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.

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I am “on the road” again. This time I am traveling from Shanghai to Dunhuang in China to attend a 4-day workshop on local elites organized by our University’s China Studies Centre (CSC). Dunhuang is located in northwest China, in the westernmost part of Gansu province. It is famous as an old oasis town on the “Silk Road” and also because of the Buddhist caves located to the south of the town. I have long been interested in Dunhuang and its Buddhist caves. I first traveled there in 1978 as part of a United States government delegation. In 1992 I was sent to Dunhuang by the National Geographic Society to write an article on the Buddhist caves. In 1993 I was back there again for a conference organized by the Getty Conservation Institute. I reckon that over the years since my first trip I have visited Dunhuang perhaps a dozen times. So, in addition to chairing a few workshop sessions, my main role will be to introduce the other participants to the history and art of Dunhuang. I will tell them how the town was first established in 111 BCE as a fortified outpost of the Han dynasty and how the earliest of the Buddhist murals in the caves dates to 366 CE. Otherwise I hope to take my colleagues to some of the more rarely visited caves to introduce them to the unique forms of Buddhism that flourished on the Silk Road from the fourth to the eleventh centuries.
A week ago, on the 24th of August, I had the pleasure of attending a conference at the Art Gallery of New South Wales devoted to a newly-opened exhibition that focuses on a marvelous marble sarcophagus that, though excavated from a sixth century CE tomb in China’s Shanxi province, is decorated with motifs that identify its owner as a Sogdian from Central Asia who had ended up as an official in old Shanxi probably having migrated there following the Silk Road from his homeland in Sogdiana (modern-day Uzbekistan). Because of our contributions to the Art Gallery—SLC and the CSC are supporters of the Art Gallery’s VisAsia Council and Professor David Goodman, Academic Director of the CSC, chaired the conference—the Director of the Art Gallery, Michael Brand, introduced the day by saying that the University and the Gallery are major partners working closely together to bring Asian culture to the Sydney community. For my part, I will be giving a presentation at the Art Gallery on 10 September as part of a lecture series on the Silk Road intended to provide even more background for understanding the sarcophagus and its significance. Later on in the series, Dr Li Baoping, a Future Fellow in SLC, will also contribute a presentation on his work on China’s export ceramics, and Dr Lily Lee, Honorary Associate in Chinese Studies, will talk about women on the silk road as illustrated in the Buddhist murals at Dunhuang.

The day before I departed on this trip I attended the University’s Open Day and gave a brief presentation on the BA (Languages) degree. I am happy to report that the day was an enormous success. The academics and general staff who participated fielded questions on our various programs and majors from hundreds of prospective students and their parents; and I was gratified to have a full house at the Wallace Theatre listening attentively to my remarks about the degree. All in all it seems that interest in the work of our School and in studying languages is at a high point. So I boarded my flight for Shanghai on Sunday morning feeling positive about our School’s strengths and future prospects. Immediately surrounding me in the front rows of the economy section were four fellow passengers three of whom, though “non-Chinese,” could speak modern standard Chinese. So that made four of the five of us. I do not imagine that this statistic applied to the remainder of the foreigners on the flight. But still I cannot help but feel that the world—or at least the interest of Australians in China—is changing, and for the better.
When most people on campus think of learning a foreign language, they think of SLC. This is, of course, only natural. The school offers expert instruction in thirteen languages – more than almost any other university in Australia. Students from across campus can study languages from Sanskrit to Modern Greek, from Indonesian to Italian, as a major or through a Diploma of Languages taken concurrently with, or even on completion of, their degree.

Economies of scale mean, however, that there is necessarily a limit to our offerings. Although the school has fought to keep many of its smaller programs, it has not been possible to maintain low-demand languages like Thai (axed in 2006) or to introduce new languages that are unlikely to attract large numbers of students. The realities of the modern university are such that lateral thinking is required to find novel ways to offer such specialised languages.

The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre (SSEAC) is doing some of that lateral thinking. This university-wide multi-disciplinary centre with its focus on research, teaching and outreach in Southeast Asia is home to academics and students who recognise the importance of having some capacity of one of the region’s major languages. Research students in disciplines ranging from Archaeology to Veterinary Science do better research when they can speak even a little of the local language. The same holds for the more than 200 academic and honorary members with research or outreach interests in the region.

Becoming fluent in a language is a long-term project that demands a great deal of commitment. But learning the basics takes a relatively short time. By making short-term intensive courses available in key Southeast Asian languages, SSEAC is giving staff and research students an opportunity to do just that.

For many who take these courses, it is their first experience of learning a foreign language outside a school classroom. In addition to dispelling the mystery around language learning that dogs our Anglophone culture, these intensive introductory courses give participants the tools to make basic conversation, and the foundations on which to build their capacity through informal interactions or through further study in-country.
SSEAC’s first language taster was offered in Tetun, the language of Timor-Leste. In May this year, 15 students and staff from the Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, the Faculty of Education and Social Work and the Sydney Medical School gathered for a two-day intensive in the Brennan Building, taught by Melbourne-based Mayra Walsh. Two months later, they had the opportunity to practise and build on the language they’d learned in Timor-Leste itself.

The program in which they participated – another SSEAC initiative – revolved around an interdisciplinary week on food security in the town of Maubisse, 3.5 hours by potholed road in Dili. Participating students were divided into interdisciplinary teams who cycled through staff-led programs in schools, clinics and locations where food is produced and distributed. In the process, they came to understand how agricultural, health and education systems contributed to, or threatened, food security.

On the agriculture days, students used their basic Tetun to quiz farmers, market stall holders and shop owners about where food was grown and purchased, and how it was transported. In the clinics, they used it to elicit basic information about the children they were checking for malnutrition. In the schools, they used it to teach kids about the food pyramid and the importance of good nutrition.

The second part of the program consisted of discipline-specific placements in schools, clinics and NGOs. The medical students, who completed a 3-week clinical rotation, were challenged to acquire the specialist vocabulary needed in hospitals and clinics. Agriculture and education students also had an opportunity to develop their language further in their placements in NGOs and schools.

Buoyed by the success of the Tetun experiment, SSEAC recently called for expressions of interest for similar courses in other Southeast Asian languages. Interest was so strong that the intended three additional courses turned into four: over the next 12 months, the centre will offer language tasters in Burmese, Indonesian, Lao and Vietnamese.

These language tasters are just the beginning: SSEAC has far grander ambitions when it comes to facilitating the study of Southeast Asian languages. In the meantime, SSEAC staff are thrilled to be able to support the University’s Southeast Asia research, teaching and outreach capacity by taking language learning beyond SLC.

Michele Ford (michele.ford@sydney.edu.au) is Associate Professor in the Department of Indonesian Studies and Director of the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre.
It is always the right time to have an informed discussion about the complex relationship between politics, culture, and religion. However, there is no doubt that the International Symposium Competing Visions in the Muslim World, organized by the Research Cluster Religion, State & Society in the Muslim World, and held at the University of Sydney between 14th and 16th August, was extraordinarily timely.

On 3 July 2013, following the public protests demanding the resignation of President Mohamed Morsi, the Egyptian military removed him from office and suspended the constitution. There followed more protests, largely by members of the Muslim Brotherhood, with violent repression and the imposition of a curfew. The Egyptian army was accused internationally of having removed a legitimately government that had been democratically elected by the Egyptian people. Some weeks later, following the assassination of a secular left politician (the second in six months), sixty deputies walked out of the Tunisian parliament and joined thousands of protesters who were demanding the resignation of Ennahda, the Islamist party ruling in coalition with two other parties. Meanwhile, the civil war in Syria escalates and international intervention is under discussion.

While academics, politicians, and media around the globe focused on the “legitimacy” of the alleged “democratically elected” government in Egypt (a notion that numerous Egyptian intellectuals, including the internationally renowned Marxist economist Samir Amin, have questioned), in opposition to the legitimacy of the “people-backed” army, more than 30 academics from Australia, the United States, South East Asia, and the Middle East, along with journalists and representatives of NGOs, consumed three intense days in animated conversation, producing in-depth and historically grounded analysis of recent and current events. Through their research, these scholars have challenged mainstream binary visions of present reality (e.g. the army vs the Islamists; or “democracy” vs “terror”), shedding light on the internal dynamics that shape the vibrant civil societies in Muslim majority countries and in the major diasporas (i.e. the United States and Australia). The Symposium was therefore a unique opportunity to share and discuss current research on some of the most controversial issues in the fields of Middle East and Islamic Studies.

The issue of secularity versus theocracy was at the centre of the keynote lecture by Prof. Mohsen Khadivar (Duke University), which was organized in conjunction with Sydney Ideas and with the Centre for Democracy and Human Rights. The topic was then further
developed in different directions through a number of papers presented by guest speakers (Ahmad Farouk Musa, Said Tehrani Nasab, Gabriele Marranci, Abdullahi an Naim, and Ahmad Kuru) alongside SLC colleagues, including Safdar Ahmed, whose new book was launched during the Symposium, and Ahmad Shboul, who presented a historical grounded analysis of the Muslim Brotherhood’s political discourses.

Electoral politics and political processes were analysed in a number of papers, allowing a broad comparative perspective, with case studies spanning from Malaysia (Lily Rahim), to Iran (Naser Ghabazadeh), Indonesia (Rosa Evaquarta), Egypt (Lucia Sorbera), and Tunisia (Bronwyn Winter). Winter and Sorbera’s research approached analysis of the current crises through the lens of feminist scholarship, showing that women’s political experience sheds light on wider political issues, including similarities and differences between two countries.

In a panel dedicated to security and State-building visions, Michael Humphrey challenged the alleged universalism of international bodies’ approaches to regional crisis and the “R2P” (Responsibility To Protect) doctrine, Tim Anderson discussed the Syrian uprisings, and Marty Kear presented his ongoing PhD research on Fatah and Hamas in Palestine. Other PhD candidates from the University of Sydney and other universities contributed new research to the Symposium: Amro Ali presented a paper on the struggle over the public space in Alexandria, situating the 2011 uprisings in a broader historical context; Lisa Worthington discussed her preliminary findings on her research on Muslim women’s organisations in the United States; Hossein Noorani Nejat discussed the notion of Human Rights as an element of democratisation; Fadi Baghdadi presented his current research on the symbolic value attributed to the headscarf among young Lebanese women in Sydney; and Diana Pakasi presented research on sexuality education in Islamic boarding schools in Indonesia.

A panel chaired by Prof. Hamid Naficy (Northwestern University) was dedicated to politics and aesthetics, with interventions by Omid Tofighian, Ayxem Eli, Muhammad Aidani, and Banu Senay.

Bronwyn Winter chaired an intense roundtable discussion on “Afghanistan: State Re-building?” This was a remarkable moment in the Symposium, where academics had the opportunity to discuss the past and present of the country with journalist Antony Loewenstein and representatives of community based and grassroots organisations (Nasiba Akram [also a journalist], Homa Forotan, and Abdul Karim Hekmat), who resettled in Australia as refugees. The panel provided an eloquent account of the day-to-day realities for Afghan people almost twelve years after the start of the so-called “War on Terror”. The challenges and the prospects of State-Building in Afghanistan and Iraq were also at the centre of a remarkable talk by Prof. Amin Saikal (ANU).

The Symposium was closed by a public lecture by Prof. Hamid Naficy on “Mediating Public diplomacy. Iranian State, Iranian People, and the West”. This event, organized in collaboration with Sydney Ideas, was widely attended by academics, students, and artists, including people from the Iranian community.

Students’ turnout at the conference, especially from the ARIS programme, was impressive. The recently established Arabic and Islamic Studies Society (ARISOC) organized volunteers who, under the leadership of Marty Kear (PhD candidate in Government and International Relations), gave invaluable support to the smooth running of the conference. Some of the students in ARIS2674 Islam and Politics: Modernity Challenges, attended all the sessions of the Symposium, enjoying the opportunity to discuss the topics of the semester with both Australian and international scholars, and finding inspiration for their mid-semester essays.

This successful experience, which is part of our participation in the research cluster Religion, State & Society in the Muslim World, convened by A/Prof. Lily Rahim and involving colleagues across the Faculty, encourages us to commit to further developing the already existing culture of interdisciplinary research and research-led teaching that characterises our School.
Erasmus Mundus, EU-Oceania Social Science Inter-regional Consortium (EUOSSIC) Partnership Agreement

In 2010 a consortium of 11 Universities from Europe, Australia and New Zealand submitted an application to the European Commission for the Erasmus Mundus and were subsequently awarded a grant of 1.5 million Euros.

The objectives of the project are:

- To promote understanding between the European Union and the Oceania region through academic mobility,
- To provide PhD students, Post-docs and staff with the opportunity to engage in international collaboration,
- To provide a vehicle for research into the four following thematic areas:
  - Comparative regional integration (examining the European Single Market and Trans-Tasman Closer Economic Relations framework within the global movement of regional integration)
  - Shared values and norms and their diffusion into global agendas (trade liberalization, climate change, security, etc.)
  - Perceptions and Identity of the EU in Oceania (reflecting a post Lisbon Treaty External Action context), and
  - Replacing bilateral relations by region-to-region dialogues (future scenarios of a framework for EU-Oceania relations).

One of the project outcomes would be a total of 99 exchanges of staff, Post-docs and PhDs.

As part of the project, the School of Languages and Cultures is currently hosting Dr Frédéric Royall, Head of School at the School of Languages, Literature, Culture & Communication, University of Limerick, Ireland.

I am the Head of the School of Languages, Literature, Culture & Communication (LLCCC) at the University of Limerick (Ireland). From 1 August 2013 to 17 October 2013, I am a visiting scholar at the School of Languages and Culture of the University of Sydney to which I am truly grateful for hosting me during my, all too short, research visit.

In the following, I would like to describe briefly my home School and University, my University’s involvement in European Studies and in the ERASMUS MUNDUS/ EUOSSIC Exchange Program, and to introduce my research agenda.
The School of LLCCC at the University of Limerick is comprised of nine departments (English, French, German, Irish, Japanese, Journalism, Spanish, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, and Technical Communication,) and two units (Language Centre, Aonad na Gaeilge – promotion of the Irish language). Since the mid-1970s, the School has offered a BA in European Studies (one of the first in Europe) and, in the early 1990s, the University launched one of Europe's first MAs in European Integration. In addition, the University has been an extremely active participant in the European Union’s ERASMUS program since 1988. The University has currently over 200 partner institutions in 24 European countries and it also hosts and sends a considerable number of exchange students to partner universities in the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, China and Singapore.

The Centre for European Studies (of which I am a member) is one of the few Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence in the world. The Centre for European Studies is the coordinator of the EUOSSIC Exchange Program. The objective of the program is to provide a vehicle for researching the social science perspectives of the EU-Oceania (Australia and New Zealand) relations at the doctoral, post-doctoral and academic staff level. The program also establishes a structured mobility program between the institutional partners.

**Partner Universities (EU):**
- University of Bath, UK
- Sciences Po, Paris, France
- Univerzita Karlova v Paze, Czech Republic
- Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali (LUISS), Rome, Italy
- Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
- University of Limerick, Ireland

To date, the University of Limerick has hosted a number of EUOSSIC post-doctoral scholars. In addition, four scholars from the University of Limerick have availed themselves of the EUOSSIC exchange program: Dr. J. Fischer (Victoria University of Wellington); Dr. E Reeves (Monash University); Dr. B Wharton (University of Canterbury), and myself.

My research interests lay French and European politics. For this EUOSSIC program, I am focussing on the area of the themes of shared values and norms, perceptions and identity in Europe. The European project seeks to improve the social, economic and political status of all citizens including active minorities (i.e. socially and economically marginalized people). To do this, the European Union has put in place a considerable number of social, political and economic measures in order: (a) to try to change the ways that mainstream society perceives minorities and to encourage tolerance for various values and norms; and (b) to support minorities in their attempts to portray their role, status, identity in as positive ways as possible. This has resulted in the situation whereby active minorities (a) now view themselves (their values, their culture, their attitudes…) in a far more favourable light, and (b) they take active measures to ensure that their rights and interests are better recognized and accepted by mainstream society. Another consequence is that there has been a significant rise in the number of social movement organizations that defend the rights and interests of these active minorities. My research looks at the ways that

1. the European project has promoted the collective and individual rights of minorities;
2. socially excluded active minorities have become increasingly aware of such rights;
3. a number of socially excluded active minorities have initiated collective action in the defence of such rights and interests; and
4. there has been a significant change in the shared values and norms and perceptions and identity in the European Union.

My stay thus far at the University of Sydney has allowed me to meet some staff and students to discuss aspects of the European project and to assess key social and political issues in contemporary Europe such as the ways civil society actors engage with the various forms of the democratic process – formal and informal forms of political participation. The time thus far at the University has also given me the scope to put the finishing touches on two research articles and on a volume that I am co-editing with a colleague: *From Silence to Protest: International Perspectives on Weakly Resourced Groups*. London: Ashgate.

Dr. Frédéric Royall
Senior Lecturer in French Studies
Head, School of Languages, Literature, Culture & Communication
University of Limerick (Ireland)
TRANSNATIONALISM

Writing the World: Transnationalism and Translation in Literary Studies
Faculty of Arts Collaborative Research Scheme 2013
Professor Peter Morgan

In late 2012 thirteen literary scholars from across the Faculty came together to discuss issues of transnationalism, globalization and translation in relation to contemporary and historical literary studies. "World literature" is a popular and appealing concept in the USA particularly at present, and a great deal of new thinking is emerging in relation to issues of literary and cultural contact, translation, comparability and influence across borders in the global environment.

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

Anyone interested in learning more about this project should either contact Peter Morgan the Project Leader - email peter.morgan@sydney.edu.au - or access the Transnationalism and Literature website where past and prospective events are listed.

Report on the Transnationalism Workshop
23 August 2013

Five brief presentations were made during the course of the afternoon and discussion settled on several interrelated topics.

− Issues of definition of keywords such as "literature," "world literature," "transnationalism," etc. "World literature" was coined by Goethe in a particular European political and social environment and the concept was subsequently popularized in the post-Nazi context as a means of returning German cultural material into global as well as national circulation. Is this context of relevance to contemporary usage? (Peter Morgan)

− How widely do we understand literature, given the differences in breadth in different cultural contexts and historical epochs? Can we speak of transnationalism before the existence the modern nation-state? Does transnationalism specifically refer to literary comparativity in the age of digital technologies, where contact and connection has been radically accelerated? (Paul Giles)

− The issue of comparativity in history: to what extent can we talk of "transnationalism" in historical contexts? Is there any point in seeking categories for pre-modern and/or ancient modes of intercultural contact. For example in the Roman world where Greek remained a lingua franca of the educated classes and where "literary" writing was often carried out in Greek as well as Latin? (Bob Cowan)

− Different models of "world" in world literature: various supra-national, international and/or imperial and colonial structures have operated with concepts of "world" literature, for example the communist world used a concept based on class solidarity rather than ethnicity or language. Is the contemporary post-colonial understanding of world literature and transnationalism compatible with other current models of globalization, for example Islamic global perspectives? Contemporary European societies are grappling with these issues (Barrie Wharton).

− At what point does a literary tradition become "world literature"? What are the criteria for a national, sub-national or regional literature becoming (perceived as) "world literature"?

− Australian literature includes a diversity of voices which differentiates it from other literary traditions. Does this render Australian literature a world literature? (Robert Dixon)

− Translation and the role of the translator in rendering material comprehensible across two or more languages.

The wide-ranging discussions revealed the breadth of issues that arise in terms of the terms of reference and the different cultural and historical understandings of literature as a cultural phenomenon which crosses borders of language, identity, ethnicity, and civilizational self-understanding. Ongoing discussion of these issues in the light of contemporary transnational and world or global literature discussions.
BRINGING HIM HOME

Dr Elizabeth Rechniewski, French Studies

Dr Elizabeth Rechniewski is an Honorary Senior Lecturer in the Department of French Studies. She is currently a Chief Investigator on the Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Project: *Judging the Past in a Post-Cold War World*. This project develops her research in the area of memory and commemoration: over the last decade she has published widely on remembrance of 20th century war in Australia, France and New Caledonia, including on the commemoration of the role of indigenous soldiers in these countries.

Recently she published in the Australian War Memorial journal *Wartime* a piece on the home-coming ceremonies recently held for several Indigenous soldiers who served and died in Papua New Guinea. The piece grew out of an article that will be published about the commemoration of WWI next year.

The ANZAC Centenary is nearly upon us and next year will see a surge of publications and commemorations, as the Government allocates a budget of $135 million to ensure that national and local events mark the occasion. The Centenary provides an opportunity to remember the many different perspectives that can be cast on this war, perspectives that the SLC, representing a number of the belligerent countries, is well–placed to offer. Caught up in the war too were many Indigenous men from the British and French empires: Indians, Kanak from New Caledonia, Maori from New Zealand, Aborigines from Australia, and many others. Although – unlike the Kanak and Maori – Aborigines were officially prevented from enlisting, hundreds did so in the First World War, and thousands in World War Two. If for many years their military service was forgotten, in recent decades books and documentaries have brought growing recognition and attempts to compensate for this neglect. I became involved last year in one such project, to enable the families to perform the rituals necessary to bring home the spirits of six Aboriginal Diggers who died on the Kokoda track in 1942 and who lie buried at Bomana cemetery near Port Moresby. On 25 April, moving and colourful ceremonies took place at the graveside of the Aboriginal diggers; soil was taken from the site and, over the following year, was carried back to the communities the Diggers had come from, in Western Australia, Queensland and far north New South Wales, where home-coming ceremonies were performed. These pictures show the specially-made didgeridoo summoning their spirits home; and the ceremony performed at the grave of one of the Diggers, Private Frank Archibald.
INTRODUCING NEW STAFF AT THE SCHOOL

In June we introduced Dr Vannessa Hearman (Indonesian Studies) and Dr Esther Klein (Chinese Studies), who answered some questions about themselves, their work, their impressions of their new city and plans for the future. Here we introduce Dr Tristan Lay (Germanic Studies) and Dr Xiaohuan Zhao (Chinese Studies). In the next issue, we will hear from Dr Barrie Wharton (Spanish and Latin American Studies) and Dr Su-kyoung Hwang (Korean Studies).

Dr Tristan Lay
Department of Germanic Studies

Where did you study?
I graduated with a Magister and a PhD from Ruhr-University Bochum. The Ruhr-Region is in the western part of Germany, and is where I also grew up. It is one of Europe’s largest industrial areas and has a significant multicultural population. I studied at Bochum because the academic discipline Sprachlehrforschung (Research in Language Teaching and Learning) there is internationally renowned for its quality education of foreign language teachers and foreign language related researchers.

What are you liking most about working at the University of Sydney?
I appreciate having the opportunity to join a group of excellent researchers in the School of Languages and Cultures in general and the Department of Germanic Studies in particular. I am very excited by my role in widening the scope of Germanic Studies at Sydney University by offering units dealing with the discipline German as a Foreign Language (GFL). This is especially important for the Australian context, because prospective language teachers of German in schools are normally not educated in Teaching and Learning Methods.

Is it your first time living here? Any surprises?
Well, it’s the first time that I’ve lived here for more than half a year at a time. In the past I used to commute regularly between Sydney, where my family was and is still living, and Taipei, where I taught as an assistant professor in Germanic studies. I really enjoy Sydney’s great beaches and of course the lively university campus with it’s variety of plants and trees.

What influenced you to originally study Sprachlehrforschung, and what made you continue?
Sprachlehrforschung is an academic discipline which was established in the early 1970s in response to specific necessities in the German-speaking sphere regarding teaching and learning foreign languages. I grew up bilingual and therefore was continually confronted with language and culture related topics. Because of this I decided to study Sprachlehrforschung.

My motivation for doing research in this area is to improve teaching and learning quality. In my field it is necessary to combine theory, empiricism and teaching and learning practice, so my work stays interesting, especially in class when I’m conveying knowledge to motivated students and fostering their creativity and intellectual curiosity.

What are your research interests?
My research interests include various areas of Sprachlehrforschung, Methodology and Didactics of Foreign Languages especially German as a Foreign/Second Language, Audio-visual Language Learning via film/music, as well as Multiple Language Acquisition and Learning.

Current projects?
I recently finished a book in conjunction with my colleagues Armin Gertz and Marion Then from the University of Bamberg in Germany, where I taught before I joined the Department of Germanic Studies at the University of Sydney. The book “Bamberg – Kaleidoskop einer fränkischen Stadt / Bamberg – Kaleidoscope of a Franconian city” (2013) is officially used in the culture and language courses at the Language Centre of the University of Bamberg (which is a partner university of University of Sydney). It is the first book in the discipline German as a Foreign Language to focus on the didactics of a single German city.

My recent projects concentrate on Gerhard Richter’s painting (self-portraits and portraits of his children) in the context of teaching and learning German. I am preparing a book chapter, which will be published 2014 in the book series Materialien Deutsch als Fremdsprache. I am also working with Jenny Spitzmüller (our former DAAD Language Assistant) on a book chapter focussing on Places of Remembrance (Erinnerungsorte).
Dr Xiaohuan Zhao
Department of Chinese Studies

Where did you study?
I did my first degree in English literature at the Central China Normal University (CCNU), and then I was admitted to the CCNU’s Graduate School on a three-year MA program in Linguistics and Literature by both coursework and research, which was jointly run by CCNU and the University of Michigan and funded by the Yale-China Association. After several years of teaching at a Shanghai university, I was awarded an ORS (Overseas Research Scheme) by the UK Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals for a PhD study of classical Chinese literature at the University of Edinburgh.

What excites you most about working here
Strong excites from the Head of School and administrative staff, nice colleagues to work with in the Chinese Department, and great students to teach here at the University.

What are you liking about the city? Any surprises?
Yes. Before I took up this appointment, I had been to Sydney a couple of time for conferences. We’re enjoying the mild weather in winter, robust multiculturalism, and the genuine Chinese food/restaurants. My knowledge of Sydney is largely limited to history and travel books, as I haven’t had time to explore this beautiful city since I started my job here. What surprises me most is the great size of the city and the university as compared with the city of Dunedin and the University of Otago in New Zealand, which has a population of 120,000 and 20,000 respectively; the scorching hot summer (we arrived in the middle of February when the temperature was around 35 degrees), and extremely competitive housing/renting market. We had lived in a small, quiet yet cool place like Dunedin in New Zealand for quite a few years, where housing is cheap and summer temperatures low by Australian standards.

What influenced you to originally study Chinese language and culture, and what made you continue?
From a young age I had a strong interest in history and literature, both Chinese and foreign. I even translated some fairy tales from Afghanistan and Pakistan when I was a college student. My first degree is in English literature and my second degree was MA in linguistics and literature (literary stylistics). My MA thesis is a stylistic analysis of Birds, Beasts and Flowers, a collection of poems by D.H. Lawrence, who is best known as a modernist novelist for his Oedipus-Complex based explorations of sex and family issues. But his poems definitely show a very different aspect from that in his novels. I am a bookworm, I should admit. I love reading and have read a great many of the masterpieces of English literature. Among my favourite writers are Joseph Conrad, D. H. Lawrence, Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, Leo Tolstoy and Fyodor Dostoyevsky. They opened a window to the outside world when communist China shut itself out. The first Western novel I ever read was Sir Walter Scott’s Ivanhoe - at the time I had no idea whether he was Scottish or English, famous or unknown, and I didn’t care. I just read whatever was available to me then. Many years later when I found myself standing in front of the Scott Monument in Edinburgh, looking at him holding a book in his hands, I got a strange feeling, a kind of Chinese feeling: it was no accident that Ivanhoe was the first Western novel I read, nor that I was here to do my PhD. There must be something in this kind of coincidence—a destiny, predetermined.

I did English literature for my BA and MA, but Chinese literature was not foreign to me at all. I had been exposed much to Chinese classics when I was young. At that time, no Confucian classics were taught at school in China and most of traditional Chinese literature was attacked and criticised as “poisonous weeds”. Almost all such books of my parents were either confiscated or burned by Chairman Mao’s Red Guards during the Cultural Revolution, but my dad has an extremely good memory. He had received very strict training in an old-style school before transferring to a modern-style school, so he learnt by heart hundreds of classical Chinese poems, ancient-style prose essays, and the Four Books and Five Classics of the Confucian school. He was not only my teacher but also my textbook of classical Chinese literature. It’s no accident that I did my PhD in classical Chinese literature either.

What are your research interests?
Basically, I’m a literature person. My major areas of research are in early and medieval Chinese literature and pre-modern Chinese performing arts. I am also very interested in pre-Qin (221-206 BC) Masters writings, Chinese religions, popular beliefs, myths and legends, history, particularly legal and intellectual history.

Current projects?
I’ve just completed a first draft of a conference article on civil service examinations and Yuan drama, and will have to find time to revise another article on black magic as stipulated in Chinese imperial penal codes, which I’ve written as a continuation of my research on political uses of wugu sorcery in traditional China. I’ve most recently been engaged in preparing for a study of the relationship between rites, rituals and performances as shown in sculptured stones, wall paintings, brick carvings from early and medieval China. Besides this, a couple of years ago I started to translate Liu Xiang’s (ca. 77-6 BC) Garden of Persuasions – a book containing more than 700 (mostly Confucian) moralistic and philosophical anecdotes. Just weeks ago, I heard that a complete translation of this book is going to press with Washington University Press. This is very good news but at the same time, I need to ask myself whether I should carry on with this project.

Who’s your inspiration?
God.

What else are you doing apart from your research and teaching?
I’m bit of boring person, at least in the eyes of my son! I only ever seem to be reading and writing, and I’m slow at both. Reading is my hobby, and books - along with my wife and son of course - are my life-long companions. But actually, I’m not so boring as my son believes. I love classical music, and also enjoy jogging and gardening. Back in New Zealand, I used to walk to work on weekdays, and at weekends do the gardening and go on excursions when weather permitted. But here I have to give up my hobbies of gardening and jogging as we’re now living in a rental unit only about 10 minutes walk away from the campus.
Book Launch

Mozi: A Study and Translation of the Ethical and Political Writings
John Knoblock and Jeffrey Riegel
Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley

This new book of translation and study of the Mozi by Professor Jeffrey Riegel, Head of the School of Languages and Cultures at the University of Sydney, and the late John Knoblock, was launched on 23 August by Professor John Makeham of ANU. The evening’s proceedings were introduced by the Academic Director of the China Studies Centre, Professor David Goodman, and continued with Professor Makeham’s launch and a talk on the Mozi by Professor Riegel.

The Mozi, an anthology of enormous scope and great importance, was produced during the Warring States period (453–221 BCE) and is the earliest extended philosophical discourse in China on a remarkably varied set of topics that range from aggressive warfare, fatalism, music, and prolonged mourning for the dead - all of which the authors vehemently opposed - to meritocracy, uniform adherence to government directives, frugality, love for others, and a belief in divine agency - all of which they fervently embraced.

The launch, co-hosted with the China Studies Centre, finished with some questions from the audience, followed by light refreshments. A podcast of the presentations can be downloaded at the Sydney Ideas website.


Bandhauer, A 2013, Der menschliche Körper soll zu achtzig Prozent aus Wasser bestehen: Water and Metamorphoses in Yoko Tawada Das Bad and Schwager in Bordeaux (forthcoming, 2013), Intercultural Encounters in German Studies, Rüdiger, St. Ingbert

Bandhauer, A, Veber, M M 2013, The Holy Household at the Hermannsburg Mission, Central Australia: I’m very much looking forward and I’m very happy that now, after all, I’m allowed to travel to the heathens. (Frieda Keysser to Carl Strehlow) (forthcoming, 2013), Limbus: Australisches Jahrbuch für germanistische Literatur- und Kulturwissenschaft (Limbus: Australian Yearbook of German Literary and Cultural Studies)


Chan, M, Chey, J V 2013, “Love you to the bone” and other songs: Humour and rusheng rhymes in early Cantonopop, Humour in Chinese Life and Culture: Resistance and Control in Modern Times, Hong Kong University Press, Hong Kong, 1, 103-129

Dibley, T 2013, Activism and aid: Shaping the peace movement in Timor-Leste, Social Activism in Southeast Asia, Routledge imprint of Taylor & Francis, London and New York, 1, 138-153

Ebiied, R Y 2013, An Acrostic Elegy by a Maronite Priest-Monk on the sorrow of the Virgin Mary at her separation from her Son, Collectanea Christiana Orientalia 10, pp. 173-180


Edwards, N E 2013, Values and the institutionalization of Indonesia’s organic agriculture movement, Social Activism in Southeast Asia, Routledge imprint of Taylor & Francis, London and New York, 1, 72-88


Ford, M T 2013, Employer Anti-Unionism in Democratic Indonesia, Global Anti-Unionism: Nature, Dynamics, Trajectories and Outcomes, Palgrave Macmillan, New York, 1, 224-243

Ford, M T 2013, Social Activism in Southeast Asia, Routledge imprint of Taylor & Francis, London and New York

Ford, M T 2013, Social Activism in Southeast Asia: An Introduction, Social Activism in Southeast Asia, Routledge imprint of Taylor & Francis, London and New York, 1, 1-21


Klein, ES 2013, Constancy and the Changes: A Comparative Reading of Heng Xian, *Dao: a journal of comparative philosophy*, 12(2), 207-224

Knoblock, J, Riegel, J K 2013, Mozi: A Study and Translation of the Ethical and Political Writings, Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley, CA

Kwak, K 2013, Media Regulatory Reform in Australia: Policy Implication of Content Regulation, *Content+Future*, 13, 94-105


Milner Davis, J, Chey, J V 2013, Humour in Chinese Life and Culture: Resistance and Control in Modern Times, Hong Kong University Press, Hong Kong

Morgan, P H 2013, Translating the World: Literature and Re-Connection from Goethe to Gao, *Revue de littérature comparée*, 345(1), 63-80

Rutland, S D 2013, The Asia-Pacific Region and Australian Jewry, *The International Conference of Judaism in Asia since the Founding of the State of Israel*, Bonn University Press, Bonn, 1, 91-108


After the events of June 2013 in Egypt, the Italian Society of Women Historians (SIS) and *Genesis* have agreed with the Publisher Viella to allow open source access to the PDF version of this article.


Veber, M M, Bandhauer, A 2013, The Holy Household at the Hermannsburg Mission, Central Australia: I’m very much looking forward and I’m very happy that now, after all, I’m allowed to travel to the heathens. (Frieda Keysser to Carl Strehlow), *Limbus: Australisches Jahrbuch fur germanistische Literatur- und Kulturwissenschaft* (Limbus: Australian Yearbook of German Literary and Cultural Studies)


School News

FRSS Success
Congratulations to the staff members from the School who were successful in their applications for FRSS funding for this year:
- Dr Ali Aldahesh
- Dr Giorgia Alù
- Dr Francesco Borghesi
- Dr Françoise Grauby
- Dr Vannessa Hearmann
- Professor Vrasidas Karalis
- Dr Lucia Sorbera

SLC won seven of the thirty awards given out by the Faculty. Many of our awardees are junior colleagues which is especially gratifying.

SLC Research Town Hall
On Friday 14 June, the School of Languages and Cultures hosted a town hall-style meeting to support its researchers learning from the tactics of colleagues on how to rejuvenate their activities. The event was lead by Head of School Professor Jeffrey Riegel. Presentations from Professor Vrasidas Karalis, Associate Professor Yixu Lu and Dr Francesco Borghesi highlighted how their own research had diverged from original training and subject areas.

In his usual engaging style, Vras highlighted the importance of displaying innovation and creativity to capture the attention of readers and the importance of a ‘transcultural and international’ approach – to broaden your initial research interests beyond all borders. He stressed the importance of participation in global conversations aligned to your discipline to ensure inclusion in journal editing panels, appointment committees and conferences.

Yixu highlighted the pragmatism of publishing in both English and your host language. She emphasised knowing where your community of scholars would be looking for publications – and in the context of working in and being assessed by Australian-based peers when undertaking ARC/HERDC/ERA reviews.

Francesco accentuated his expansion of international research networks to develop broader professional conversations in his field and how as individual researchers it was our responsibility to make the field relevant by producing good research.

It was also an opportunity to debunk a few myths regarding ARC assessments and ERA rankings. The ARC removed the formal ranking list of journals in ERA 2012 and maintains it will not return. Nevertheless within fields of research, quality journals and presses are for the most part common knowledge among specialists. Planning for research publication should be strategic – there should be a balance of collaborations, sole authored works and types. For example, editing collections of works is an extremely valuable tool for developing contacts and an international reputation but does not have the same ‘value’ on how works would be judged through ERA.

It is the Faculty’s expectation that researchers will aim to publish with the best international journals and presses. The Faculty’s templated 3-Year Research Plan and 5-Year Research CV should be used as on-going support tools to indicate your understanding of the above and demonstrate how the balance of your research outputs in your field can be achieved.

ERA is about the collective output of the University in a field of research, not about a particular researcher or department. With that in mind, researchers should become familiar with others in the University who are publishing in the same FoR code. For researchers located within SLC, this activity will be taken further in preparation for ERA 2015 during the coming semester.

The overwhelming messages of the day were supporting the on-going development of research expertise, looking beyond your horizons for networking and collaboration opportunities and creating a relevant balance in your research outputs for publication.
Japanese Studies Funding Success
Dr Yasuko Claremont has reported that her application for a grant from the Japan Foundation’s Support Program for Organizations in Japanese Studies for three years commencing in 2013 has been successful. This grant is the second one she has received from the Japan Foundation on a collaborative research project on reconciliation related to the Asia-Pacific War.

The grant covering the preceding two years funded the attendance of leading Japanese and overseas scholars to two international conferences held at the University of Sydney:
- The Asia-Pacific War: Return, Representation & Reconciliation - September 2011
- Looking Back at the Asia-Pacific War: Art, Cinema and Media - November 2012

This new grant will continue the project commencing with an international conference to be held in Seoul in November 2013 entitled Wounds, Scars, Healing: Civil Society and Postwar Pacific Basin Reconciliation. Japan has still to achieve full reconciliation with peoples and governments who were engaged in the Pacific War. Our research project examines postwar civil initiatives which could lead to new policy directions, and will publish two substantial volumes of proceedings. We are expecting to hold a conference in Osaka in 2014 and at the University of Sydney in 2015 commemorating the 70th anniversary of the end of the Pacific War.

The Japan Foundation is funding not only five of the University of Sydney researchers but also four eminent international scholars in this field of memorial and reconciliation who will participate in a conference to be hosted by Professor Pankaj Mohan, Dean of the Faculty of International Korean Studies, the Academy of Korean Studies in Seoul. Separately, they have obtained a substantial grant for their publications from the Japan Foundation. Dr Claremont reports: “Given the fact of Japan’s financial difficulties these grants are generous. I am proud to have received such generosity as chief investigator”.

Five Funded participants from the University of Sydney are, from Japanese Studies:
- Professor Michael Lewis
- Dr Lionel Babicz
- Dr Roman Rosenbaum
- Dr Yasuko Claremont; and
- Associate Professor Judith Keene from History.

Four Funded guest speakers overseas will be:
- Professor James Orr, Bucknell University,
- Professor Peter Duus (William H. Bonsall Professor of Japanese History, Emeritus, Stanford University; Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution),
- Professor Ian Buruma, Bard College, New York,
- Professor Yuki Tanaka, Hiroshima Peace Institute.

Cultural Day offers a Taste of Japan
Original story from the University News
The University is continuing to strengthen its relationship with Japan with the hosting of a Japanese cultural day on Thursday 29 August. The Department of Japanese Studies presented the free event in the New Law School Building to showcase Japanese arts and culture.

The course trains the Kobe Shinwa students on how to teach Japanese language overseas. Dr Seiko Yasumoto and Professor Michael Lewis, both from the Department of Japanese Studies, are coordinating the program.

Dr Yasumoto says: “This is the first and only teacher training intensive course program for overseas students in Australia which includes culture and language components. The program includes a rich variety of activities, including visits to schools, an excursion to the Blue Mountains and our upcoming cultural exchange day.”

The cultural exchange day will include demonstrations of contemporary and traditional Japanese culture, including a tea ceremony, origami, calligraphy and kendo - a form of martial arts which descends from samurai swordsmanship.

Dr Yasumoto says: “Language and culture are closely intertwined. Through this cultural demonstration and collaboration with Kobe Shinwa Women’s University, we hope to deepen mutual international understanding at the University of Sydney.”

Previous students from the program, which has been running since 1996, have gained employment as teachers of Japanese language in overseas institutions including Oxford University and Seoul Women's University.
Reflections on ‘Children and War’

There was a strong Australian presence at the second ‘Children and War’ International Conference, held last week at the University of Salzburg in Austria. Sydney University Professor Suzanne Rutland, Melbourne University Professor Joy Damousi, UTS lecturer Dr Panayiotis Diamadis added uniquely Australian perspectives with their presentations.

The three-day event attracted 138 presentations from across the world, including many Holocaust-related topics. Panels included Holocaust survivors, forced labour, education in Imperial and NS Germany, Children in Hiding, as well as the Armenian, Assyrian and Hellenic Genocides (1914-24), civil wars in Africa and Asia and many others.

Professor Rutland’s paper, entitled ‘A distant sanctuary: Australia and child Holocaust survivors’ related the story of Australian Jewish community initiatives in the late 1930s, including the Rescue the Children’s Fund, the Jewish Welfare Guardian Scheme and the Gross Breesener Scheme. She then traced the efforts by the Australian Jewish community to sponsor a number of child orphan survivors to Australia after the war, with the assistance of HIAS (Hebrew Immigration Aid Society) and the American Joint Distribution Committee. Her paper was based on research in archives in Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, New York and Jerusalem.

Professor Damousi’s paper, titled ‘The Greek civil war and child migration to Australia’, focused on the reunification of children abducted from their extended families during the Hellenic Civil War (1946-49) with their parents in Australia.

Dr Diamadis’ paper was titled ‘Save the Children: The origins of international humanitarian relief efforts’, an examination of the forces that drove the formation of the world’s first international humanitarian relief agencies, the techniques they pioneered during, and subsequent to, the Genocides, as well as the impact of these efforts on ‘modern’ humanitarian relief work.

The international multidisciplinary conference was organised by the University of Salzburg and the University of Wolverhampton, in association with the United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

Recent conferences
Conferences at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Professor Rutland attended two international conferences held at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The first was the pre-Congress of Jewish Studies with the theme ‘The Issue in the Hebrew Language: Theory and Practice’. This conference dealt with theoretical language issues together with practical aspects of teaching Hebrew as a second language and was held on 24-25 July 2013. Professor Rutland chaired a session entitled ‘The Influences of Foreign Languages on Hebrew’. The papers dealt with Yiddish, Persian and Russian.

The second was the Sixteenth World Congress of Jewish Studies from 28 July – 1 August 2013. Described as the ‘Olympics of Jewish Studies’, this conference is held once every four years in Jerusalem. It covers every aspect of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies and attracts close to one thousand participants with ten parallel sessions for each time slot running over five days, with the leading international scholars participating. Professor Rutland presented a paper with her Israeli co-researcher, Professor Zehavit Gross on ‘Intergenerational Challenges in Jewish Education’. This is part of a wider study of Jewish Education in Australia, funded by the Pratt Foundation.

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Conference Report
During the non-teaching period Dr Avril Alba gave papers at the three European conferences. The first *The Aftermath of Genocide: Victims and Perpetrators, Representations and Interpretations* was held in Siena, Italy and convened by the International Association of Genocide Scholars. Her paper, entitled ‘Marching to the Same Drum? Reflections of Survivors, Students and Educators on March of the Living (MOTL) Australia’ explored the pedagogic value of increasingly popular educational trips to sites such as Auschwitz-Birkenau. The second two conferences were held in the UK. The first, *Challenging Memories: Silence and Empathy in Heritage Interpretation* was held in Devon and the second *The Future of Holocaust Studies*, in Southampton. Dr Alba’s papers ‘The Counter Memorial Void: Silence as Secular Theodicy’ and Here there is no why”—so why do we come here? Is a pedagogy of atrocity possible?’ focused on Holocaust representation and education topics. In addition, Dr Alba was awarded an Irmgard Coninx Foundation (WZB Berlin) Fellowship to participate in the 17th Berlin Roundtables on Transnationality ‘Travel and Museums: Rethinking the Modern Experience’. The Roundtable was held at the WZB from June 26-29 and included both academic and experiential workshops as well as site visit to new and innovative museum and memorial projects currently under construction in Berlin.

Revisiting Star Studies
Dr Andrea Bandhauer (Department of Germanic Studies) and Dr Michelle Royer (Department of French Studies) presented a paper at the international conference ‘Revisiting Star Studies’ held at the Research Centre in Film & Digital Media (Newcastle University, UK), 12-14 June 2013. The conference, organised by Professor Guy Austin and Dr Sabrina Yu, gathered distinguished scholars in film studies including Professor Neepa Majumbar (University of Pittsburg, USA), Professor Pam Cook (University of Southampton) and Professor Ginette Vincendeau (Kings College London) . Dr Bandhauer and Dr Royer’s paper ‘Star Embodiment: Ageing and the Tragic Star’ was very well received. The conference was also an opportunity for the two researchers to promote their forthcoming book *Stars in World Cinema: Screen Icons and Star Systems across Cultures*, to be published by I.B. Tauris. This book is a collection of essays on European, African, Asian, Latin American and Australasian stars and systems with an emphasis on their relevance across cultures and their interconnectedness across nations and continents. It will feature contributions from SLC scholars and well-known overseas film specialists.

Congratulations
Congratulations to Associate Professor Bronwyn Winter upon her receipt of an Office of Learning and Teaching Citation for excellence in teaching in 2013. Bronwyn Winter’s Citation is for ‘Developing interdisciplinary curricula that extend students intellectually, foster their creativity and support research-engaged student collaborations in cross-cultural programs in Humanities and Social Sciences’. Bronwyn’s teaching fosters the development of students’ intellectual curiosity, research skills, interdisciplinary creativity and learning strategies. These goals are achieved by enhancing student collaborations and autonomy in the units Bronwyn teaches in four programs: French Studies, International and Comparative Literary Studies, International and Global Studies and European Studies.
UBEF Visiting Professor of Buddhist Studies

The Buddhist Studies program will be hosting Professor David Eckel from Boston University as the 2013 UBEF Visiting Professor of Buddhist Studies from September to November. His lectures will include a Sydney Ideas talk on 17 September “Buddhism and the Challenge of Modernity”, a talk on 24 September for the Australian Association of Buddhist Studies Satisfaction Without Analysis: Madhyamaka Views of Conventional Truth, and a series of eight “Friday lectures” on the theme Modes of Recognition: Theoretical Aspects of Mahāyāna Narrative

Details of all these events are available on the Buddhist Studies website.

Professor Malcolm David Eckel is a Professor of Religion and an award-winning teacher in the Religion Department at Boston University. Before joining Boston University, he served on the faculty at Middlebury College and Harvard Divinity School. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard University, his M.A. from Oxford University, and his B.A. from Harvard College. He is the author of several books on Buddhism and the Madhyamaka tradition, including Understanding Buddhism (Oxford University Press), To See the Buddha: A Philosopher’s Quest for the Meaning of Emptiness (Princeton University Press) and Bhaviveka and His Buddhist Opponents (Harvard Department of Sanskrit and Indian Studies).

Other Buddhist Studies news

Mark Allon presented his paper “Notes on Ancient Buddhist Scrolls II: The Senior Kharoṣṭhī Fragments” at the IVth International Gāndhārī Manuscript Workshop, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities, 3rd–6th July 2013.

Asian Studies

Discovery of Mahendraparvata

Dr Damian Evans of the Asian Studies Program is director of the University of Sydney’s archaeology research centre in Cambodia, which has recently played a key role in the discovery of a lost mediaeval city. Using an instrument called Lidar attached to a helicopter, researchers were able to identify two dozen previously unrecorded temples that had been hidden by jungle for 1200 years just north of the Angkor Wat complex.

More information on the discovery, including pictures and video, can be found in this Sydney Morning Herald article or via Youtube.

Bulletin of Chinese Ceramic Art and Archaeology

Dr Baoping Li, ARC Future Fellow in the Asian Studies program, is a key founding editorial board member of a new journal on Chinese ceramics being launched by Peking (Beijing) University. Based in the School of Archaeology and Museology, this new biannual journal, whose Chinese title is Taoci kaogu tongxun, will feature articles in diverse disciplines such as history, archaeology, art history, chemical sourcing of trade ceramics and reconstruction of ancient technology, in order to gain insights into Chinese civilization and its interaction with the world through ceramics.

While articles will be primarily in Chinese, English-language contributions will be included, while it is intended that articles on the research or discovery of ceramics will have increasingly detailed abstracts in English. For more information on this new international journal, please follow the link from Baoping Li’s online academic profile.

Professor David Eckel
FASS success
Lucia Sorbera was awarded a FASS Grant for her project
Feminism in Twenty-first Century Egypt: History, Literature, and Politics of a Continuing Revolution. This project maps and investigates the fundamental significance of feminist activism in the 2011 Egyptian Revolution through the analysis of a selected corpus of writings and interventions by four generations of prominent Egyptian women intellectuals. Combining women’s history, literary analysis, and ethnography, the project will shed light, for the first time, on the intersection between intellectual and grassroots women’s activism. Documents and interviews in Arabic, English and French will be collected, translated and analysed, significantly contributing to the knowledge and understanding of the interconnection between women’s activism and revolution in a strategic region of the world.

Upcoming events
Feminism, Revolution, and Creative Activism in Egypt. Old questions and new challenges.
Tuesday, 8 October, 5pm. New Law School Foyer.
Dr Lucia Sorbera in conversation with Professor Margot Badran, Senior Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and at the Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim Christian Understanding, Georgetown University. This is a Sydney Ideas event

Margot Badran’s research focuses on women, gender, and feminisms in Islam and Muslim societies. For more than three decades she has combined teaching and scholarship, public intellectual work, consulting, and activism. Among her major publications are:

The event is organised by the Research Cluster “Religion, State & Society in the Muslim World” in collaboration with Sydney Ideas and with the participation of the School of Languages and Cultures.
Contact: lucia.sorbera@sydney.edu.au

Sydney Ideas event, date/time to be confirmed
Bernard Rougier, director of the Centre d’Etudes et de Documentation Economiques, Juridiques et Sociales (CÉDEJ) in Cairo, will be speaking at a Sydney Ideas event in late October (exact date to be confirmed). His colleague Gilles Kepel, professor at Sciences Po, is also expected to participate via Skype. Prof. Rougier’s visit will be sponsored by the French embassy and he will speak in conversation with Associate Professor Bronwyn Winter.

Bernard Rougier and Gilles Kepel are both specialists of the contemporary Arab world and of Islamic politics. Both have published widely in both English and French. Bernard Rougier’s publications include:
- Qu’est-ce que le salafisme? Presses Universitaires de France 2008)

Kepel’s publications include:
- Passion arabe: Journal, 2011-2013. (Gallimard 2013)

Kepel is currently working on a followup to Passion arabe.
The event is organised by the Research Cluster “Religion, State & Society in the Muslim World”, in collaboration with Sydney Ideas, the School of Languages and Cultures and with the French Embassy in Australia. Contact: bronwyn.winter@sydney.edu.au
Sydney Chinese In-country Study Success at Peking University

Following the success of the inaugural Sydney In-Country Program at Peking University (PKU) in November-December 2012, the Department of Chinese Studies successfully ran another four-week intensive In-country Study program at PKU from 1 July to 26 July, 2013. 51 University of Sydney students participated in the program, six of them returning students from the previous year. Xiaowei Zhang, the Department’s International Coordinator, accompanied the students and coordinated the program on-site.

The program provided excellent opportunities to our students in both language study and cultural experience. From Monday to Friday students had four hours of class daily, two hours on grammar and vocabulary and two hours practising speaking and listening skills in Chinese. Each student was allocated a PKU local student who acted as a language partner as well as a cultural guide. During the weekends, students went on excursions to famous historical sites and theatres. The program has been overwhelmingly welcomed by the students: “When learning a language, opportunities to study in-country are invaluable. The work of the USYD Chinese Department in making such opportunities increasingly available to students is truly fantastic. As students studying Chinese at the University of Sydney, but also as young Australians at the beginning of what has been labelled the ‘Asian Century’, we are all extremely well positioned to take advantage of the opportunities that are being increasingly made available to us.” Sophie Lancaster, the Department’s student rep, quoted from her speech at the closing ceremony of the program.

In November-December this year, the Department will offer in-country study at both Fudan University in Shanghai and Peking University in Beijing. Both programs have been officially endorsed by the Faculty Undergraduate Studies Committee and the University Academic Board. In future more students will have the opportunity to study Chinese language and culture at first class universities in China. The Department sincerely thanks the School for its support and assistance in setting up in-country study programs such as this.

To hear what the staff and students say about their life at PKU, please visit our China Exchange Blog: http://blogs.usyd.edu.au/china-exchange/
Associate Professor Linda Tsung and Dr Wei Wang organised the China Study Centre’s successful annual international workshop “Contemporary Chinese Discourse and Social Change” on the 8-9 August 2013. Professor Kerry Brown, Director of the China Study Centre, welcomed participants, formally opened the workshop, and gave a speech on Chinese political discourse in Contemporary China.

This international workshop brought together for the first time in Australia leading world experts and internationally renowned scholars in contemporary Chinese discourse studies, intercultural studies and sociolinguistics, including Professor Chaofen Sun (Stanford University), a Changjiang Scholar in Chinese linguistics, and Professor Naran Bilik (Fudan University) a Changjiang Scholar in Chinese anthropology. The workshop afforded the opportunity for these scholars and others Stanford, UCLA, the University of London, Beijing University, Fudan University, Hong Kong University and Nanyang Technological University, among others, to gather at the University of Sydney and forge an innovative new collaborative research agenda for decades to come.

In the past three decades the economic development of China has been rapid and impressive. The changes in economic, geopolitical and international position that China enjoys and the internal and global issues that these developments represent have become the object of intense interest and concern among scholars in a wide range of disciplines, not only in various Chinese regions and communities, but also in the rest of the world. As Fairclough (1992) points out, discourse not only reflects social change, but is integral and constitutive of social change: this workshop into discourse research on contemporary socio-political transformation in Chinese society is therefore timely and significant.

With a view to producing new interpretative approaches in researching the complexity of discourse, twenty paper presentations were organised into three sessions: Discourse in Action, Discourse in Use and Discourse and Identity. All participants in the workshop examined how discourse changes in a context-dependent way; how social changes in China lead to such shifts in the use of discourse; how social and cultural identities have been constructed through language use; and the ways in which agents or agencies have manipulated meanings. Participants acknowledged that the economic, social and political changes taking place in China are bound up with changing discourse, reflecting new practices, identities, ideologies, values and attitudes. A variety of approaches and methods have been adopted by participants: conversational analysis, genre analysis, rhetorical analysis, narrative theory, critical discourse analysis, natural historical discourse perspective, linguistic landscape and cultural political economy developed within the fields of politics and international relations. The data analysed included TV blockbusters, government work reports, teaching quality assessment reports, speeches of the party leaders, and video recording face-to-face interaction between government officials and the general public.
Chinese Studies

(cont’d from previous page) The workshop cemented a new collaborative research network between Australia, China, Singapore, the US and the UK in the area of contemporary Chinese discourse studies and cross-disciplinary research. Publications resulting from the workshop will include a Special Issue of the *Journal of Chinese Language and Discourse* (CLD) and a book on Contemporary Chinese Discourse and Social Change in China, to be edited by Associate Professor Linda Tsung and Dr Wei Wang for the CLD companion book series *Studies in Chinese Language and Discourse*, published by the John Benjamins Publishing Company, a leading publisher in the field of linguistics.

Other Conferences
Professor Bonnie McDougall was the guest lecturer at “Chinese Literature Re-imagined: A literary festival of texts, images and ideas,” 28-30 August 2013, presented by the Confucius Institute at Victoria University of Wellington, in association with the New Zealand Centre for Literary Translation. She spoke on “World Literature, Global Cultures and Contemporary Chinese Literature in Translation”.

Translation prize-winner
Congratulations also to Professor Bonnie McDougall for winning the 2013 *Science Fiction and Fantasy Translation Awards* for a Long Form Work for her work on “Atlas: The Archaeology of an Imaginary City”, a novel by Kaicheng Dung she translated in collaboration with Anders Hansson and the author (Columbia University Press).

Jury members praised the novel and the translation, their comments included the following:

“The translation is excellent, too: elegant, fluent, and lively... Moreover, novel and translation are actively engaged with each other—the act of translation has produced changes in the Chinese as well as the English texts.” Kari Sperling.

“...a masterwork on the nature of translation itself. The prose is beautifully rendered into English, and the author’s essential subject is the process by which myth, legend, and fact translate themselves into human cultural artifacts.” Co-chair Kathryn Morrow.
Conferences
Dr Antonia Rubino presented a paper titled “Negotiating identities and multilingual practices in an Italo-Australian phone-in radio program” at the International Symposium on Bilingualism held in Singapore (Nanyang Technological University), 10-13 June, 2013.

Announcements
The Department of Italian Studies welcomes the new Director of the Italian Institute of Culture, Dott. Donatella Cannova.

The Department of Italian Studies wishes to congratulate Raffaella Cresciani, who has won an Italian Government scholarship for students to study in Italy. Raffaella will be on Exchange at the University of Turin in Semester 1, 2014.

Seminars
For details of these and other Italian Department seminars see the Italian Department Events webpage.

Christopher Celena, American Academy in Rome: What Counted As Philosophy in Fifteenth-Century Italy?
8 August, joint seminar with Classics

Ombretta Frau, Mount Holyoke College: Literary Encounters with the Dead: Mara Antelling, Turin, 1904.
13 August

Michael Wyatt
Italian Renaissance Technologies: Praxis, Texts, Images
5 September, 4.15 – 5.30pm, New Law Annex Room 022

Linda Barwick, University of Sydney Conservatorium of Music: The diaspora effect? The impact of emigration on the Garfagnino maggio tradition
24 October, 4.15- 5.30pm, Quad Philosophy Room S249

Lorella Zanardo - Il corpo delle donne
The Department together with the Federazione Italiana Lavoratori Emigranti Famiglie and the Italo-Australian Women’s Association organized two talks by the documentarist and writer Lorella Zanardo on August 18 and 19. Lorella Zanardo was invited to Australia by the Italian Institute of Culture in Melbourne and she visited Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

Lorella Zanardo is famous for her documentary Il corpo delle donne, a provocative montage of images of scantily-dressed, surgically altered women who regularly parade across prime-time Italian television. The documentary has been seen by six million people in Italy and elsewhere and has changed the way Italians think of how women are portrayed by the media. Zanardo is also the creator of “New Eyes for the Media”, an education program for Italian students. She writes about feminist topics and is the author of a frequently viewed blog site. Her visit to Sydney attracted the interest of Australian media (SBS and ABC radio) who interviewed her during her stay in Sydney.

During the first event, which took place at the Associazione Napoletana in Leichhardt, Lorella Zanardo presented her documentary and discussed with the audience the importance of her aim to teach people to look at television critically. On Monday 19, she gave a talk at the University to a large audience, consisting of students as well as people from the community. Zanardo showed students how advertisements (in Italy as well as in other countries) manipulate the representations of women. She stressed the importance of reading advertisements critically and of being ready to act and protest against exploitation of the female body. She analysed an Australian advertisement with the students and pointed out that the presentation of the bodies depended on their gender. Zanardo’s visit and talks were very stimulating and many students wrote emails expressing their interest in the topics she discussed with them.
SURCLA Program
Dr Fernanda Peñaloza, recently returned from leave, has put together a very dynamic program for SURCLA, the Sydney University Research Community for Latin America. The first event for 2013 took place on the 13th August and was given by guest lecturer Dr Jane Hanley from Macquarie University. In her lecture, entitled ‘Textual Dissonances on the Mexican Border and the Dangerous Exotic’, Dr Hanley discussed the border-zone between the US and Mexico as seen through the eyes of Alfonso Armada (text) and Corina Arranz (photography) in El rumor de la frontera (The Rumour of the Border) (Peninsula, 2006). The next event takes place on the 11th September when we welcome the Peruvian writer, Alonso Cueto, who will talk about his novel La hora azul. He is a guest of the Peruvian Consulate and the Spanish Teachers’ Association of NSW. Details of his talk are available on the Department’s events webpage.

New Staff
This semester is quite a historic one for the Department of Spanish & Latin American Studies as we welcome a new member of Staff, Dr Barrie Wharton. Barrie graduated with a B.A. First Class Honours from the University of Limerick/Universidad de Valladolid (Spain) in European Studies in 1994 and was awarded the Perpetual Silver Medal for the highest marks amongst that year’s graduates. He was later awarded a Ph.D. from the same university in 1997. He has lectured and published extensively throughout Europe, North America, Africa and the Arab world and he is a regular voice in the international media. In 2006/7 and 2009/10 he was a senior research fellow at the National Centre for Research on Europe of the University of Canterbury (New Zealand). Most recently, before coming to Sydney, he was Head of Hispanic Studies at the University of Limerick and Director of the Structured Ph.D. in New Media and Film (University of Limerick/National University of Ireland Galway) and the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for European Studies. We are indeed very fortunate to have such a scholar join us and we look forward to the various new collaborations now made possible between the Department and the School and, of course, the wider community.

We also welcome Dr Myriam del Río in her new academic role. Having taught at various institutions and universities in Spain, Austria, Italy and the UK, she first joined the Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies at Sydney University in 2010. Her research interests are related to identity, embodiment, mirror and autobiography in a framework of gender studies and literature and she is in the process of preparing a book about identity representation in contemporary Spanish fiction.
Controlling Chaos: Literary Crime and the Role of the Police Detective

This well-attended event, chaired by Dr Anne Walsh, was hosted by the Department on 2 July in collaboration with the Instituto Cervantes and Monash University, Melbourne. The event brought together two well-known authors, Lorenzo Silva from Spain and Michael Duffy from Australia, to discuss their work and examine whether such different environments have any common ground.

Lorenzo Silva, lawyer, essayist, novelist and winner of the Premio Planeta 2012 and Premio Nadal 2000, is one of the leading writers of his generation, best known for his six detective novels *El lejano país de los estanques* (The Far Away Pond Land), *El alquimista impaciente* (The Impatient Alchemist), *La niebla y la doncella* (The Mist and the Maiden), *La reina sin espejo* (The Queen Without a Mirror), *La estrategia del agua* (Water’s Strategy), and *La marca del meridiano* (The Meridian Line) all featuring the detective Rubén Bevilacqua and his young assistant Virginia Chamorro, who together represent the new face of Spain’s Guardia Civil. He was in Australia partly to promote the recent translation into English of his book, *La flaqueza del Bolchevique* (The Faint-hearted Bolshevik Hispabooks, 2013)

Michael Duffy, former crime reporter and author of such non-fiction as *Call Me Cruel and Bad* and crime fiction *The Tower, The Simple Death* and most recently *Drive By*, uses the streets and suburbs of Sydney as the setting for his hard-hitting, realistic prose. The dividing line between reality and fiction was one of the questions addressed by both authors, with each considering the impact of realistic settings on their readers. The format of the event allowed both authors to give their views on a range of issues such as: Does the present interest in crime fiction reveal a preoccupation with our powerlessness in the face of real crime? Are their police characters representative of their real-life counterparts? Does inspiration come from real-life crime or does fictional crime inspire readers to break the law? Does the emphasis on the police’s role in solving crime help provide some control over our chaotic world? One of the main conclusions was that, though from very different linguistic backgrounds, their fiction shares some very interesting common ground.
The following departments and programs are located in the School of Languages and Cultures

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More Information

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