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 includes:

- From the Head of School
- Diploma of Languages: Accelerated Mode
- SLC Prizes Night 2014
- Seoul Symposium
- Introducing New SLC Staff
- Book Launch: CP Cavafy: The Open Work
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Language and Culture

June 2014
When our editor Michael McCabe sent me the draft of this issue of *Language and Culture*, I was once again deeply impressed by the work of our colleagues and our students: what an amazing team we have in our School and how lucky we are to have so many bright and committed students studying languages and cultures with us.

A few nights ago, we celebrated at our Prizes Night the accomplishments of our best students in the grand MacLaurin Hall. Around 200 guests attended the ceremony. I spoke with many prize-winners, their parents, friends and donors of the prizes and I was also honoured to welcome representatives from the Sydney consular corps as well as from other cultural institutions in the Sydney area. It filled me with great pride to see the hard work of our colleagues being recognised through the enthusiasm and achievements of our students. We all understand that acquiring another language is not only in order to gain skills that may be useful for vocational reasons – it is also to expand one’s own horizons by accessing another culture at first hand, by opening oneself to cultural encounters that the study of another language alone makes possible. It is a great pleasure to see how many students have embarked on this journey of discovery, taking the challenge of mastering scripts, phonetics, grammar and vocabulary in their stride. I must also express our gratitude to our donors for their generosity in founding and supporting prizes which enables us to give high achieving students the recognition they deserve.

This issue also includes interviews with Professor Sahar Amer (Arabic Studies), Professor Martine Antle (French Studies), Dr Thushara Dibley (Asian Studies) and Dr Chiew Hui Ho (Buddhist Studies) who joined our School recently. The School is proud to have been able to attract both internationally established and successful younger scholars to work with us and contribute to building up the strongest School of Languages and Cultures in Australia.

Last but not least, our publication page shows once again the amazing depth and diversity of the research endeavours taking place in the School. I congratulate all colleagues on their achievements.
From Frustration to Flexibility
The new look Diploma of Language Studies

Dr Nerida Jarkey, Department of Japanese Studies & SLC eLearning Incubator

Having worked at the University of Sydney for nigh on twenty years now, I have fielded my fair share of questions from frustrated students, but few more so than those who genuinely want to study a language, but simply can’t.

Most of our students in Arts and Social Sciences have enormous freedom in their subject choices. However, students studying in professionally oriented degree programs, like those offered by Engineering and IT, Architecture, Design and Planning, or Agriculture and Environment, have far fewer options for crafting their own, bespoke degree program. Yet many of these students are precisely those who most want to add value to their professional skills by incorporating language and cultural studies into their portfolio, giving them significantly improved opportunities after graduation.

Accelerated Mode
All this frustration is about to change. From 2015 we will be introducing a new, Accelerated Mode in the Diploma of Language Studies. Through this program, students from any faculty in the University will be able to undertake a full major in a language alongside their degree program, and complete it, if they wish to, in as little as fourteen months. Just as in the Standard Mode of the Diploma, study in the Accelerated Mode will be available through a Commonwealth supported place. In fact, the University of Sydney has recently been allocated 130 new Commonwealth supported places over four years, specifically for language studies.

In the new mode of the Diploma, language units from levels 1 to 6 will be offered for highly intensive study during summer and winter breaks, with face-to-face teaching supported by online, interactive learning activities. To complete their major, students will also take two culture units offered during regular semesters. These will be taught fully online and designed to be as flexible as possible, so as not to clash with students’ normal semester schedule.

Study opportunities
Like students in all our language programs, those studying in this Accelerated Mode will be strongly encouraged to participate in an International Exchange Program. Further opportunities will be provided—through the Federal Government’s New Colombo Plan (NCP) scholarships and mobility grants—to enhance students’ professional skills and networks, while at the same time improving their communicative and intercultural competence. The NCP funding is designed to support not only traditional exchange programs in the Indo Pacific region, but also practicums, clinical placements, internships, and short-term research programs.

We look forward to collaborating with colleagues in a wide range of faculties, including Law, Medicine and Business, to support and prepare students to participate in these programs.

This opportunity for highly intensive language acquisition is likely to attract not only undergraduates, but also postgraduate students who need to acquire language skills rapidly to facilitate their research. On the other hand, staff with research interests in a particular country may prefer the option to spread short bursts of intensive language study over a number of years, to fit around their teaching and other research commitments.

Subject Areas
Initially, majors will be offered in the Accelerated Mode in four subject areas: Indonesian Studies, Japanese Studies, Korean Studies, and Spanish and Latin American Studies. We are, however, expecting that student demand will be strong, opening the possibility of introducing more subject areas into this new mode over time. Whether a particular language we teach is currently available in the Accelerated Mode or not, the Standard pathway to the Diploma of Language Studies will continue to be available to those who have the time and opportunity to be able to luxuriate in their language learning at a more stately pace.
The School’s annual prize-giving night took place on Tuesday 20 May in MacLaurin Hall. Staff, guests, donors and members of Sydney’s consular corps and cultural community came together to celebrate excellence and applaud the winners of the School’s numerous Prizes and Scholarships.

The evening was introduced by Acting Head of School Associate Professor Yixu Lu, and the Pro-Dean of Research, Professor William Christie, spoke. Certificates were presented by donors and consular representatives, as well as by Chairs of the departments.

A complete list of all the exceptional winners of the School’s prizes and scholarships, along with photographs from the night, follows. Many more photographs can be seen and downloaded from the following website s100.photobucket.com/user/artsslcadmin/library/SLC Prize Night 2014.

top: Dr Andrea Bandhauer, Emilie M. Schweitzer Scholarship winner Thea Thomas; Eva Engel Prize winner Michael Goldman & guest, donor Mrs Eva Engel; Mr Hong Feng, Prof Wang Xiaojia, Chinese Consul; Dr Xiaohuan Zhao; scholarship winner Hae Seung Rebecca Im. Bottom: John Rector scholarship winners John Thambirajah & Thomas Russell with Mrs Rector & Mr John Rector, donor; Dr Duk-soo Park & Assoc Prof Ki-sung Kwak (Korean Studies) with prize winners Eunji Cho & Isabel Su Bei Guo.

Seated: Ms Frances Merenda, Merenda Scholarship donor. Standing: Donatella Cannova, Director of the Italian Institute of Culture; Dr Antonia Rubino; prize winners Talia Walker, Bridget Van Dantzig & Elspeth Abrahams; Dott.ssa Antonella Beconi, prize-winners Anjuli Iyer and Liam Rogers.
Prizes Night

Chinese Studies
- Hae Seung Im
  Asian Students’ Council’s 1963 Festival of Asia Scholarship for Proficiency in Chinese Studies
- Angela Wong
  The Chinese Studies Alumni Bursary
- Alexandra Meek
  The Chinese Studies Travelling Bursary
- Angelia Liuhui Qi
  The T.M. Hsiao Scholarship
- Brenda Lin
  Winston G. Lewis Prize in Chinese History

French Studies
- India Jane Gordon
  Anne Bates Memorial Scholarship for French
- Thomas Libeau
  Banque Nationale de Paris Prize for French
- Rebecca Allen, Nicola Bauman, Edward Emmet, Gabriel Pender, Marcus Rigg
  The Emilie M. Schweitzer Honours Scholarships in French Studies
- Claudette Wilkinson
  Garton Scholarship No. I for French
- Madeleine King
  Garton Scholarship No. II for French
- Alexander Cigana
  Graham Jones Prize for French
- Sarah Krust
  Ian David Armfield Memorial Prize
- Edward Emmett
  Lithgow Scholarship No. II for French
- Mitchell Robinson
  Peter Edward Moran Memorial Prize for French
- Sarah Ienna
  Ronald Horan Prize for French
- Ann Moore
  Sonia Marks Memorial Prize for French
- Diana Choi
  Total Australia Prize in French

Germanic Studies
- Michael Forgacs
  Austrian Embassy Prize
- Cameron Hunter
  Enid Watson Memorial Scholarship in Germanic Studies
- Amelia Smit
  The Emilie M. Schweitzer Honours Scholarships in Germanic Studies
- Anjali Iyer
  Garton Scholarship No. IV for first year German
- Marcello Solomon
  Garton Scholarship No. V for second year German
- Amelia Smit
  Garton Scholarship No. VI for third year German
- Heather Leeson
  Goethe Prize in German Studies for German Honours
Prizes Night

Hebrew, Biblical & Jewish Studies
- Bernard Tola
  Bernard and Lotka Ferster Scholarship for first year beginner’s Modern or Classical Hebrew
- Michael Goldman
  Eva Engel Prize in Holocaust Studies
- Mark Rapaport
  Ivan and Ursula Cher Prize
- Thomas Russell, Jonathan Thambyrajah
  John Rector Scholarship
- Heath Somerville Sloane
  Percy Joseph Marks Prize for first year beginner’s Modern or Classical Hebrew
- Jordan Liling
  Percy Joseph Marks Prize for Modern Hebrew | HBRW2603/2604 or HBRW2605/2606
- Ingrid van Tongeren
  Percy Joseph Marks Prize for Modern Hebrew | HBRW2607/2610
- Zoe Michelle Naumburger
  Percy Joseph Marks Prize for Modern Hebrew | HBRW2607/2610
- Tracey Sareff
  Percy Joseph Marks Prize for senior Classical Hebrew

Indian Sub-continental Studies
- Corey Jackson
  Khyentse Foundation Award for Excellence in Buddhist Studies

Indonesian Studies
- Lauren Gaudion
  Asian Students’ Council’s 1963 Festival of Asia Prize for Proficiency in Indonesian Studies, Second Level
- Lauren Waring
  Asian Students’ Council’s 1963 Festival of Asia Prize for Proficiency in Indonesian Studies, Third Level
- Melanie Indratheb
  Christopher Cornelius Lewis Richards Memorial Prize
- Christine Purvis
  F.H. van Naerssen Memorial Prize for Indonesian Studies
- Melanie Indratheb
  Ronald J. Worsley Memorial Prize for Indonesian Studies

Italian Studies
- Elspeth Abrahams, Talia Walker
  Beatrice Moran Memorial Prize in third year Italian
- Liam Rogers, Renne Trevisiol
  Countess E.M. Freehill Scholarship No. I for first year Italian
- Alexandra Mattei, Bridget Van Dantzig
  Countess E.M. Freehill Scholarship No. II for second year Italian
- Elspeth Abrahams
  The Merenda Scholarship
- Anjali Iyer
  Rosina Tedeschi Memorial Prize for Italian Conversation

Dept of Hebrew Biblical & Jewish Studies staff, prize winners, guests & prize donor Mrs Eva Engel (centre left).

Dr Vanessa Hearman, Indonesian Studies; prize winner Christine Purvis.

Dr Nina Rubino, Chair; Ms Frances Merenda, donor; Merenda Scholarship winner Elspeth Abrahams.
Japanese Studies
- Jaryd Elsarky
  A.L. Sadler Prize for Excellence
- Gavin Lee
  Hugh Clarke Prize for Excellence in Japanese 6
- Youna Tak
  James Murdoch Prize for Excellence in Japanese 4
- Isaac Freelander
  Mark Kwan Memorial Prize
- Tom Yue Yang Zhang
  Sakuko Matsui Prize for Excellence in Japanese Literature

Korean Studies
- Isabel Su Bei Gro
  Korean Consulate Prize
- Eunji Cho, Hong Ying Siu
  Korean Consulate Prize sponsored by Top Media (2 Prizes)

Modern Greek Studies
- Eleonora Tsiknas Kazantzis, Stephen Webb
  G.S. Caird Scholarship in second year Modern Greek
- Renee Klioufis
  G.S. Caird Scholarship in third year Modern Greek
- Caroline Ching, Rosemary Dale
  The George Thomas Foundation Prize in Modern Greek Studies 1
- Christina Papadopoulos
  The George Thomas Foundation Prize in Modern Greek Studies 2
- Danielle Cook, Alice Keighley
  The George Thomas Foundation Prize in Modern Greek Studies 3
- Evan Dimos
  Katina Cassimatis Prize
- Kleanthi Fassoulidis
  Order of AHEPA Scholarship in Modern Greek
- Marianna Vaneris
  Robert William Henderson Memorial Prize
- Chris Baghos
  Sydney University Greek Society Prize for Highest Aggregate Mark in Third Year Honours Entry Modern Greek Units

Other Prizes
- Amy Miniter
  Margaret Ann Bailey Memorial Prize for Honours in a Modern European Language

1 to r: Dr Matthew Stavros, Japanese Studies; prize winner Tom Yue Yang Zhang; Professor Vrasidas Karalis, Modern Greek Studies; prize winner Renee Klioufis; Mr Dimitrios Kametopoulos, Australian Hellenic Educators Association; prize winner Marianna Vaneris.

1 to r: Associate Professor Yixu Lu, Head of School; prize winner Danielle Cook; Professor William Christie, Pro-Dean Research; prize winner Christina Papadopoulos; Mr Theophilos Premetis, Chairman Order of AHEPA Educational Committee; Order of AHEPA Scholarship winner Kleanthi Fassoulidis.
clockwise from top left: Donatella Cannova, IIC Director; Merenda Scholarship winner Elspeth Abrahams; Mr John Rector, donor of the John Rector Scholarship; Chair of HBJS Assoc Prof Ian Young; Bernard and Lotke Ferster Scholarship winner Bernard Tola; French Department staff Associate Professor Marie-Thérèse Barbaux, Dr Carolyn Stott & Dr Françoise Grauby; Pro-Dean (Research) Professor William Christie; Chair of Germanic Studies Dr Andrea Bandhauer; and the SLC Prizes Night audience in MacLaurin Hall.
I am pleased to report that the Seoul Symposium funded by the Japan Foundation, the Academy of Korean Studies, the School of Languages and Culture and the Department of Japanese Studies at the University of Sydney was a great success.

Although the themes of our symposium dealt with politically sensitive issues, this three-day international conference reaffirmed the importance of initiatives towards peace and reconciliation in the Asia-Pacific Basin. Bringing together Asia specialists to discuss and advance scholarship will foster better understanding among future generations.

This century has been called ‘the century of Asia’ referring directly to the economic power of China. However, we also recognise the increase of people’s power in Asia. Such a power will only be generated from a deep mutual understanding obtained through communicating with others. I believe that the success of this symposium is demonstrated by the free communication by those at the symposium about ongoing history school textbook issues in Japan, the tri-national nature of the culture of East Asia (China-Korea-Japan), and postwar socio-political issues.

We were fortunate to have as our host Pankaj Mohan, Professor at the Academy of Korean Studies. Professor Mohan worked for many years in the School’s Department of Korean Studies, and the established and trusting relationship we hold with him ensured that any hindrances, political or otherwise, in the organisation of this symposium were easily overcome.

Professor Lee Bae Yong, President of AKS, welcomed us and made a substantial speech on the importance of historical scholarship. The keynote speaker, Peter Duus, Stanford University, was unable to be present due to a traffic accident, but his paper was read by Michael Lewis. Korean presenters were Sung Hae Kyung and...
Seoul Symposium

(Seoul Women’s University) and Park Jin Su (Gachon University) on comparative cultural exchanges between Korea and Japan; Ku Nan Hee (AKS) on the recent developments of Korean school history textbooks; Chung Jae Jeong (Seoul University) on contemporary diplomatic relationships between Korea and Japan; Sekine Hideyuki (Gachon University) on cultural ethnography defining people rather than states; Jun Seong Ho (AKS) on the origin of capitalism in East Asia; and Kim Yeong Hwan (peace activist) on his team’s efforts in locating the graves of forced Korean labourers during wartime.

From the USA, James Orr (Bucknell) spoke on the politics of inclusion and exclusion in postwar Japan; wand Takashi Yoshida (West Michigan) on remembering colonial Korea in postwar Japan. From Japan, Yuki Tanaka spoke on Numata Suzuko, a peace campaigner from Hiroshima. From the University of Sydney, Michael Lewis spoke on the latest innovative history textbook in Japan; Judith Keene on reconciliation in Hollywood films; Peter Armstrong on the demolition of the Japanese Government General Building; Roman Rosenbaum on Oda Makoto, peace activist and writer; Alison Starr, our PhD student, on Cowra; and Yasuko Claremont on a comparative study of a Korean and a Japanese poet writing in a time of war.

The symposium concluded with lively and friendly exchanges in a discussion by three Korean discussants, including AKS’s postgraduate students, who volunteered to help us out during the symposium. While we acknowledge the many stumbling blocks that still exist today, we are fortunate to live in democratic societies, so that we can share, discuss and promote scholarship on peace and reconciliation. Michael Lewis will be working on publishing an edited book on this symposium.

The final instalment of this tri-national East-Asia project on peace and reconciliation will be in the form of an international conference to be held at the University of Sydney in 2015, commemorating the 70th anniversary of the end of the War. Tentatively titled “Achieving closure of the Asia-Pacific War”, we hope indeed we do achieve it!

(Photographs courtesy of Roman Rosenbaum)
INTRODUCING NEW STAFF AT THE SCHOOL

The School has welcomed five new academic staff members since the beginning of the year: Professor Sahar Amer, the new Chair of Arabic and Islamic Studies; Professor Martine Antle, French Studies; Dr Tim Kragh, Buddhist Studies Program; Dr Chiew Hui Ho, Chinese Studies and the Buddhist Studies Program; and Dr Thushara Dibley, Asian Studies Program. Read a bit about their background and what they’re doing and planning to do at the University of Sydney.

PROFESSOR SAHAR AMER
Department of Arabic & Islamic Studies

Where did you study?
I received my PhD in medieval French literature from Yale University (USA) in 1994.

Where did you work before you joined us at the University of Sydney?
Before joining the University of Sydney, I worked at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill from 1994, first in the Department of Romance Languages (French), then in the Department of Asian Studies (Arabic). I also held visiting appointments at Vanderbilt and Duke universities, as well as at Bryn Mawr College Summer Institute in Avignon, France.

What are your research interests? How did you first get interested in your area of research?
I became interested in these areas because I grew up as an Arab and a Muslim in France where I experienced a great deal of Islamophobia and Arabophobia. I have thus always felt an urgent need to work towards better cross-cultural understanding and interfaith dialogue. My research is an extension of this aspiration to dispel stereotypes and to promote cultural diversity.

Describe a current project of yours.
I always work on a number of projects at once. Right now, I am completing the final revisions of my book What Is Veiling? (forthcoming from UNC Press in September 2014). This book offers a concise introduction to one of the most visible, controversial, and least understood emblems of Islam, the veil. It addresses all the major aspects of veiling, including history, religion, conservative and progressive interpretations, politics and regionality, society and economics, feminism, fashion, and art. I am especially excited about the publication of this work which combines my research interests with my commitment to public scholarship. I wrote it in a style geared to general educated audiences, as well as to undergraduate students.

What are you enjoying about working at the University of Sydney?
I am enjoying working at and learning about an entirely different university system, meeting new colleagues, and different students. It is challenging but also invigorating. I also like the emphasis placed on having an equilibrium between work and personal life.

Is this your first time living in Australia? What are you liking about the Sydney? Any surprises?
This is my first time living in Sydney and in Australia and I am really enjoying it so far. I especially like the fact that it is a city, thus with all the cultural advantages that a city offers, all the while feeling quite manageable in size because each neighborhood seems to be so self-contained. I am also enjoying the huge diversity of peoples, as well as the endless variety of cuisines.

What else are you doing apart from your research and teaching?
Because I have arrived in Sydney so recently, I have not had much time to do much besides teaching, administration (I am chair of the department and we are currently doing a major overhaul of the major) and a bit of research. Whatever little free time I have had is spent discovering the city, walking around different suburbs, exploring sites, etc. I have also attended one opera - Madam Butterfly - which I absolutely loved! I look forward to seeing more shows at the Sydney opera and exploring theatre performances which are one of my greatest passions.
PROFESSOR MARTINE ANGLE
Department of French Studies

Where did you study?
I attended the French high schools in Vietnam and Madagascar. I received my Bachelors Degree from Paul Valéry University in Montpellier (France), my MA certificates from Sussex University (UK) and my PhD in French from the University of California-Davis.

Where did you work before you joined us at the University of Sydney?
I have always worked in research 1 public institutions. I taught at the University of Madison-Wisconsin for three years and then moved to the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill where I became Professor of French and Francophone Studies in 2003.

Is there anyone who has particularly inspired you in your studies and research?
Two professors turned my life around in less than ten minutes during my undergraduate education. It is thanks to them that I chose an academic career and that I am so passionate about teaching. The first one introduced Antonin Artaud’s intention to decolonize the western mind and the other professor put on the table some American underground newspapers published during the Vietnam War. This is what shaped my passion for modes of resistance in writing and the Arts.

I am always inspired by great scholars and critics who are compassionate and who share their knowledge of humanity.

What are your research interests? How did you first get interested in your area of research?
Over the past twenty years, my research in 20th century French studies has evolved from the theatre of the avant-garde, to the question of theatricality as it is manifested in writing, photography and painting.

I have always worked and continue to work with passion on Surrealism. I am currently working on the legacy of Surrealism in relation to the post-colonial period and how Surrealism was perceived and received in the Diasporas (Martinique, Haiti, Cuba, Puerto Rico, South America, Egypt and beyond). My scholarship spans the political, social, and cultural revolutions that shaped modernity from the turn of the twentieth century to the present.

What are you enjoying about working at the University of Sydney?
First and foremost, the students! I find them very engaging and motivated to learn. I am also very privileged to join one of the largest French department in the world: around 1000 students and very close to 100 majors. Finally, the welcome I am receiving from the campus community is immense and really makes a difference! The level of commitment and collaborative efforts not only from my colleagues in French and in the School of Languages and Cultures but also from various offices on campus is simply remarkable. This is what makes the University of Sydney a special place. Finally, for the first time in my career, I can be part of a Union and I am very proud to do so.

Is this your first time living in Australia? What do you like about the city? Any surprises?
Indeed, I have just moved to Australia a few months ago and it is a huge adventure and the discovery of a new culture! Sydney is living up to its reputation to be culturally diverse and cosmopolitan. The birds are so loud! They are just like the cicadas at night in Southern France during the hot summer nights.

What else are you doing apart from your research and teaching?
I first plan to explore the Lebanese and Vietnamese communities in Sydney with my students and to put in place some outreach programs with local schools. My first outreach event in Australia is going to be at Pymble Ladies’ College.
Where did you study?
I completed my undergraduate degree at the University of Sydney in 2004. I majored in Indonesian and completed an Honours project about the role of Indonesian language in Timor-Leste. The experience of doing fieldwork in Timor-Leste inspired me to return to there, which I did the year after I finished my degree through the Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development program, where I worked with a local non-government organisation. During my time in Timor-Leste, a violent conflict broke out between the police and military, leading to major disruption across society. The violence prompted many organisations, including the one for which I was volunteering, to take up peacebuilding projects. My direct experience working with this organisation on peacebuilding laid the foundations for my subsequent doctoral work on NGO partnership and peacebuilding that I completed through the Department of Indonesian Studies at the University of Sydney. After submitting my thesis I took up a visiting fellowship at the Program for Arms Control, Disarmament and International Security at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) for one year before returning to the University of Sydney.

What is your role at the University of Sydney? What else have you done here?
Currently I work as the Deputy Director for the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre sydney.edu.au/southeast-asia-centre, which is a cross-faculty centre here. After five years my role will revert to a position in the Asian Studies Program. I became involved with the centre in the final year of my PhD when I provided administrative support to the steering committee responsible for compiling the proposal for the centre. I continued to provide support remotely while I was undergoing my visiting fellowship at UIUC. Upon returning from the USA I took up a position as the Executive Officer of the centre. My experience juggling administrative and academic work was put to the test as I worked on my book manuscript at the same time as holding a full-time administrative position. I was extremely pleased to have been offered the position I currently hold, because it means I can do my research work during work hours and – in theory anyway – aspire to computer-free weekends.

Can you describe your current project/s?
At the moment I am finalising a book project based on my doctoral work and developing a new project on disability activism in Southeast Asia. My book, currently in-press with Palgrave MacMillan in its Rethinking Peace and Conflict Studies series, is titled Partnerships, Power and Peacebuilding: NGOs as Agents of Peace in Aceh and Timor-Leste. The book examines how individuals, context and funding structures each affect the development and exchange of ideas about peacebuilding within three different styles of NGO partnership.

In my new project I will continue to explore questions about how ideas are developed and exchanged between institutions and individuals involved in development and aid, but I will be applying these questions to the topic of disability and disability activism. Specifically, in this new project, I look at how grassroots activists and transnational actors influence disability policy at the local, regional, national and international levels. I have applied for an ARC grant to work on this question in the context of Indonesia and I will be travelling to Indonesia in June 2014 to begin preliminary fieldwork.

What do you like about working here?
The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre is a dynamic and fun place to work. The centre is small, and relatively new, and there is lots of scope to experiment with new ideas and projects. At the moment I am preparing to take 20 undergraduates from four different faculties to Singapore to study the housing policy as part of a New Colombo Plan funded interdisciplinary fieldschool. The students, who are studying architecture, business, geography and political economy, will spend two weeks in Singapore going on site visits and working in small groups on a research project. I have had considerable experience teaching in the Asian Studies program, but the opportunity to design, coordinate and facilitate an interdisciplinary course is extending my teaching skills. I am also learning how other parts of the university work, and discovering how people with different disciplinary backgrounds approach research and teaching.
DR CHIEW HUI HO
Buddhist Studies Program

Where did you study?
My tertiary education began at the National University of Singapore, where I majored in Philosophy. While I began my undergraduate studies with a strong interest in Western philosophy, I was more interested in the philosophical traditions of Asia, especially Chinese philosophy and Buddhist philosophy, by the time I graduated. This is certainly due to the strength of the university and my encounters with three dedicated and inspiring professors, Professors Alan Chan and Diane Obenchain who taught me Chinese philosophy and Professor Kathy Ku who taught me Buddhist philosophy.

What are your research interests? How did you first get interested in your area of research? Is there anyone who has particularly inspired you in your studies and research?
My early interest in Asian philosophical traditions later led me to pursue an MA in Philosophy with a concentration on Chinese Buddhist philosophy and another MA in Buddhist studies. What finally led me to Stanford University to pursue a PhD in Buddhist studies, a decision that changed the course of my life, was a chance encounter in 2003 with the renowned Sinologist, Professor Victor Mair, who was then a visiting Professor at the University of Hong Kong. It was he who strongly encouraged me to pursue a PhD in the United States of America.

Can you describe a current project/s?
At Stanford University, my PhD research focused on Buddhism in China during the Tang period (618–907), particularly on lay religiosity, an area of research that I am continuing at the University of Sydney. I am presently translating a collection of Buddhist tales compiled during the Song dynasty (960–1279), which contains invaluable information about how Buddhism was conceived and practiced on the ground in Tang-Song China.

What are you enjoying about working at the University of Sydney?
Although I had taught in Singapore and Japan, as well as conducted my own courses at Stanford University, my current position at the University of Sydney is the first full-time university appointment since my graduation last year. The prospect of teaching at the University of Sydney was a particularly exciting one as I vacillated between two attractive job offers, especially when I have never lived in this part of the world. Looking forward to learning about a new culture, I finally arrived at Sydney at the end of September after a long wait for my visa. Once here, staff and faculties warmly welcomed me.

Is this your first time living in Sydney/Australia? What are you liking about the city? Any surprises (good or bad)?
While I initially struggled with a relatively unfamiliar university system, I have since settled down after arriving here six months ago. Currently, I am teaching two Buddhist studies units, one on the word of the Buddha and the other on Buddhist meditation. Despite being such a specialized intellectual discipline, I am surprised by the enthusiastic response of my students, which no doubt makes teaching both enjoyable and rewarding.
**DR TIM KRAGH**  
**Buddhist Studies Program**

Tim joined the SLC in February 2014 as Lecturer in Buddhist and Asian Studies on a one-year contract to fulfill the school’s teaching needs in its Buddhist Studies, Sanskrit Studies, and Asian Studies programs during the sabbatical of Professor Mark Allon. As well as his undergraduate and graduate studies in Denmark in the ‘80s and ‘90s, Tim spent a full decade studying with traditional Tibetan Buddhist monks in New Delhi, India. In 2004 he obtained his doctoral degree from the University of Copenhagen with a dissertation on Indian Buddhist philosophy from the second to the seventh centuries CE covering materials in Sanskrit, Tibetan, and Chinese. Since then he has been a postdoctoral researcher at Harvard University (2004-2007), taught religion at Florida State University (2007-2008), was the head of a Tibetan research team at Geumgang University in South Korea (2008-2010), and a research fellow at the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) at Leiden University in the Netherlands (2011-2013). His intellectual curiosity has been variously engaged in Indian epistemological theories of knowledge and being, the relationship between Indian philosophical writing and literary theory, a textual history of a twelfth-century Tibetan community of ascetic cenobites living on a holy mountain, a feminist history of medieval Sanskrit authoresses from the Swat valley in Pakistan, an attempt to create a literary microhistory of an eighteenth-century Jain manuscript library in Jaipur, India, and – most recently – theories of history from the critical perspective of pre-modern Indian, Tibetan, and Chinese epistemology, poetics, dramaturgy, and literary theory. This is Tim’s first visit to Australia and he is impressed by our School’s truly magical ability to combine a high scholarly level with a laidback attitude of ease. Doing intellectual work in a stress-free environment seems to be an Australian specialty, which he hopes to adopt and take with him when he leaves. After his stay at the University of Sydney, Tim is headed back to Europe to lead an ERC-funded five-year research project called “Narrative Modes of Historical Discourse in Asia” (NAMO) with a team of classical and modern scholars of Indian, Chinese, and Tibetan studies working in close dialogue with theorists of history and literary theory in the Western humanities.

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**Pierre Rochfort: French actor visits Sydney**

Pierre Rochefort in discussion with Dr Michelle Royer and students of the Department of French Studies on 21 March 2014

The department of French Studies was delighted to welcome French actor Pierre Rochefort who was invited to Australia by the Alliance Française for the 2014 French film festival and to launch Nicole Garcia’s beautiful film *Un beau dimanche*. Pierre Rochefort knows the French film industry very well as he is the son of famous French actor Jean Rochefort and filmmaker Nicole Garcia. He has played in several films directed by Lucas Belvaux and Benoît Jacquot and has also starred in the cult television series *The Returned*. He talked about the life of a professional actor, the process of filmmaking from an actor’s perspective, and about pitfalls an actor’s career before a very enthusiastic and fascinated audience. Many thanks to cultural attachée Emmanuelle Denavit-Feller for her assistance in organising the event.

*Dr Michelle Royer, Department of French Studies.*
When we look more closely into Anthony Dracopoulos’s study, we find some of the reasons for Cavafy’s greatness as a world poet, not merely a national one. The title gives us our first clue: the “open work.” Cavafy is a master of irony, of the articulation of openness in the representation of human life, with its multiple truths and overlapping realities.

The term, “open” in this sense points to the other major aspects of Cavafy’s work that Dracopoulos identifies, articulates and interprets, namely his cosmopolitanism; his modernity in the European, Western, and most importantly in the current context of unquestioning globalization, in the world environment; and his accessibility as a poet.

Cafavy’s cosmopolitanism can be traced back to his roots in Alexandria, one of the great metropolises of the late 19th century, at the cross-roads of civilisations. And yet Cavafy’s cosmopolitanism extended even further beyond the Eastern Empire to reach out to the west. As an anglophone and francophone Alexandrian Greek, Cavafy created one of the most important lines of connection between east and west at a crucial time. If we think of the other great figures of Greek literature, the contemporaries and successors over the twentieth century, Kazantzakis and Tsirkas, Seferis and Elytis, it was Cavafy above all who first made a name for modern Greek literature in the West, overcoming the tyranny of Greek antiquity in the European mind.

To his credit, E.M. Forster, the spokesman for British modernism in Georgian England, with novels such as A Room with A View and Howard’s End, recognized the greatness of Cavafy’s work and attempted to popularize it in Britain. However in the recently published correspondence between Forster and Cavafy, one thing becomes absolutely clear: namely that Forster, with his Cambridge education and British imperial mentality, was deeply out of his depth in dealing with the ironic, detached and inscrutable Greek poet. Cavafy politely refused to become an appendage to the Bloomsbury set. And the reason is clear: in his poetry, Cavafy reveals a modernist consciousness far in advance of what had yet been achieved in Britain. Cavafy’s roots lay in French symbolism, as did those of the comparable German poets of the era, Rilke and George, or later, T.S. Eliot. But the British poets were relative latecomers to artistic modernism. Cavafy took modernist poetry beyond these roots, opening it, as Dracopoulos writes, “συνεχως στο μελλον,” rendering it “continuously open to the future.”

Cavafy was a master of what Dracopoulos refers to as “η στιγμη του δισταγμου και η στιγμη της αποφασης”, the moment of hesitation and the moment of decision, and of the “αποσταθεροποιητικος ρολος της ειρωνειας,” the destabilising function of irony. In these brilliant analytic formulations we find the core of Cavafy’s modernism, the second
major theme in Dracopoulos’s study. Modernism here lies in the refusal to subscribe to grand narratives of truth or realism, and Cavafy was ahead of his time in bringing an eastern perspective to what would become a western preoccupation.

Cavafy’s modernism contains something else extremely valuable, still present in the early French modernists, but increasingly lost to the poetry of Britain and Germany, namely accessibility. While Cavafy’s Greek is complex and multi-layered, it never becomes impenetrable. This is in part due to the way Cavafy situates his poetry, finding the right moments of history and the fitting biographical personas to articulate his poetic concerns. Dracopoulos refers to the "ινδαλματα της ιδονης" ("idols/illusions of pleasure") of the Cavafean protagonists, showing how their particular characters generate feelings and ideas which the poet then transmutes into the language of eternity, across cultures and times.

In the complex, sophisticated and nuanced contexts of the early Byzantines, in antiquity and in modern Alexandrian contexts, Cavafy created poetic voices to express the perceptions, the hopes and the dreams of human beings faced with change, upheaval, trauma and the incomprensible and inexpressible. The horses of Achilles, a motif taken from Homer’s Iliad, becomes the overwhelmingly beautiful means to expression of the sense of loss of life of their beloved, Patroklos. In their inability to name or understand the concept of death, the horses register powerfully the sense of loss:

Θρηνουσαν
Τον Πατροκλο που ενοιωθαν αψυχο – αφανισμενο –
Μια σαρκα των ποταμη – το πνευμα χαμενο –
Ανυπερασπιστο – χωρις πνοη –
Εις το μεγαλο Τιποτε επιστραμενο απ’ τη ζωη.

[They] mourned
Patroklos, seeing him lifeless, destroyed,
now mere flesh only, his spirit gone,
defenseless, without breath,
turned back from life to the great Nothingness.

In the refusal of fear and in engagement in the world.

The end point of life lies in the achievement of a history of experience, in the ability to look back over a lived life.

Η Ιθακη σ’εδωσε το ωραιο ταξιδι. …
Κι αν πτωχικη την βρεις, η Ιθακη δεν σε γελασε,
Ετσι ανοιχτος σκεφτηκες, με τα ταξιδια,
Ηδη θα το καταλαβες η Ιθακης τι σημαινουν.

Ithaka gave you the marvelous journey,…
And if you find her poor, Ithaka won’t have fooled you.
Wise as you will have become, so full of experience,
you will have understood by then what these Ithakas mean.

(translation by Edmund Keeley/Philip Sherrard)

Anthony Dracopoulos’s book is a lasting contribution to the study of Cavafy. It is, moreover, beautifully produced, a testament to the quality of scholarly Greek publishing. But most of all it is a testament to the quality of modern Greek studies in Australia as well as the world.


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On May 28 the Japanese Studies department hosted a screening of the documentary *Hafu: The Mixed Race Experience in Japan*, directed by Megumi Nishikura & Lara Perez Takagi (2013). The event was a sell-out success with almost 600 people turning up for the screening and the panel discussion which followed, with Dr Rebecca Suter and Ms Hana Gleeson from the University of Sydney and Professor Koichi Iwabuchi from Monash University. The event was co-organised by SLC and the Monash Asia Institute, Monash University, in partnership with the Japan Foundation Sydney and the Japanese Film Festival.

**About the film**

With an ever increasing movement of people between ‘places’ in this transnational age, there is a mounting number of mixed-race people in Japan, some visible, others not. *Hafu - the Mixed-Race Experience of Japan* is a journey of discovery into the complex multicultural experience of mixed-race Japanese in modern day Japan.

The film follows the lives of five hafus—the Japanese term for people who are half Japanese—as they explore what it means to be multiracial and multicultural in a nation that once proudly proclaimed itself to be mono-ethnic. For some of these hafus, Japan is the only home they know. For others, living in Japan is an entirely new experience. And still others find themselves caught between two different worlds.

*Above: Dr Rebecca Suter, University of Sydney; Prof. Iwabuchi Koichi, Director Monash Asia Institute. Below: the full house in the Wallace Theatre.*

On Saturday 24 May Lucia Sorbera took part in a panel for the Sydney Writers Festival event *Arab Autumn*. In conversation with David Hardaker (ABC correspondent) Yasmine El Rashidi, *(The Battle for Egypt: Dispatches from the Revolution)*, Karima Bennoune *(Your Fatwa Does Not Apply Here)* and Lucia shared their views, personal experiences and expertise on the present and future of the region since the events of the Arab Spring.

**UPCOMING EVENT**

The Launch of a Permanent Panel Display
Honouring our Department’s History and Major Benefactors

Join us to celebrate the rich history of the Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies and honour our major benefactors, the late Felicia and Stefan Einhorn, and Henry and Anne Roth. We will launch a permanent panel display that celebrates their survival from the horrors of the Holocaust and the rebuilding of their lives in Australia, and recognises their generous contributions. It also charts both the rich past and the flourishing present of our department. Guest of Honour: Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir.

Monday 16 June 2014, 6pm – 8pm
The Nicholson Museum, the University of Sydney

Light refreshments will be served

RVSP: Please register for this event by Friday 6 June 2014, by visiting our website: sydney.edu.au/alumni/panels

**Event Enquiries**
Kate Macfarlane, Alumni Relations Manager
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Moses Joseph arrived in the colony in chains in 1827. By 1840, he had become President of the first Australian purpose-built synagogue, the York Street Synagogue. In 1856, he donated the funds for this stained-glass window, installed in the University of Sydney’s Quadrangle.

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Professor Jeffrey Riegel, currently on sabbatical leave, recently gave a series of six lectures at Fudan University, China. The series was entitled “A foreigner finding something new in old Chinese literature” and took place in April.

[Chinese.fudan.edu.cn/a/keyandongtai/2014/0411/1273.html](Chinese.fudan.edu.cn/a/keyandongtai/2014/0411/1273.html)
In Conversation with Bernardo Atxaga
The semester began with a Sydney Ideas event on 5 March, featuring the well-known Basque writer Bernardo Atxaga in conversation with Anne Walsh. Though the weather was not friendly, there was a very good attendance with audience members from both the university and the general public coming to hear Bernardo talk about his ideas on the role of the author, how he developed his own style of writing, his connection with his homeland and his first impressions of Australia. His talk sparked a lively discussion on the role of literature and the connection between author, reader, critic and the teacher of literature who sometimes was seen as causing obstacles to understanding the text. It provided an excellent start to the academic year.

Centre for Muslim and Non-Muslim Understanding
As part of the international conference of the Centre for Muslim and Non-Muslim Understanding, Barrie Wharton gave a public lecture at the Hawke Institute of the University of South Australia on 24 April entitled “No Way Home? Islam, Europe and the Cultural Crisis of Globalisation”. His lecture dealt with issues such as the current Spanish socio-economic situation whilst drawing parallels with the aftermath of the Arab Spring. Invited panelists to the discussion which followed included Prof. Pal Ahluwalia, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University and former Australian Prime Minister and Centre patron, Prof. Julia Gillard of the University of Adelaide.

Book Launch
On 14 April, Luis F. Angosto launched his edited book Democracy, Revolution and Geopolitics in Latin America: Venezuela and the International Politics of Discontent (Routledge). The launch was held at the RC Mills Building and chaired by Professor Adam Morton. Three of the book contributors participated: Michael Humphrey, Tim Anderson and Rodrigo Acuña. Along with Luis F. Angosto, each contributor commented on their respective chapters and situated the book within contemporary debates about Latin American and global politics. Angosto’s timely volume introduces new perspectives on geopolitical analysis and contributes to understanding current Venezuelan and Latin American affairs.

Contributors address Latin American geopolitics by analysing Venezuelan foreign policy and the country’s role in continental projects of supra national integration, while also revealing explicit links with electoral strategy and tactics in the domestic arena. Against this background, the book provides an original explanation of the electoral victories of Hugo Chávez in 2012 and Nicolás Maduro in 2013 in terms of their geopolitical conditionings and implications.

The volume also includes chapters that shed new lights on Venezuelan politics through the authors’ analysis of policy and collective action in the fields of indigenous rights, community media and national security. The book was also launched in May at the New Zealand Centre for Latin American Studies (NZCLAS), University of Auckland, where Angosto was invited to participate in the “Indigenous rights, privatisation and research in Aotearoa—New Zealand and Latin America” workshop, co-organised by NZCLAS and the James Henare Māori Research Centre.
Spanish Film Festival
May is the month of the Spanish Film Festival in Sydney, an opportunity to see the latest award-winning movies released in Spain. It is an event that brings together all those with interest in the Hispanic world. While the emphasis is on Spain, the films prove the truly multicultural nature of the film industry and bring together expertise from many different geographical locations. This year’s patron, Rafael Bonachela, (Artistic Director, Sydney Dance Company) summed up the festival as an ‘important way of sharing Spanish culture abroad’. The Department extends its gratitude to the Spanish Consulate for the invitation to attend.

AILASA Biennial Conference 2-4 July
Throughout this semester, the Department has been preparing for a major international conference to be held from 2 - 4 July, the biennial conference of the Association of Iberian and Latin American Studies of Australasia (AILASA).

Three keynote speakers are confirmed:
- Anthropologist Dr Claudia Briones, whose talk entitled ‘Sailing Creatively the Seas of Dissent or How to Make other Ontological and Epistemological Commitments’, will look at various aspects of dissent - the key focus of the conference - and will use the work of the artist M.C. Escher to ‘learn how to practise a politics of knowledge that allows us to identify various levels of dissent, as a starting point to make other epistemological and ontological commitments’.
- Dr Barry Carr, the well known historian (Honorary Research Associate, La Trobe University and Visiting Professor, University of California, Berkeley), whose talk is entitled ‘Across Seas and Borders: Charting the Webs of Radical Internationalism and Dissent in the Greater Circum-Caribbean 1910-1940’. Dr Carr has a long association with AILASA and his talk will be of interest to historians and the wider community alike.
- Professor Kathryn Crameri needs no introduction to the University of Sydney community. The previous Chair of our Department, Kathryn returns to talk on ‘Independence 2.0: Internet Activism, Communication Power and the Catalan Civil Independence Movement’. This talk is included in the Sydney Ideas seminar series for July. It will be a pleasure to have her back with us, if only for a short time.

One innovative aspect to this conference will take place on 2 July. The Trade Commission of Spain, on behalf of ICEX España Exportación e Inversiones and the Federación de Gremios de Editores de España, has organised a workshop on “Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language”, to which all teachers with an interest in Spanish are invited. In this way, the conference organisers hope that the first week in July will be a unique experience for all those teaching and researching in the general area of Spanish and Latin American Studies to come together and share knowledge and experiences.

Emilia Sáenz Nieto; Mónica Brun de Quevedo, Market Analyst, Spanish Consulate; Cristina Tejelo Casanova, Spanish Consul - Commercial; and Anne Walsh at the opening night.
Indian Studies and the Buddhist Studies Program

The Department’s program was featured in the Chennai and Hyderabad editions of The Hindu (Education Plus section) for February 16, 2014: www.thehindu.com/features/education/college-and-university/hindi-in-australia/article5693294.ece. The Hindu is India’s largest English-language paper.

A research team consisting of Dr Mark Allon, adjunct lecturer Dr Tamara Ditrich (Head of Program, Buddhist Studies at Nan Tien Institute, Wollongong), Dr Royce Wiles (Lecturer, Nan Tien Institute), Chris Clark and Ian McCrabb (Allon’s PhD students), has been successful in their application to the Chuo Academic Research Institute of Rissho Kosei-kai, Japan, for three years of funding (2014-2016) to undertake the cleaning, conservation and photographing of the Kuthodaw Pagoda marble-stelae recension of the Pali Buddhist canon in Mandalay, Myanmar. The funding amounts to 9 million Yen (approximately AUD90,000).

This historically significant recension of the Pali canon, the primary scriptures of Theravāda Buddhism, was carved on 729 marble stelae between 1860 and 1868 on the orders of Myanmar’s penultimate king, King Mindon (reigned 1853–1878), to fulfill one of the religious duties of Myanmar kings to preserve Buddhist teachings in a changing world — the British had annexed lower Myanmar some eight years earlier (1852) and were to then take Mandalay, the capital, in 1885.

The aim of the project to be funded by the Chuo Academic Research Institute is twofold: (1) to produce and make freely available a database of high resolution images of all the inscriptions for use by historians, textual scholars, and the general public; and (2) to clean the inscriptions and to produce a long term strategy for their restoration and conservation.

In collaboration with partners in Myanmar, the research team has also applied for an ARC Discovery Project 2015 grant which aims (1) to determine the nature, status and influence of the recension preserved in the Kuthodaw site; (2) to compare the Kuthodaw recension with earlier and later versions, thereby demonstrating the dynamic nature of the Pali canon over time and shedding new light on the transfer of Pali literature in the greater region; and (3) to produce an accurate account of the history of the Kuthodaw Pagoda site and to situate it within the broader context of the history of Buddhism in South and Southeast Asia.

If successful, this ARC project will undertake the first comprehensive study on this nationally significant monument and will generate new knowledge on the history of Buddhism in South and South East Asia.

Chinese Studies

Vice Chancellor Michael Spence learns Chinese
Read the Vice Chancellor’s piece about why he is currently learning Chinese: sydney.edu.au/news/84.html?newscategoryid=15&newsstoryid=13230

Murong Xuecun
Chinese blog writer and novelist Murong Xuecun, currently a Visiting Scholar at the University of Sydney, gave a lecture on 22 May entitled “The Internet is changing China”. The lecture was co-presented by the China Studies Centre and the Department of Chinese Studies.

Staff News
Professor Bonnie McDougall has been invited to present a paper at the Fourth World Sinology Conference at Renmin University in Beijing in September this year, having attended the second and third of this this series in 2009 and 2011.

Professor Bonnie MacDougall has also been appointed to the selection committee for the 2014 Susan Sontag Foundation Prize for Translation, which this year features Chinese writers. Website: susansontag.com/prize.
Congratulations
Dr Francesco Borghesi who won the Ahmanson Fellowship for the Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies at Villa I Tatti, in Florence. Francesco will his Fellowship at Villa I Tatti from July 2014 to June 2015. itatti.harvard.edu/research/fellowships

School of Languages and Cultures Prize Night
Congratulations to all our students who were awarded prizes and scholarships for their excellent work in 2013:

- The Beatrice Moran Memorial Prize - awarded to the most proficient student in third year Italian: Elspeth Abrahams and Talia Walker
- The Countess E. M. Freehill Prize to the most proficient student in first year: Liam Rogers and Renee Trevisol
- The Countess Freehill Prize to the most proficient student in second year: Alexandra Mattei and Briget Van Dantzig
- The Rosina Tedeschi Memorial Prize for greatest improvement in Italian conversation in a junior course in Italian: Anyali Iyer
- The Merenda Scholarship: Elspeth Abrahams, who will spend one semester at the University of Bologna in semester 2, 2014.

Our warmest thanks to our donors, and to Dr Donatella Cannova, Director of the Italian Institute of Culture, Ms Frances Merenda and Mr Simon Tedeschi, who presented the awards at the Prize Ceremony organised by the School of Languages and Cultures. For a full list of prize winners and photographs from the evening please go to page 5 of this magazine.

La voce del corpo
The Department was delighted to host Mr Luca Vullo, a lively and engaging documentary maker, who opened this semester’s series of seminars with a workshop specifically directed at students during which he presented and commented on his well known documentary, ‘La voce del corpo’ (The voice of the body) about the way Italians – and Sicilians more specifically – use gestures. Students and staff took part in this hands-on and entertaining workshop.

The Department presented two further well-attended seminars in Semester 1: On 1 May, Professor Peter McNeil (UTS) spoke on “Fashion, ‘caricatura’ and Grand Tour travellers”, followed on 29 May with a talk by Professor Nicholas Doumanis (University of New South Wales) entitled “Una faccia, una razza: Italy in the Aegean, 1919-1933”
Italian Studies cont’d

International Exchange Information Session
On 8 May the Department held a very well attended session to inform students about the short Exchange program held at the University of Udine and the semester-long programs at various Italian universities. Many thanks to Mr Kenny Lowe from the International Office who was present, and to the students who have already been on Exchange and offered useful insights on their experience and answered many questions.

Italian as a second language research
Cristiana Palmieri, a doctoral candidate in our Department, is completing her research on motivation to learn Italian as a second language amongst adult learners. On 16 May Cristiana presented some preliminary findings of her study at the Workers Educational Association (WEA), one of the sites where she collected her data. Her presentation was very well received by the WEA Councillors, who appreciated the aims of her study and the practical implications it may have for such areas as curriculum development and teaching methodology.

CUI
The Italian Students Association (Circolo Italiano Studentesco, CUI) has been extremely busy! After two years and relentless activity, Mia Tsikrikas stepped down as President and a new lively new Executive has come on board, with Talia Walker as the enthusiastic new President. Numerous activities have already been organized, including conversation groups, film nights and fundraising events.

Più bella lingua del mondo
Under the supervision of our Italian Government Lecturer, Dott. Antonella Beconi, the project “La lingua più bella del mondo” (The most beautiful language in the world), in collaboration with SBS Italian radio continues, with more of our students being interviewed about their motivations to learn Italian. You can listen to the latest interview, with student Javiera Silva-Bravo, from 20 April: www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/italian/highlight/page/id/330544/t/The-most-beautiful-language-in-the-world. Go to the Departments news webpage for links to the interviews of all the students who have so far taken part: sydney.edu.au/arts/italian/about/news/?id=2625.

European Studies

Transnationalism Workshop
The European Studies Program ran a Transnationalism Workshop which took place on 15-16 May. Special guest presenters were Professor Djelal Kadir of Penn State University.

The workshop was well-attended and provided a great opportunity for literary scholars in SLC to participate in a joint (FOR2005) project-event with colleagues in English, History and other disciplines.

Indonesian Studies

Dr Novi Djenar was interviewed by SBS Indonesian Language radio program regarding her research on teen fiction and intersubjectivity. Novi was also interviewed by Channel 9 regarding the release of Schapelle Corby from gaol in Bali.

Dr Vannessa Hearman hosted the Human Rights Law Centre’s panel discussion on the Indonesian presidential elections, human rights and Australian foreign policy in both Melbourne and Sydney in May. Panellists included Human Rights Watch Australia’s director Elaine Pearson, Associate Professor Clinton Fernandes from UNSW and Rafendi Djamin, Indonesia’s representative to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Human Rights Commission. Vannessa also took part as a panellist at a public seminar on 14 April 2014 entitled “The Indonesian Elections: What Really Happened?” organised by the Melbourne Law School’s Centre for Indonesian Law and Society. Congratulations
The Department and School extend heartfelt congratulations to Dr Vannessa Hearman for her award of the Humanities Travelling Fellowship, tenable from January 2015, from the Australian Academy of Humanities for her research project looking at Indonesian – East Timorese cooperation in civil society activism.
The following departments and programs are located in the School of Languages and Cultures:

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

More Information

If you would like more information about the School of Languages and Cultures or would like to make an editorial enquiry please contact us on +61 2 9036 5048.

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