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
• 1965 Mass Violence in Indonesia
• Introducing Our New Staff
• Selected Publications
• School and Department News
I am writing my contribution to this issue of our School’s magazine while riding a bus between the towns of Pingyao and Linfen in the southern part of China’s Shanxi province. Some of the mountain scenery is breathtaking. And I am fortunate to be traveling on a rare clear day relatively free of the pollution that usually obscures the views in this coal-producing and coal-consuming area. I am taking a couple of weeks of annual leave to explore old temples, museums, and archaeological sites. They are numerous since this part of China has an especially rich cultural and religious history. This fieldwork is the foundation for some new projects I hope to pursue on fourteenth century Daoist murals found in temples in both the north and south of Shanxi and on some inscriptions found on newly excavated bronze ritual vessels that date to approximately 900 BCE. I am especially interested in the bronze inscriptions because they shed strikingly early yet bright light on ancient ideas about political loyalty and the meaning of a “good death,” that is...
one in which one dies in bed and gets a proper burial. I will have the chance to preview some of this work at a talk at the Art Gallery of New South Wales the end of August.

As I have wandered through Shanxi I have enjoyed pleasant exchanges with local people and rewarding encounters with scholars—all of which have been reminders of how fortunate I am to be able to communicate in putonghua (modern standard Chinese). That is why I am so deeply gratified when I meet young people who are undertaking to master another language: I know what rich human experiences lie ahead of them. And it is of course even more gratifying when I see students who are not only progressing but excelling in their studies, students such as those whose accomplishments were recognized during our School’s recent Prizes Night. I congratulate all our prize winners for their foresight and hard work and thank the donors, family, and friends who support them.

This issue of the magazine introduces our readers to two new members of our academic staff: Dr Vanessa Hearman and Dr Esther Klein. Both add to our strengths not only in their respective departments—Indonesian Studies and Chinese Studies—but also in a variety of disciplines in which our School is building significant capacity: transnationalism, human rights, sociology, history, and literary studies. Though I am witnessing other wonders in distant Shanxi, reflecting on the qualities of our students and staff fills me with pride.
Researching the 1965 Mass Violence in Indonesia

Dr Vannessa Hearman, Department of Indonesian Studies

Vannessa Hearman’s PhD research was on the 1965-66 violence in East Java, Indonesia. She is currently researching Indonesians’ transnational links and activities from independence in 1949 to 1966. She was part of the organizing committee for the conference ‘New Perspectives on the 1965 Violence in Indonesia’, held at the Australian National University, Canberra, 11–13 February 2013 and supported by the Research School of Asia and the Pacific at ANU and the Asian Studies Association of Australia.

One of the most difficult aspects of Indonesian history to research has been the anti-communist violence that occurred around the rise of Suharto’s New Order regime. The violence began in mid-October 1965 and was at its most intense up to mid-March 1966. Half a million people were killed and Amnesty International estimated, between 600,000 and 750,000 were imprisoned for varying lengths of time. When the regime fell in 1998, there were still men imprisoned for alleged involvement in a ‘coup attempt’ that the regime blamed on the Indonesian Communist Party (Partai Komunis Indonesia, PKI). The regime’s suppression of political dissent ensured that there was little open discussion in Indonesia about the anti-communist purges.

In 1965, the PKI was the third largest communist party in the world. By the end of that year, its key leaders were dead or on the run. The ‘coup attempt’ on 30 September 1965 by a group calling itself the Thirtieth September Movement, a group consisting of pro Sukarno leftist soldiers, killed six top-ranking Indonesian Army leaders. The Movement contended that the generals were part of a rightist plot to unseat President Sukarno. In response, the Army, under then Major General Suharto claimed the PKI was behind the Thirtieth September Movement and the party was repressed. The party’s involvement in the ‘coup attempt’ and the fate of those killed, missing and imprisoned during this repression continue to be the subject of scholarly inquiry.

The fall of the New Order regime in Indonesia in 1998 has enabled human rights groups, activists and researchers to document the mass killings and the plight of victims. While much of this work has taken place in Indonesia, research is also being conducted internationally. Discussions between a group of researchers in Australia and those in Indonesia led to a conference held in February this year in Canberra, titled ‘New Perspectives on the 1965 Violence in Indonesia’. A small committee consisting of six academics and doctoral students at ANU, the Universities of Sydney and Melbourne and the University of Queensland took on the task of organizing this conference.

Despite greater political openness in Indonesia, there continues to be opposition to addressing 1965-related human rights abuses. This opposition comes from sections of the military...
and government, as well as civilian groups who had involvement in the killings and violence, such as Indonesia’s largest Islamic organization, Nahdlatul Ulama. Nevertheless, early in 2012, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono’s adviser on legal and human rights issues, Albert Hasibuan told the press that the President had asked him to draft an apology to victims of past human rights abuses committed under the Suharto regime. These include the 1965 cases. Then in July 2012, the Indonesian Human Rights Commission (Komisi Hak Asasi Manusia, Komnas HAM) released its long-awaited report on the 1965-66 violence. The report accused the Indonesian military of crimes against humanity. This report was followed by the release of The Act of Killing, a documentary by Joshua Oppenheimer about the perpetrators of the killings in Medan, North Sumatra. The film has won accolades and prizes around the world and is premiering in Australia in June this year at the Sydney International Film Festival. Hot on the heels of this film, Indonesian news magazine Tempo published a special issue on perpetrators of the violence around Indonesia. These developments in 2012 firmly put the issue of ‘1965’ back on the agenda both in Indonesia and internationally and ensured the February conference, held at ANU, attracted strong interest.

With 100 registrations, the conference brought together Australian-based and Indonesian academics, community-based researchers and activists to discuss new findings about the 1965 tragedy and its impact. The first two days of the conference consisted of academic presentations, summaries of research findings and discussion of the efforts already underway to create, collect and preserve documentation of this past. Panels consisted of presentations about the role of the state in the violence, patterns of the violence, ethnic and religious factors, the effects on women and children, and ways of addressing the violence and its legacies in many different parts of Indonesia.

Ten Indonesian researchers and representatives from non-government organisations were specifically invited to present on their research and data collections. Participants from Indonesia included historians Asvi Warman Adam from the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) and Baskara Wardaya from Yogyakarta’s Sanata Dharma University. Nurkholis, National Human Rights commissioner and head of the taskforce which investigated the 1965 violence discussed his experiences of leading the taskforce. The Commission’s report was handed to the Attorney General’s office for action, however Attorney General Basrief Arief has rejected the report on account of several technicalities. Nurkholis therefore also discussed some of the challenges in securing further government action in dealing with these human rights abuses. Several of the Indonesian NGOs represented were involved in the Coalition for Truth and Justice (Koalisi Keadilan dan Pengungkapan Kebenaran, KKPK). KKPK has embarked on a series of activities as part of what they call the ‘Year of Truth Telling’ since March last year. These include several ‘public hearings’, so far held in Solo, Kupang and Palu, to highlight past human rights abuses and pressure the government to take a series of measures to compensate the victims.

In the past much of the focus of the research were the islands of Java and Bali, where indeed the violence was the most severe and claimed the most number of lives. However, new research, such as Mery Kolimon from the Eastern Indonesian Women’s Network (Jaringan Perempuan Indonesia Timur, JPIT) and Nurlaela Lamasitudju from the human rights organization SKP-HAM Palu in Central Sulawesi enriches our understanding about the violence. JPIT has recently published oral history accounts of women affected by the violence. In April, JPIT held a public hearing in Kupang, West Timor where some of these women, the interviewees in the book, appeared and spoke about their experiences. In Palu, Central Sulawesi, in March
2012 the mayor Rusdi Mastura apologized personally and on behalf of the city of Palu to the victims of the 1965 violence. Regional autonomy has opened up possibilities for conducting advocacy work through local governments, as evidenced by the mayor’s pledge to provide health care and scholarships for victims and their families. He also raised the idea of memorializing the violence through encouraging tourism to former sites of imprisonment and forced labour. The conference was therefore also a forum to reflect on how, in spite of government and military resistance to reopening this past, some advances have been made in terms of research and advocacy work about 1965.

The last day of the conference took the form of a workshop for researchers who had data collections or access to such data on this violence. We discussed how this data could be preserved and mapped out, so researchers would be aware about the nature of collections held across Indonesia. Guest presenters included Kevin Bradley, curator of oral history, folklore and sound preservation from the National Library of Australia, who discussed the basic issues related to gathering sound recordings and ways of preserving such material. John Waddingham, manager of the Melbourne-based Clearing House for Archival Records on Timor (CHART) showed how groups operating on a shoestring could display archival material obtained from the community. CHART’s work in supporting community-based efforts to preserve recordings, archives, letters and ephemera is a reflection of this approach.

Outcomes from the conference

Other than conventional outcomes such as conference proceedings and journal articles, participants also agreed on the need for a joint catalogue, showing the kinds of materials held by groups and individual researchers. As this conference has successfully brought together Australian and Indonesian scholars working on this issue at a critical time, we will also establish a research network, drawing its membership from the conference participants as a start, to further consolidate these links. Robert Cribb from ANU will edit a volume of conference proceedings. Annie Pohlman (University of Queensland) is editing a special edition of the Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs containing some of the papers presented at the conference.

Sydney Forum

Following the Canberra conference, we held a seminar at the University of Sydney on 14 February this year, featuring one of the guests from Indonesia, Didik Dyah Rahayu from the victims’ support group Sekretariat Bersama ‘65 (Joint Secretariat on 1965) in Solo, Central Java. Sekber ‘65 involves former political prisoners, NGO activists and young students. Didik discussed a few of their activities, such as researching and documenting mass grave sites in the Solo area and inviting young people to dialogue with former political prisoners and in reverse, for the older men and women to be involved in social justice campaigns in the Solo area. In December, as part of the ‘Year of Truth Telling’, Sekber ‘65 held a public hearing involving victims of human rights abuses in the Solo area, with the backing of the mayor of Solo, FX Hady Rudyatmo, who agreed to host the public hearing, attended by over 100 people, at his official residence. Indicative of the continuing difficulties in raising the issue of 1965 in Indonesia today, local military commander, Hardiono Saroso suggested this gathering was a sign of communist resurgence in Solo. With the 2014 elections fast approaching, Sekber ‘65, like many Indonesian NGOs, is mindful that there is limited time left under Yudhoyono’s presidency to address past human rights abuses.

The Asian Studies Program at The University of Sydney supported Didik’s visit to Sydney.
The School of Languages and Cultures had an injection of new blood this year with the arrival of four new staff members, whom we welcomed last issue. Here, two of the staff, Dr Vannessa Hearman (Indonesian Studies) and Dr Esther Klein (Chinese Studies), answer some questions about themselves, their work, their impressions of their new city and plans for the future. In the next issue of the magazine we will introduce about Dr Tristan Lay (Germanic Studies) and Dr Xiaohuan Zhao (Chinese Studies).

Dr Vannessa Hearman
Department of Indonesian Studies

Where did you study?
I studied at the University of Melbourne where I completed a PhD in Indonesian History, so I didn’t come from very far away at all! But in some ways, while not very far geographically, Melbourne and Sydney are very different cities.

What are you liking most about working at the University of Sydney?
I love the appearance and relaxed feel of the campus. Each day when I come into work, I feel very lucky to be working here, particularly when I look up at the stained glass windows in the Quadrangle and smell the fragrance of the frangipanis. I felt that Melbourne Uni had become overcrowded (and I had spent about 15 years there all up studying and working). Sydney Uni still has all these gorgeous little nooks and crannies where one can be totally alone – amazing in a university of this size of population. The Department of Indonesian Studies is small, so there are plenty of opportunities for a new staff member. I coordinate the department’s monthly seminar series, for example, and help our liaison librarian, Michelle Harrison with identifying books to purchase for the Indonesian research collection.

Is it your first time living here? Any surprises?
I spent a couple of months at a time in Sydney when I was 17 and then when I was 18, doing activist-type things to test out whether I could move here. I used to stay in Chippendale near Abercrombie Street. In the early 1990s, it was ugly and noisy and our house kept getting burgled. As a student, it was too expensive to live in Sydney comfortably, so I went back to Melbourne.

Sydney is still an expensive city to live in, even compared to Melbourne. I like the deep sense of history about the place. I also like the climate and the vegetation, which remind me more of Indonesia than Melbourne ever could. What surprises me is that Sydney public transport seems so appallingly planned. Multi-modal ticketing system, anyone? Do we need so many buses down George Street? Is this the best vision for public transport for a ‘world city’?

What influenced you to originally study Indonesian language and culture, and what made you continue?
I was born in Indonesia and migrated here when I entered high school. All I wanted to do was blend in and forget my language, culture and roots, because of the racism of Australian schools in the 1980s when sometimes I’d be the only Asian kid in the school. It wasn’t until I was in my second last year of high school that I began to see how useful my language skills were. These skills have taken me places, such as working in aid agencies in Australia, translating for Indonesian and Timorese activists, working in East Timor for the United Nations and in Indonesia on electoral administration training, and now here at the University of Sydney.

What are your research interests?
My research interests are to do with mass violence and how societies deal with violent pasts. I am interested in all the forms of accountability mechanisms in post-authoritarian societies and how these work in practice. Oral history is also an approach that I use very much in my work.

Current projects?
I’m researching the activism of Indonesians in transnational organisations in the 1950s and 60s. It’s a project I’m doing with my former PhD supervisor Kate McGregor at Melbourne University. I am also working on my book manuscript based on my thesis, which is a political history of the 1950s and 60s in Indonesia through the life stories of those who survived the mass killings of 1965-66.

How did you first get interested in your area of research? Who was your inspiration?
When I was about 18, I started becoming very active in campaigning against human rights abuses in Indonesia and East Timor. I learnt that all the history lessons I was taught as a kid in primary school in Indonesia were the regime’s version of propaganda. It led me to becoming interested in history in general, as well as to study Indonesian communism, the latter of which was always a taboo in Suharto’s Indonesia.

Through my work, I have got to know a lot of (now elderly) men and women who have survived political violence, maybe been in prison. I find the fact that they can keep going, speaking out, writing and educating the next generation of Indonesians about this history is very inspiring. It’s only been since the end of the Suharto regime in 1998 that they have been able to do this openly and it’s a pity that it’s so late in their lives.

What else are you doing apart from your research and teaching?
I’m still adjusting to living in a new city and busily discovering different parts of the city. I volunteer with the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre when I can.
But so far my favorite things would probably be swimming in the ocean, the excellent coffee, the wonderful variety of flowers, the lorikeets that come visit my balcony, and how friendly people are even to strangers. I guess one thing that surprises me is that there is a real sense of cultural difference despite the fact that we all speak more or less the same language—it’s not a bad thing, but I do feel a little more foreign than I had anticipated. Overall, though, it may well be the nicest place I have ever lived. Of course I have a certain loyal fondness for my home-town (Eugene, Oregon), but there’s just no beating the weather and the gorgeousness of the scenery here.

What influenced you to originally study Chinese language and culture, and what made you continue? I actually took several courses on Chinese history as part of the general education requirement at Harvard. My undergraduate major had nothing to do with China (I was interested in 19th century French and German literature at the time), but I started getting interested in China during my third and fourth years and then after graduation I decided to start learning the language. I think I started learning it partly just because I was terribly bored with my office job and it was the biggest challenge I could think of. That turned out to be more true than I had bargained for! I ended up leaving my job and moving back to my home-town in order to be able to afford my extra years of schooling. I guess I continued learning Chinese, despite the formidable difficulties, because I love ancient Chinese narratives: they are so spare and pointed. They demand a lot from the reader in terms of supplying connections or making intuitive leaps.

What are your research interests? My research interest, in particular the work of the Han dynasty historian Sima Qian (b.145 BC) and how it has been read in later times. I am interested in how readers and commentators participate in the process of making history meaningful. This interest in readers and in the lives of texts after they come into the world has also led me to study issues of authorship and dating in relation to some of the most beloved philosophical texts of the tradition, the Zhuangzi and the Confucian Analects. Finally, I have been developing an interest in the relationship between archaeologically excavated objects (including texts) and the traditional views of certain texts or issues.

Current projects? I have most recently been writing an article about the Sanxingdui Museum and how it presents a highly mysterious civilization in relation to Chinese culture. I have also agreed to co-author an article on the Han dynasty philosopher Wang Chong (b.27 AD) and his rhetorical method for pushing opponents toward his notion of truth. Finally, I am engaged in revising my dissertation into a book manuscript. It keeps taking longer than anticipated but nearly there now!

What else are you doing apart from your research and teaching? I am still very new here and am mainly engaged in trying to finish unpacking my books and figuring out how to navigate the Sydney Uni bureaucracy. In terms of professional engagement, probably the biggest one at present is my involvement with the China Studies Centre, whose generous support is part of the reason I am able to be here. It’s exciting to be part of such an energetic interdisciplinary effort, one which I think will ultimately have far-reaching benefits for the university and beyond.

Dr Esther Klein
Department of Chinese Studies
Where did you study? I did my undergraduate degree at Harvard University (1997) in Literature. I only began studying Chinese after graduating, and completed a MA in East Asian Languages and Literatures in 2002. I received my PhD in East Asian Studies from Princeton University in 2010. Along the way I have also studied Japanese and Chinese at Middlebury College Summer Language Schools (2002, 2004), and Chinese at the Mandarin Training Centre (2000) and ICLP (2012) in Taiwan. Finally I spent a year doing a Fulbright Fellowship at Peking University (2006-07) where I did not formally enroll in classes but audited a wide variety of them in addition to working on my dissertation research.

What excites you most about working at the University of Sydney? Probably the most exciting thing about working here is the opportunity to teach classes almost exclusively on pre-modern China, often using primary sources in the original classical Chinese. This is not an opportunity I would have at many institutions, and it is already proving to be a helpful inspiration for my research. Another great thing about working here is how friendly and welcoming my colleagues have been. It is really exciting to work in a place where people seem so open to exchange of ideas and to seeing how our respective research areas might be mutually illuminating. The collegial atmosphere has been a great source of joy to me already so far, and I look forward to meeting other exciting scholars in the future.

What are you liking about the city? Any surprises? There is so much to like about this city that literally my only complaint is the cost of living (especially housing). But so far my favorite things would probably be swimming in the ocean, the excellent coffee, the wonderful variety of flowers, the lorikeets that come visit my balcony, and how friendly people are even to strangers. I guess one thing that surprises me is that there is a real sense of cultural difference despite the fact that we all speak more or less the same language—it’s not a bad thing, but I do feel a little more foreign than I had anticipated. Overall, though, it may well be the nicest place I have ever lived. Of course I have a certain loyal fondness for my home-town (Eugene, Oregon), but there’s just no beating the weather and the gorgeousness of the scenery here.
On 2 May 2013 the School hosted its annual Prizes Night. Congratulations to all our prize recipients and a sincere thank you to all of our donors and sponsors who continue to support our students with their language endeavours.

**Prize Recipients**

**Chinese Studies**
- **Anthony Rush**
  Asian Students’ Council’s 1963 Festival of Asia Scholarship for Proficiency in Chinese Studies
- **Jin Ping Zhou**
  Winston G. Lewis Prize in Chinese History

**French Studies**
- **Lillian Specker**
  Anne Bates Memorial Scholarship for French
- **Sarah Ienna**
  Banque Nationale de Paris Prize for French
- **Michel Thierry Pellegrin, Yannick Slade-Caffarel, Michelle Tjondro, Annabel Wurth**
  The Emilie M. Schweitzer Honours Scholarships in French Studies
- **Rachel Krust**
  Garton Scholarship No. I for French
- **Edward Emmett**
  Garton Scholarship No. II for French
- **James Davidson**
  Graham Jones Prize for French
- **Jiemin Joel Mak**
  Helen Simpson Prize for French
- **Olivia Mallett**
  Joan Norris Prize
- **Mitchell Robinson**
  Lithgow Scholarship No. II for French
- **Jiemin Joel Mak**
  Peter Edward Moran Memorial Prize for French
- **James Davidson**
  Ronald Horan Prize for French
- **Alissa Ying Wai Ho**
  Sonia Marks Memorial Prize for French
- **Thomas Libeau**
  Total Australia Prize in French

**Germanic Studies**
- **Robert Pattinson**
  Austrian Embassy Prize
- **Gerard Ackland**
  Enid Watson Memorial Scholarship in Germanic Studies
- **Michael Forgacs, Jasper Odgers**
  The Emilie M. Schweitzer Honours Scholarships in Germanic Studies
- **Melanie Chambers, Tara Nissl**
  Garton Scholarship No. IV for first year German
- **Heather Leeson**
  Garton Scholarship No. VI for third year German

**Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies**
- **Roberta Diamond**
  Bernard and Lotka Ferster Scholarship for first year beginner’s Modern or Classical Hebrew
- **Tali Feiglin**
  Bernard and Rodia Ferster Memorial Prize in Modern Hebrew | HBRW2611 /2612
- **Ann Frances Thompson**
  Ivan and Ursula Cher Prize
SLC PRIZE NIGHT

(from left) Ms Theodora Toumanidou, Greek Vice Consul in Sydney; Mr Chris Lepouris, George Thomas Modern Greek Studies Foundation; Professor Vrasidas Karalis, Chair of Modern Greek Studies; Mr George Angelopoulos, George Thomas Modern Greek Studies Foundation; Rita Issa, Order of AHEPA Scholarship-winner; guest of Rita Issa.

(from left) Bruno Brandon; Dr Mark Allon, Director of Buddhist Studies; Ms Chantel Gebbie, Khyentse Foundation; Sunisa Charoenpakdee, Prize-winner; Sunisa’s parents and sister.

Bronwyn Winter, Chair of French Studies; Michel Thierry Pellegrin, Emilie M. Schweitzer Scholarship-winner.

(from left) Mr Nicholas Manoppo, Indonesian Consulate; Professor of Southeast Asian Studies Adrian Vickers; Dr Vanessa Hearman; Dr Novi Djenar, Chair of the Department; Garnasih Aseanti Dharmaputra, F.H. van Naerssen Memorial Prize-winner; Mr Garry Usuf, Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia in Sydney.

Italian Studies Prize-winners, donors and academics.

Modern Greek Studies Prize-winners, donors, academic staff, VIPs and guests.
Hebrew, Biblical & Jewish Studies

William Allington
John Rector Scholarship

Melanie Chambers, Roberta Diamond
Percy Joseph Marks Prize for first year beginner’s Modern or Classical Hebrew

Ingrid van Tongeren
Percy Joseph Marks Prize for Modern Hebrew | HBRW2603/2604 or HBRW2605/2606

Frayde Fest
Percy Joseph Marks Prize for Modern Hebrew | HBRW2607/2608

Katherine Tobias
Percy Joseph Marks Prize for Modern Hebrew | HBRW2609/2610

Catherine Day
Percy Joseph Marks Prize for senior Classical Hebrew

Indian Subcontinental Studies

Sunisa Charoenpakdee
Khentse Foundation Award for Excellence in Buddhist Studies

Indigo Elliott Phibbs
Asian Students’ Council’s 1963 Festival of Asia Prize for Proficiency in Indonesian Studies, Second Level

Japanese Studies

Isaac Freelander
A.L. Sadler Prize for Excellence

Jaryd Elsarky
Hugh Clarke Prize for Excellence in Japanese 6

Sau Yan Chan
James Murdoch Prize for Excellence in Japanese 4

Cyrevil Cadungog
Khintercs Hirai Foundation Scholarship for study exchange with Keio University, Japan

Bevan Jones
Mark Kwan Memorial Prize

John Corleto
Moira Jennings Memorial Prize

David Lesslie
Sakuko Matsu Prize for Excellence in Japanese Literature

Korean Studies

Ching Bella Wong
Korean Consulate Prize

Ain Nuryaqin Binti Mohamad Zulkipi, Ayaka Suenaga
Korean Consulate Prize sponsored by Top Media (2 Prizes)

Modern Greek Studies

Anastasia Tsirtsakis
G.S. Caird Scholarship in second year Modern Greek

Eleonora Tsiknas Kazantzis
G.S. Caird Scholarship in third year Modern Greek

Madeleine Carr, Alice Keighley
The George Thomas Foundation Prize in Modern Greek Studies 1

Elise Galati, Stephanie Konstandopoulous
The George Thomas Foundation Prize in Modern Greek Studies 2

Chris Baghos
The George Thomas Foundation Prize in Modern Greek Studies 3

Samuel Holcombe
Katina Cassimatis Prize

Rita Issa
Order of AHEPA Scholarship in Modern Greek

Other Prizes

Hannah Stenstrom
Margaret Ann Bailey Memorial Prize for Honours in a Modern European Language

Phillip Mugridge
Swiss Government Prize
SLC PRIZE NIGHT

(from left) Dr Olivier Ansart, Chair of Japanese Studies; guest of Isaac Freelander; Jaryd Elsarky, winner of the Hugh Clark Prize for Excellence; Isaac Freelander, A.L. Sadler Prize-winner.

(from left) Associate Professor Ian Young, Chair of Hebrew, Biblical & Jewish Studies; Mrs Rector; William Allington, John Rector Scholarship-holder; Mr John Rector, the Scholarship donor; William Allington's mother and father.

Alissa Ho, Sonia Marks Memorial Prize-winner, and Associate Professor Bronwyn Winter, Chair of French Studies, flanked by Alissa's parents.

(from left) Mr Paul Kohleff, German Vice Consul in Sydney; Robert Pattinson, Swiss Prize-winner; Associate Professor Yixu Lu, Chair of Germanic Studies; Jenny Spitzmüller, DAAD intern; Amelia Blefari, Goethe-Prize-winner; Jörn Hausner, DAAD lecturer; Mr Phillip Weiharauch, German Vice Consular officer.

(from left) Jörn Hausner, DAAD lecturer in the Department of Germanic Studies; Clarin Gill, Ian David Armfield Memorial Prize-winner.

(from left) Robert Pattinson (left), Swiss Prize-winner; Associate Professor Yixu Lu, Chair of Germanic Studies

(from right) Associate Professor Ian Young, Chair of Hebrew Biblical & Jewish Studies; prize-winner Catherine Day; guests of Catherine Day.


Palmer, Wayne, “Public-private partnerships in the administration and control of Indonesian temporary migrant labour in Hong Kong”, in *Political Geography*, 34, 1-9.


Japanese Studies
Late last year Honorary Associate Professor Sakuko Matsui was recognised as a Global Messenger by the Japanese government for her lifetime contribution to the dissemination of information regarding Japan’s strengths, attractiveness and Japanese values and presented with a letter of appreciation from the Japanese Minister for National Policy, Motohisa Furukawa. Honorary Associate Professor Matsui was one of just three Japanese Australians recognised as a Global Messanger, and the only academic.

Italian Studies
SLC Prizes Night
The Department would like to congratulate all of our prizes winners and to thank Ms Frances Merenda and Mr Mark Tedeschi for presenting the prizes at the ceremony held on 2 May.
We take this opportunity to thank all our donors who generously support the study of Italian language and culture.

Seminar Series: Past and Present Minorities in Italy and Elsewhere
This semester the Department of Italian Studies is organizing a series of seminars on the theme: Past and Present Minorities in Italy and Elsewhere.
Both Australian and international speakers have been invited to give a seminar.
The series was opened by Professor Gatti, Emeritus Professor at the University of Rome Sapienza, who talked on Giordano Bruno’s exile in the United Kingdom and on his work La cena de le ceneri (The Ash Wednesday Supper) written during his sojourn in London.
The second speaker, Professor Schächter of the University of Kent (UK), presented her recent monograph The Jews of Italy, 1848-1915: Between Tradition and Transformation. In her seminar Professor Schächter explained how her study challenges the widely held view that the integration of the Jews in Italy from 1848 to the First World War was a great success.
Thanks to the collaboration of the Department of Jewish Studies and the The Jewish Museum of Sydney, the seminar had a large audience which participated with great interest, asking the speaker many questions about her work.

Modern Greek Studies
Congratulations to Sir Nicholas Laurantius Professor in Modern Greek Vrasidas Karalis, who was awarded the title with the unanimous approval of the Senate Chair Appointments Committee in March.
Recent conferences
Professor Suzanne Rutland attended two international conferences in April. The first was at the University of Cape Town, where she presented a paper on The Impact of Postcolonial Settings on Jewish Identity and Education: Singapore and Hong Kong – A Case Study with her Israeli colleague, Professor Zehavit Gross of Bar Ilan University. The theme of the conference was ‘Jews in Colonial and Post-Colonial Societies’. She also chaired a session at the conference. She then flew on to San Francisco to attend the annual conference of the Organisation of American Historians, 11-14 April. She participated in a panel entitled ‘Transnational Traditions: New Perspectives on American Jewish History’ chaired by Ellen Eisenberg, Willamette University, presenting a paper on: Conflicting a New “Homeland”: Australia, America, and Soviet Jewish Emigration. The other two papers were: Uncovering “Little Rumania”: Foodways and Jewish Immigrants and Early Twentieth-Century New York City by Lara Rabinovitch, New York University and Confluence: American Youth Create Israeli Kibbutzim by Ava Kahn, of California Studies Center.

International Holocaust Lecture Series 2013
In conjunction with the Sydney Jewish Museum, the Shalom Institute (UNSW), Mandelbaum House and Monash University’s Australian Centre for Jewish Civilization, the Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies is delighted to offer a series of lectures and research seminars with leading scholars in the field of Holocaust, Genocide and Jewish Studies.

Visiting scholars include Professor Christopher Browning (University of North Carolina) whose pioneering study Ordinary Men: Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland forms a seminal work in Holocaust studies and Professor Hasia Diner (New York University) author of We Remember with Reverence and Love: American Jews and the Myth of Silence After the Holocaust 1945-1962, winner of the National Jewish Book Award in 2009.

The program is made possible in large part through generous sponsors for which the Department is grateful. The Wilkenfeld Family Fellow in Holocaust Education 2013 is Dr Alan Rosen (Jerusalem) whose investigations into survivor testimonies recorded in the Displaced Persons camps in the immediate aftermath of World War II have profoundly changed how scholars have viewed this under researched period. His recent publication The Wonder of Their Voices explores a collection of such testimonies undertaken by psychologist David Boder in 1946.

In addition to the lecture series, Professor Browning, Dr Rosen and Professor Dan Michman (Yad Vashem, Jerusalem) will also preside over three intensive research seminars, which will include presentations from Australian post graduate students as well as established scholars researching in the broad areas of Holocaust and Jewish Studies. To view the full program of lectures and seminars please sydney.edu.au/arts/hebrew_biblical_jewish_studies/about/news/

We look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be a fascinating series.

Dr Avril Alba and Professor Konrad Kwiet
Arabic and Islamic Studies

Recent Conference
During his visit to Iraq, Dr Ali Yunis Aldahesh gave a public lecture entitled *Translating the Qur’an into English: Observations on Translators’ Approaches* at the College of Arts, Al-Mustansiriya University, Baghdad. In his lecture, which was delivered on the 16th of January 2013, Dr Aldahesh addressed the issue of translating the Qur’an into English from both historical and linguistic perspectives. He firstly presented a historical overview of the scholarly efforts made by Muslim and non-Muslim translators to translate the Muslim scripture into English. Secondly, Dr Aldahesh elaborated on the main translational approaches adopted by the translators in their attempt to provide semantically and pragmatically accurate translations of the Qur’an. Following a critical analysis, the strengths and weaknesses of each approach were accounted for. In addition, he provided some insights into the types of challenges translators typically encounter when dealing with scriptures in general and the Qur’an in particular. Dr Aldahesh concluded his lecture by highlighting the urgent need for a theoretically and empirically-based model for assessing the quality of the Qur’an translation. At the end of the lecture, which was attended by academics, postgraduate and undergraduate students, Dr. Aldahesh was given a University plaque along with a letter of thanks.

Buddhist Studies

In March this year Dr Wendi Adamek gave a talk entitled “The Agency of Relations and the Nuns of Baoshan.” Roundtable, “Interpretive Strategies for Thinking Through Women’s Agency in Buddhism,” at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting in San Diego, California. She will be taking part in a series of invited talks at the Sydney Zen Centre on the 2nd and 9th of May: Master Wuzhu, an Eighth Century Chan/Zen Master,” and “Buddhist Women in the Tang Dynasty.”

Dr Mark Allon presented “A Gāndhārī version of the Buddha’s Discourse on the Fruits of Living the Ascetic Life (Śrāmaṇyaphala-sūtra)” in the Australasian Association of Buddhist Studies Melbourne seminar series, Deakin University, 5th April 2013.

The Buddhist Studies program congratulates Dr Sunisa Charoenpakdee and Dr Kitchai Urkasame for being awarded their doctorates on the 4th May. Sunisa’s thesis, *Bhikkhuni Ordination in Thailand: Authentic Transmission and Related Issues*, which dealt with issues around the ordination of Buddhist nuns in Thailand, was undertaken under the supervision of Edward Crangle, then Wendi Adamek in the final year of her research. Kitchai’s thesis, *A study of Elements of Yogāvacara Tradition from “Tham” Scripts Palm-leaf Manuscripts*, was undertaken under the supervision of Edward Crangle and then Mark Allon. Both theses were well received by the examiners.
On 10 May the Department of Germanic Studies celebrated the graduation of Dr Yi Wang who was awarded a PhD for her thesis *Constantin von Hanneken in China, 1879-1925*. She is the first student from China to complete a PhD in the Department of Germanic Studies since German was first taught at Sydney in the 1860s. **Associate Professor Yixu Lu**, who supervised her thesis, has the German colonial presence in China as one of her main research areas.

Yi Wang came to the Department of Germanic Studies in 2008 after being selected among international applicants from Germany, the US and China for a PhD scholarship funded through the joint ARC project “Colonial Cosmopolitanism and Chinese Modernity: German Economic and Cultural Adventurers in China 1870-1937” by Professor David Goodman (China Centre) and Associate Professor Yixu Lu (Germanic Studies).

Her PhD thesis *Constantin von Hanneken in China, 1879-1925* is a critical biography of the former Prussian Officer Constantin von Hanneken (1854-1925) who became one of the most influential foreign personalities in China of the late 19th and early 20th century. Hanneken served the Qing government as military advisor, built one of the most important fortresses on China’s North-Eastern coast and was awarded the rank of general by the Qing Court for his service in the first Sino-Japanese war of 1895, in which he participated as a commander in the battle of the Yellow Sea. He later achieved great success as an industrial entrepreneur in the treaty port city Tianjin where he died in 1925. Yi Wang’s thesis provided the first comprehensive biography of Hanneken and his extraordinary career in China. Furthermore, by investigating the ways in which Hanneken’s identity was constructed in the context of his host society, Yi Wang’s study also provides new insights into the concept of “colonial cosmopolitanism”.

Yi Wang’s qualification at the University of Sydney has proved to be a great launching pad for a career in the international higher education sector. She was offered the position of Coordinator for International Research Students (PhD) at the University of Hamburg in March this year and will be returning to Hamburg after the Graduation ceremony.

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**French Studies**

**Fame of SLC French Exchange students spreads far and wide!**

Whilst on exchange last semester in Paris, University of Sydney French students Jesse Walker and Samantha Carr featured in a popular bi-monthly television documentary series on cultural and historical aspects of France. Jesse and Samantha appeared in December 2012 on *Paris des Racines et des Ailes* in their own right as both Australian university students enjoying student life in Paris and their exchange at the Université Paris-Sorbonne, and again as staunch but less happy supporters of the Australian Rugby team in a loss to the French team. Click the youtube screen grab of Jessie below to navigate to the youtube video, which has had over 8,000 hits! (In this 2 hour program, Jesse and Samantha appear at the 1:14:00 mark and then again at 1:44:00.)
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

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