20th century provided the team with an opportunity to obtain a thirty-five metre cross section of the mound. This long trench exposed many layers of working surfaces for sculpture production and the foundations of a large building. The superstructure was presumably built in wood and is attested by large quantities of elaborately decorated glazed stoneware roof tiles. One of the most significant artefacts was a shard of Chinese imported Tang Dynasty Xing white ware dating to the mid-late 9th century, one of only two pieces of this type found at Angkor. The site is currently occupied by a small ‘traditional’ smithing workshop suggesting a tantalising link to the Angkorian craft of sculpture making and tool maintenance that logically occurred at the site.

The second excavation phase of the project focussed on an Angkorian period atelier in the heart of King Jayavarman VII’s great walled city of Angkor Thom. Conservator Henri Marchal made speculation about the area as a workshop as early as the 1920s. Recent discovery of a workshop for lead roof tiles and unfinished sandstone sculpture provide further evidence that the site was the centre of artistic production. The entire site is scattered with small sandstone chips believed to be the result of carving sandstone sculpture. Excavation revealed in-situ sandstonedebitage, an unfinished...
Making the Gods

sculpture, iron and stone tools and additional evidence of a bronze sculpture workshop.

The discovery of a bronze workshop just outside the walls of the Royal Palace of the Angkorian kings is the first of its kind in Cambodia and Southeast Asia. One trench included a bellows-type structure made from reused stone blocks sealed with stucco and tree resin. Conceivably it was activated with some kind of wooden device that moved a flexible animal skin up and down from the top of the stone courses to deliver pressurised air into the hearth or furnace chamber. Waste products and materials of metal production including bloom waste, sprues, vents, a crucible, tree resin, and clay moulds in conjunction with unfinished sandstone sculpture and chip debitage suggests that allied arts were working side-by-side. Quantities of imported trade-ware from Thailand, Vietnam, possibly Myanmar, and especially China suggest a cosmopolitan society with sizeable interests in international trade.

The Angkor Thom workshop yielded special artefacts in the form of ‘foundation deposits’. A lead turtle approximately 20cm in length contained over 85 crystals appearing to be quartz. The turtle was likely a ritual deposit and acted to sanctify the objects made by the workshop. This can perhaps be associated with Kurma, the turtle avatar of Viṣṇu. Kurma is commonly illustrated in Angkorian iconography as the ‘pivot’ in the famous ‘Churning of the Sea of Milk’ story, masterfully and strikingly depicted in bas-relief at the southeast gallery of Angkor Wat. Interestingly, five unfinished sandstone sculptures at the Angkor Thom site can be identified as four-armed standing Viṣṇus, suggesting a possible religious designation for the workshop. Considerable additional documentary and analytical work is required as a result of the excavations.

Stone, metal and other artefacts sampled from the excavation will undergo further analysis in the laboratories of project collaborators.

When looking at the celebrated corpus of Angkorian art, custodians, visitors and scholars consistently ask the same question: how were these works created? Until now the answer is very partial. This project, the first study of workshop sites in Southeast Asia is beginning to connect the sculptural masterpieces of Khmer culture to the processes and social context of their manufacture.

The presence of large infrastructure, elaborate buildings, considerable production waste, rare imported ceramics, extraordinary ritual deposits, and proximity to palace compounds suggest that these workshops were of great importance to the kings of Angkor who devoted considerable resources and religious investment in images of the Gods.

Unfinished sandstone sculpture of standing four-armed Viṣṇu (headless, face down), Angkor Thom sculpture workshop.
One of the questions we are regularly asked on Open Day is “What can you do with a degree in Languages? I recently had lunch in Florence with two former students who are a reminder that you cannot even begin to imagine where your Arts degree will take you.

Kathleen Olive (PhD in Italian Studies, 2004) works for Robert Veel's Academy Travel and takes tours to Italy, Turkey, and Spain. She is one of a significant group of Australians who have forged a reputation in Renaissance Studies, and takes advantage of her company's commitment to academic excellence to continue to do research. She loves to travel, and she has made a career of it.

Freya Middleton (BA 2001 in Italian and Fine Arts) has settled and married in Florence, and has not only qualified as a licenced tour guide but now runs a thriving business employing six other guides and offering every kind of service from intimate tours for families to extravaganzas for the entire Master Chef production team.

What about Justin Barlogio (BA 2004), they asked. Did I know what he was doing now? On my return to Sydney I sought him out. With Google's help, it wasn’t difficult. Justin is working in Washington, but returns regularly to Malta which was his first DFAT posting, and plays representative Rugby League (like so many Australians) for Malta.

Just three of our fabulous graduates, at home everywhere in the world, and using their cultural and language skills and their profound knowledge of their fields to act as cultural mediators in the wider world. It’s been a privilege to catch up with them.
PUBLICATIONS


Andrea Bandhauer, ‘If it is not you who is it, then?’: Water, Womanhood (Weiblichkeit) and Metamorphoses in Yoko Tawada’s Schwager in Bordeaux, Fremde Wasser: Hamburger Gastprofessor für Interkulturelle Poetik Yoko Tawada, Poetik-Vorlesungen, INPOET, Germany, 2012: 203-217.

Hongwei Bao, Queer/Querying Cosmopolitanism: Queer Spaces in Shanghai, Culture Unbound, 2012: 4(6), 97-120.


Michele Ford & Lenore Lyons, Counter-Trafficking And Migrant Labour Activism In Indonesia’s Periphery, Labour Migration and Human Trafficking in Southeast Asia: Critical Perspectives, Routledge imprint of Taylor & Francis, Oxon, United Kingdom, 2012: 75-94.


Ki-Sung Kwak, Media and Democratic Transition in South Korea, Routledge imprint of Taylor & Francis, New York, 2012.


LENORE LYONS, MICHELE FORD. DEFENDING THE NATION: MALAY MEN’S EXPERIENCE OF NATIONAL SERVICE IN SINGAPORE, MEN AND MASCUINITIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, ROUTLEDGE IMPRINT OF TAYLOR & FRANCIS, LONDON, 2012: 139-158.


KAI-CHENG DUNG. ATLAS: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF AN IMAGINARY CITY; TRANSLATED BY: ANDERS HANSSON, BONNIE S. MCDougALL, KAI-CHENG DUNG; COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS, NEW YORK, 2012.


LINDA TSUNG, RETHINKING MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION FOR MINORITY STUDENTS IN CHINA, HAMURING LINGUISTIC VARIATION TO IMPROVE EDUCATION, PETER LANG PUBLISHING, BERN, SWITZERLAND, 2012: 5, 115-138.


Associate Professor Michele Ford from the Department of Indonesian Studies has been awarded a prestigious Future Fellowship, which will commence in 2013. The Fellowship will allow Michele to concentrate on her research for four years. During this time, Michele will be based primarily at the University of Sydney, but will spend extended periods of time at Cornell University, Leiden University and the University of Western Australia. She will be working on two major projects, both funded by the ARC. The first of these, funded directly by the Fellowship, assesses the impact of trade union aid on the labour movements of Southeast Asia. The second, funded by a separate ARC Discovery Project grant, examines the repoliticisation of the Indonesian labour movement.

In the first project, Michele will be focusing on the labour movements of Indonesia, Malaysia and Timor Leste. Trade unions in each of these countries rely heavily on aid from the international labour movement, but in different ways and to different extents. In Malaysia, trade union donors have funded initiatives aimed at ensuring the continued viability of unions and strategic programs that push local trade unions in new directions, for example, by encouraging them to embrace temporary labour migrants in sectors where they constitute a significant proportion of the workforce. In Indonesia, trade union aid has driven a massive transformation of trade union structures and activities since that country’s transition to democracy. In Timor Leste, international labour movement organisations have designed and developed a trade union movement from the ground up in what was effectively a greenfield site. In documenting and analysing these three cases, Michele will explore local labour movements’ relationship to the international trade union movement and the extent to which they depend on, and have been transformed by, the financial resources and conceptual frameworks that trade union aid brings. She will also contribute to theoretical debates in labour geography around labour transnationalism, agency and accountability.

In the second project, Michele will work with Associate Professor Teri Caraway from the University of Minnesota to better understand trade unions’ attempts to influence electoral politics in Indonesia. Since the resignation of President Suharto in May 1998, Indonesia has conducted three national elections contested by dozens of political parties. Local governments are now also directly elected. In technical terms, these elections have been relatively free and fair. But despite intense competition for political power, they have overwhelmingly served to regulate competition among oligarchs rather than to advance policies that benefit ordinary Indonesians. Michele and Teri argue that the labour movement, though fragmented, is the only secular, non-elite force in Indonesia with the organizational capacity to aggregate interests outside the party system and push parties to compete on the basis of programmatic appeals, and thus trade unions’ efforts to engage in electoral politics are thus tremendously significant. Their analysis of trade unions’ political experiments in the lead-up to the 2014 election will greatly enhance our understanding of Indonesia’s democracy.

School News - Future Fellowships

Congratulations to Michele Ford, Department of Indonesian Studies, and Baoping Li, Asian Studies Program/Department of Archaeology, for their awards of two of this year’s ARC Future Fellowships. Twenty-two were awarded University-wide and there were five in the Faculty.

About Future Fellowships

In 2008, the Australian Government announced the creation of a new scheme, Future Fellowships, to promote research in areas of critical national importance by giving outstanding researchers incentives to conduct their research in Australia. The aim of Future Fellowships is to attract and retain the best and brightest mid-career researchers.
Indonesian: Where It Can Take You!

212 students came to the University of Sydney for Indonesian Day

The Indonesian Studies Department hosted an exciting day of talks and activities for high school students studying Indonesian on 15 June 2012. ‘Indonesian: Where it can take you’ was the second gathering of high school students to be held at Sydney in recent years. The first, held in 2008, gave students an introduction to Indonesian Studies at Sydney. The purpose of the 2012 event was to inform students about the exciting possibilities that the knowledge of Indonesian language and societies offers. The event was attended by 212 students and 18 teachers from 13 different schools in New South Wales, including a group from Coffs Harbour who started their journey to Sydney at 4 am.

Taking nearly a year in planning, the event was the result of a collaborative effort between Dr Novi Djenar (Chair of Indonesian Studies Department), Merryl Wahlin (NSW Association of Independent Schools), Lyndall Franks (NSW Department of Education and Training), Ida Harsojo (Teacher of Indonesian, Parramatta High School) and Gillian Cordy (Council of Catholic Education NSW). Overwhelming support for the initiative was shown by teachers of Indonesian in NSW, the Australia-Indonesia Association, Indonesian Consulate-General, and the Indonesian Studies community at the University of Sydney, including undergraduate and postgraduate students, and academic Affiliates. Four new scholarships were established for year 10 students to continue studying Indonesian to HSC level, and for HSC students to continue at university level. These scholarships were provided by the Modern Language Teachers Association, the Department of Education and Training, and the Australia-Indonesia Association.

The day was organised around a combination of information sessions and language/cultural activities for students. In the morning session, students had the opportunity to hear from alumni of the Department about how knowledge of Indonesia provided a significant direction in their careers. Among invited speakers were Prof. Adrian Vickers (Asian Studies, University of Sydney), Melanie Morrison (SBS television), Dr Jeff Neilson (School of Geosciences, University of Sydney), and Violet Rish (AusAid). Current undergraduate students Tim Everson, Nick Mark, and Katrina Steedman shared their experience combining a study of Indonesia with other disciplines such as medical science, law, and humanities.

The cultural component of the day kicked off with Merak Angelo, a Balinese welcome dance, and music performances by students Katrina Steedman and Nick Mark. A free Indonesian lunch followed, after which students took part in cultural activities, which ranged from dance lessons and ketupat-making, to campus tours conducted in Indonesian, led by undergraduate and postgraduate students. The event culminated in a
**Indonesian Studies (cont’d)**

competition in which groups of students presented skits in Indonesian. The day was brought to a close with the award of prizes for the activities and the announcement of scholarship winners by Associate Professor Michele Ford (Indonesian Studies, University of Sydney) and Merryl Wahlin on behalf of the Modern Language Teachers’ Association.

Feedback from teachers and students was extremely positive. Students came away ‘powered up with enthusiasm’ and ‘motivated and inspired’ by the event. This response, and indeed, the overall participation by the schools and the University generated a new sense of community at a time when there is pressure on Indonesian Studies student numbers nationally.

**Modern Greek Studies**

Associate Professor Vrasidas Karalis, Chair of the Department of Modern Greek, has been appointed to the Greek Ministerial Consultative Committee, the establishment of which was announced on 14th August 2012 by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Bowen MP, Senator Kate Lundy, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and the Honourable Mr Bob Carr, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The committee, made up of twelve prominent Greek-Australians chosen from across the country, will advise the Government at all levels of policy making on issues pertaining to Greece and the Eurozone more generally during the current crisis, and submit suggestions on dealing with the possible effects of the crisis within Australia. Associate Professor Karalis is the only academic appointed to the committee, and will advise the government on cultural, educational and language policy issues in particular playing an important role in defining cultural, immigration and educational policies of the Federal Government.

The committee met for the first time at the Federal Parliament on 14th August, 2012, where there was an opportunity to discuss with the ministers involved the effects on the crisis on the thriving Greek-Australian community and the noticeable rise of a new immigration movement during the last two years. It will meet in Canberra every three months, chaired by Federal member for Calwell Ms Maria Vamvakinou and Federal member for Hindmarsh Steve Geogranas.

**Germanic Studies**

The Department welcomes **Joern Hausner** to the University. Joern is the new DAAD lecturer in the department, replacing Andreas Jaeger, who took a teaching position in Germany.

[Link to Joern’s academic Profile](#)

**Chinese Studies**

Bonnie McDougall gave the final paper at a workshop on Letters and Epistolary Culture in China, held in Boulder CO 17-18 August, entitled “Love-letters: Universal and Infinite Variations of Writing and Desire”. The workshop papers will be published as a handbook on Chinese letters by Brill in 2013/14.

We welcome **Dr Larissa Heinrich**, who has taken up a four year Future Fellowship with the Department.
Rewriting History in Manga: A New Medium for Debate?

On Friday, August 17, the Japanese Studies Department hosted an international symposium entitled “Rewriting History in Manga: A New Medium for Debate?” The symposium was organized by Dr Rebecca Suter and Dr Lionel Babicz from the University of Sydney and Dr Nissim Otmazgin from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, currently a visiting scholar with the Japanese Studies department with a fellowship sponsored by the Sir Zelman Cowen Universities Fund.

The Symposium brought together faculty and postgraduate students from SLC and international scholars from East Asia, the Middle East, the United States, Europe, and Australia to discuss the function of manga as a medium for political debate, with particular focus on its representation of history.

A wide range of studies in both the social sciences and the humanities have examined manifestations of historical memory at both the national level and analysed the way in which governments utilize symbols such as monuments and museums to reflect their own perception of history. Many of these works deal with the ways in which contemporary national sentiments are tied to historical events, for example through a reflection on the memory of collective suffering in the past, the mobilisation of wartime traumas for political purposes, and the inability of nations to think and act beyond the narrow confines of ethnic nationalism.

In recent years, Japan’s comic books market has also become a stage for political debate. While in the past manga had typically dealt with Japan’s history in an implicit and indirect manner, in recent years there are more and more conscious attempts to use the comic industry as a medium to convey political messages that are not represented in the mainstream media. In such context, this workshop looked at alternative modes of historical memory and political debate manifested in the Japanese comic book industry, including, but not limited to, issues of nationalism, ethnicity, gender equality, and economic and social transformations.

The Symposium was well attended and discussions were productive and stimulating; the organizers are currently discussing the possibility of turning it into a book project.
International Exchange Information Night
On Thursday 23 August, the Department of Italian Studies held a very successful information event for students interested in going on Exchange to Italy and/or in enrolling in Honours.
Ms Kate Smart, from the International Office, addressed the students providing them with important information regarding dates and other organisational matters. Then everybody present had the opportunity to ask questions of the students who have just returned from Italy, where they studied at the Universities of Bologna, Florence and Turin. Questions ranged from finding accommodation, to attending classes and preparing for exams. The evening continued with a discussion about the importance of the Honours program and the procedures to be admitted. The event concluded with some delicious pizza from Ralph’s café that was appreciated by all present.

The Department would like to thank warmly Ms Kate Smart for her presence, and Emma Barlow, Kane Hardy, Rachel Knapman, Travis MacKenna, Lucy Stone and Greta Ulbrick for taking the time to share their Italian experiences with the other students and providing them with very precious information. Many thanks also to our Student Representative, Mia Tsikrikas, who helped with organizational aspects.

News
Dr Maria Cristina Mauceri, Cassamarca Lecturer, gave an invited lecture on “The emotional and symbolic meaning of food in some migrant writers in Italy” at the Istituto di Storia dell’Europa Mediterranea of the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche of the University of Genova, 14 June 2012.

Dr Antonia Rubino presented a paper on “Searching for words in Italian radio programs in Australia” at the Conference on “Multilingualism in the Public Sphere”, held in Dubrovnik (Croatia), 4-6 May, 2012.

During her period of Study Leave, Dr Antonia Rubino was invited to present her research at Georgetown University, Trinity College (Hartford, US), the Postgraduate Centre of the City University of New York, and the University of Sussex (UK).

XII World Italian Language Week (20-24 August)
A series of events was organized by the Department of Italian to celebrate the XII Week of the Italian Language in the World. The theme of this year was “L’Italia dei territori, l’Italia del futuro.”

Seminars & Other Events
Emeritus Prof. Anthony Mollica (Brock University-Canada) gave a talk on We have ways on making students talk! Stimuli for oral and written communication. This seminar was organised with the support of the Italian Institute of Culture of Sydney (9 August).

Dr Antonia Rubino gave a talk on: I dialetti in Italia oggi tra continuità e rivitalizzazione (21 August).

Dr Eliana Maestri (Erasmus Mundus) presented a talk on: L’Italia e l’Europa: percezioni e visioni da parte degli italiani-australiani di seconda e terza generazione (23 August).

The film “Basilicata Coast to Coast” by Rocco Pappaleo was screened at the University of Sydney in collaboration with the Circolo Universitario Italiano (22 August). Many thanks to our Student Representatives, Mia Tsikrikas, who helped in organizing and advertising the event.
Eva Engel Prize in Holocaust Studies

The Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies has been fortunate to secure a new prize in Holocaust Studies. Through the generosity of Eva Engel, in honour of her late husband, Paul Engel, the Department will now be able to offer one prize per annum to the most outstanding third year student Jewish Civilisation and/or Holocaust Studies who plans to undertake Honours or Masters level research in Holocaust Studies at the University of Sydney. The prize will amount to the order of a maximum of $2,500 per annum.

Mrs. Engel was inspired to create the prize due to her own interest in the areas of Jewish resistance and resilience during the Holocaust. Her desire to help foster research, teaching and learning in these and related areas of Holocaust Studies is greatly appreciated by the Department and is further recognition of the value and esteem with which the University’s research is held in both academic and public forums.

Conferences

Dr Avril Alba presented a paper entitled ‘The Intergenerational Transmission of the Memory of Genocide’ at the International Network of Genocide Scholars conference Genocide: Knowing the Past, Safeguarding the Future, San Francisco State University, 27 June-1 July 2012.

International and National Conferences in the field of Semitic Studies

Emer. Professor Rifaaet Ebied

The following Conferences in the general field of Semitic Studies (Aramaic, Syriac and Arabic Studies) were held recently in a number of different places. I here give a brief report about each one of them:

1. ARAM Thirty Third International Conference on Zoroastrianism in the Levant convened from Wednesday, 4 July to Friday 6 July, 2012 at the Oriental Institute, University of Oxford. A total of 20 (twenty) papers, focussing on the Zoroastrian religion and its interaction with Near Eastern religions especially with Judaism, Christianity and Islam, were presented at this Conference. Three scholars from the University of Sydney attended, presented papers at and/or chaired sessions of, this Conference.

2. The XIth International Congress for Syriac Studies, Symposium Syriacum XI, was held at the University of Malta, Valleta, from 16–18 July 2012. The Symposium Syriacum was followed by the IXth International Conference on Christian Arabic Studies which convened at the same place from 19-21 July, 2012. Participants from around the world came together in the beautiful Mediterranean Island of Malta. More than 320 scholars from five continents and many different countries attended one or both congresses. These two conferences also drew interest among the members of local Christian communities. It is worth mentioning that the International Symposium Syriacum was founded in 1972 in Rome and has since been convened every four years during the Olympics Games Year. The 8th Symposium Syriacum, together with the 6th Conference on Christian Arabic Studies, were held at The University of Sydney in 2000.

3. More recently, a small one-day National Conference on Syriac Studies (the first of its kind) was held in Melbourne on Friday 24 August. Eight papers, covering a broad range of Syriac Studies (Language, theology and culture, with an emphasis on the sharing of research in progress) were presented at this conference.
Indian Subcontinental Studies

The department welcomes back Eddie Crangle from sick leave. Eddie suffered a stroke in November last year, but is now back teaching and supervising his doctoral students, making good progress in his recovery.

In July the department farewelled Andrew McGarrity who has taken up a 2 year Mangalam Research fellowship at the Mangalam Research Center for Buddhist Languages in Berkeley, California - www.mangalamresearch.org. Andrew was Lecturer in South Asian and Indo-Tibetan Studies from 2008–2012, during which time he taught Sanskrit and Tibetan and units in the Asian Studies and Buddhist Studies programs dealing with Buddhist and Indian philosophy, Tibetan Buddhism, the reception of Buddhism in the West, cultural relations between India, China, and Tibet, and Indian religion and culture from the earliest to the modern periods. He also taught into the Comparative Literature, Peace and Conflict, Human Rights in Asia programs. Several of Andrew's units were the most popular in the Asian Studies program. He was an excellent teacher and received very positive student course assessments. His contributions to the Buddhist, Indian, and Asian Studies programs will be greatly missed, but we wish him well in his new venture.

Third Australasian Sanskrit Conference

Departmental staff and students helped organize the Third Australasian Sanskrit Conference, which was held at the Women's College, University of Sydney, July 21–22 - conference website. The School provided valuable financial and administrative assistance for the conference. Approximately 70 scholars, students, and members of the public attended, coming from afar as the USA, India, and Hong Kong. The conference included an interesting mix of academic papers and non-academic presentations. The former covered topics as diverse as Sanskrit literature (Epics, Upanishads, tantras), Sanskrit grammar, Buddhist texts, medieval interpretations of Tamil poetry through Sanskrit literary norms, editing Sanskrit texts, the teaching of Sanskrit and related languages in Australian universities and in primary and community schools, yoga and aspects of Indian philosophy. The non-academic presentations included presentations on and performances of classical Indian dance (Bharatanatyam), spoken Sanskrit, and the chanting of Sanskrit texts. Papers by Departmental staff members and students, past and present, included “Sanskrit and Prakrit language studies in Australian universities” by Mark Allon, “Trends in editing Sanskrit texts” by Chris Clark, “Śiva’s Boons: Reconsidering the role of Śiva in the Mahābhārata” by Paloma Muñoz Gomez, “An 18th century illumination of the seven steps of Rāja-Yoga” by Jennifer Cover, and “Sanskrit with fun: modern yet traditional approach to teaching language” by our former lecturer in Hindi, Menakshi Shrinivasan. Professor Francis Clooney, Parkman Professor of Divinity and Professor of Comparative Theology, Harvard Divinity School, gave the keynote address “Hearing Tamil, reading Sanskrit: the Srivaisnava use of Sanskrit.”

Other events

Departmental members are currently organizing the upcoming joint conference of the Australasian Association of Buddhist Studies and Australian Association for the Study of Religions, University of Western Sydney, 28th–30th September - conference registration.

Wendi Adamek (joint appointment, Buddhist and Chinese Studies) presented a paper “A Pre-History of Introspecting the Point.” at the Third International Conference on Ganhwa Son, Dongguk University, Seoul, June 24, 2012. Wendi also recently gave a talk at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney: “A Tale of Two Daughters in the Tang Dynasty.” on the 14th August.

Seminar series

Australasian Association of Buddhist Studies Seminars
5:30-7:00, Woolley Common Room

- 27 July: Ward Keeler: Detachment, Attachment, and Attention
- 21 August: Wendi Adamek: Zen and the Environment: It’s Not What You Think
- 11 September: Graeme Lyall: Buddhism Behind Bars
- 16 October: Blair Silverlock: TBA
- 30 October: Ian McCrabb: Formulae in Gandhāran relic inscriptions
news

French Studies

Conference success
Emme Devonish (PhD student in the Department of French Studies) and Professor Stephen Muecke (UNSW) presented a joint paper at the ‘Crossroad in Cultural Studies’ conference held at UNESCO in Paris from 2 to 6 July 2012. The conference was organised by the Association for Cultural Studies and attracted several hundred participants from all over the world. Among the keynote speakers were Jacques Rancière, Sarah Ahmed, Marie-Hélène Bourcier, Jeremy Gilbert, Achille Mbembe, Walter Mignolo, Bobby Noble, Phaedra Pezzullo and Françoise Vergès.

Emme Devonish and Stephen Muecke’s paper ‘Race and the Generation of Wealth: Migrants, Aboriginal Cultures and Neo-Colonialism’ was selected to be presented at one of the three Spotlight sessions. It was a very stimulating session which attracted a very large audience and sparked off many questions from participants.

Sonia Marks Memorial Lecture.
with Professor Emeritus Ross Chambers.
Tuesday, 27 November 2012, 5.30 for drinks, 6pm start.
Woolley Common Room.

The Sonia Marks Memorial fund was set up in 1985 to commemorate the life and achievements of Sonia Marks, whose untimely death deprived the Department of a much appreciated teacher and colleague. Along with Associate Professor Ross Steele, now retired, Sonia Marks set up the Department’s French language program for adult beginners. That program has proven hugely successful, with first year enrolments now well over 300 students, as well as summer and winter school offerings. Many beginner-entry students complete a Major in French Studies, and some continue to Honours, achieving excellent results. The Sonia Marks memorial fund also provides annual student prizes for students from the beginner language stream, and a memorial lecture, delivered on some aspect of teaching in French Studies.

This year it is the Department’s great pleasure to welcome Professor Emeritus Ross Chambers of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, who will deliver the Sonia Marks Memorial lecture on the subject of “Learning from Teaching”. Professor Chambers is a distinguished alumnus of the University of Sydney and was the McCaughey Professor of French Studies for several years during the 1970s. He was also one of Sonia Marks’ early mentors. His many publications span a wide range of topics including narrative theory, comparative literature and cultural studies.

For enquiries and RSVPs, please contact the Chair of Department, Associate Professor Bronwyn Winter.

Compulsory Fun
Following the success of the French Poetry Writing and Recital Competition in Semester 2, 2011, Ms Christel Rome and Dr Corinne Mesana from the Department of French Studies are currently preparing students for the 2012 Competition. The theme of this year’s Competition is “Compulsory Fun” (Il faut s’amuser), chosen in accordance with the University of Sydney’s 2012 Verge Arts Festival Theme. Undergraduate and postgraduate students will compete in two categories: best poetry composition and best poetry recital. Students from beginner and advanced streams will compete in different divisions for prizes donated by the Alliance Française, French Soc and the Department of French Studies.

All are welcome to attend the Recital event on Tuesday 16 October, Holme Reading Room, 5.15 to 7.00pm.
In December last year, Dr Vicki Grieves, ARC Indigenous Research Fellow based in SOPHI, and Drs Vek Lewis and Fernanda Peñaloza (Spanish and Latin American Studies, SLC) successfully carried out the symposium Indigenous Knowledges in Australia and Latin America: Locating Epistemologies, Difference and Dissent (with support from SSPS and the SLC, contributions from SLAM and an IPDF grant). Head of School Prof. Jeffrey Riegel kindly opened the proceedings for this two-day event promoting a dialogue between Indigenous scholars from Australia and from Mexico, Chile and Argentina. The event took inspiration from the 2009 inaugural symposium Into the Academy: Indigenous Knowledges Protocols, Ethics, Philosophies and Methodologies in Higher Education in Australia hosted by the IK Research Group from within the School of Social and Political Sciences (SSPS) in 2009. Expert simultaneous interpreting and a collaborative atmosphere ensured effective communication and engagement from a diverse audience. The variety of papers, reflecting both a commonality and diversity of society, culture and experience between the Indigenous peoples of these countries and Australia was a particularly rewarding experience for those who attended.

The organisers of these two symposia are currently developing a book project to bring together the best work from each. Along with Dr Grieves, members of the Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies will feature as contributors and editors to the monograph. Professor Simon Tormey the Head of School (SSPS) has agreed to introduce this volume. Professor Tormey has consistently supported IK symposia development at the University of Sydney.

**AILASA Conferences**

In early July, Anne Walsh, Kathryn Crameri and Luis Fernando Angosto Ferrández presented research papers at the Xth Biennial Conference of the Association of Iberian and Latin American Studies of Australasia (AILASA). The Conference, this year under the title of "Centring the Margins: Reconfiguring the Map of Knowledge in Humanities and Sciences in the Iberian and Latin American Worlds", was hosted by Victoria University of Wellington (New Zealand) and structured in 21 different thematic panels. The event was a success for AILASA, an association in continuous growth which will soon be celebrating its 20th anniversary. The variety of panels and the quality of research discussed during the 3 days of the conference demonstrated the vitality of the Association and the international projection of its members and allies, who on this occasion came from institutions of four different continents. The organizers of the Conference and the host institution set a very high standard for their successors – who will be the members of the Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies at the University of Sydney. We will have the honour and responsibility of hosting the next Biannual AILASA Conference, in July 2014, an event which will constitute yet another milestone in the international projection of our department and the University of Sydney.

**Research grants**

Dr Vek Lewis has received a 2012 FRSS grant to begin his field work project in Mexico, “Situating violence in space, institutions and relations: rethinking gender accounts of “transphobia” in Mexico via feminist political geography and ethnography”.

**Staff news**

This semester has involved much staff movement. The Department greatly benefits from the return of Anne Walsh, who has been on leave for two semesters and has succeeded Vek Lewis as Chair of the Department. We warmly welcome her back and feel privileged to count again on her academic and professional inputs. This moment of transition is also a good opportunity to pay tribute to the work of Vek Lewis, who has occupied that position over the past three years and has led the department in a period of abrupt (and very positive) growth. Vek, Kathryn Crameri, Anne Walsh and Fernanda Peñaloza have played a key role in consolidating this department as the principal national referent in the field of Spanish and Latin American studies. On the other hand, it is with mixed feelings that we have to announce the success of Kathryn Crameri as soon-to-be Professor at the University of Glasgow. It is of course with joy that we all celebrate this prestigious appointment, which Kathryn will formally take on as of January 2013; it is testimony to her extraordinary professional value and she has our best wishes in this new and exciting stage of her career. Unfortunately, this excellent news means that from next semester onwards the University of Sydney will not be able to count on Kathryn’s direct contributions; the Department can only hope a replacement equal to her abilities might be appointed.
KOFFIA - the 3rd Korean Film Festival in Australia

For the third time since 2009 KOFFIA has given people in Australia the chance to directly experience Korean cinema. Organised by the Korean Cultural Office in Sydney, KOFFIA is hugely popular among film-goers, students and researchers. With a diverse range of films and cultural programs, this year’s audiences found themselves once again replete with the wealth of Korean culture on offer.

In the last two decades, Korean cinema has become internationally recognised and acclaimed for its melodramatic comedies, brutal crime thrillers and edgy animation. It is a thriving industry, known for its willingness to push the boundaries of accepted and stir the viewers’ imagination. Traditions and modernity is always intertwined in Korean films that make them popular among different audiences with various cultural backgrounds.

This year’s KOFFIA showcased twenty of the best and latest Korean feature films as well as some past classics. The organisers prepared a diverse program, which along with film screenings also included industry forums, cultural performances, live music events, meetings with experts and filmmakers from Korea.

On 23rd August, Dr Leonid Petrov of the Korean Studies Department introduced three films, acknowledged as Modern Classics. The melodrama “Christmas in August” (1998) directed by Hur Jin-Ho; Kim Ki-duk’s “Spring Summer Autumn Winter…and Spring” (2003), which reveals the cycle of Buddhist monks’ life and reincarnation; and the psychological thriller “Old Boy” (2003) directed by Park Chang-Wook, were hugely successful and became icons of Hallyu – the Korean Cultural Wave in cinema.

Almost 3,000 people embraced Korean cinema during the week between August 22-28. Sydney University students worked at the KOFFIA as volunteers, helping film aficionados to better understand the intricacies of Korean culture and language.

The list of KOFFIA’s guests and special events can be viewed here: koffia.com.au/events/special-guests.

Dr Leonid Petrov at KOFFIA: speaking at a forum, being interviewed on arrival. Students from the Department also attended KOFFIA as volunteers.
The following departments and programs are located in the School of Languages and Cultures:

- Arabic & Islamic Studies
- Asian Studies Program
- Buddhist Studies Program
- Chinese Studies
- European Studies Program
- French Studies
- Germanic Studies
- Hebrew, Biblical & Jewish Studies
- Indian Subcontinental Studies
- Indonesian Studies
- International & Comparative Literary Studies Program
- Italian Studies
- Japanese Studies
- Korean Studies
- Modern Greek Studies
- Spanish & Latin American Studies

More Information

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