Language and Culture

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

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This issue
• From the Head of School
• SLC Prizes Night
• A Continuing Spring
• Joint Seminar on Pacifism
• Selected Publications
• School and Department News
Following is an occasional address delivered by Head of School, Professor Yixu Lu, on 14
May 2015:

Dear graduates,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your achievements. Today is a wonderful
day of celebration. You have shown you can stay the distance and use your minds to good
effect. You have completed what you set out to do when you arrived at this university.

Today is also a great day for those who have supported you and accompanied you along
this stretch of your journey – your parents, others in your family, your friends and perhaps
your partners. On behalf of the University, I say: well done! You now have an important
stake in your future and you are now ready to embark on a new journey with a new
destination, excited, full of energy and imagination. Today is the day of new beginnings we
celebrate with you here.

The world you are entering today as a graduate is a complicated and competitive one,
but do not be scared! It is also a world full of opportunity and rewards. Your hard work has
already prepared you for it; the years you have spent at this university have prepared you
for it. You are ready to take on the world. You are ready to enjoy full freedom and with it full
responsibility.

Today, I would like us to reflect a while on the theme of ‘tradition’.

Looking around at this great building, you may find the surroundings rather awesome. They
tell us we are in the solemn place of the oldest university in Australia. And if we look at the
stained glass windows up there in detail, we would find that they represent the colleges of
Oxford, a much older and more venerable university than this. So we could say that the
weight of tradition lies heavily on this place: a great tradition of learning, and one imported
originally from the other side of the world. But we might also reflect on the much older
tradition of the custodians of this land, the Gadigal people, a tradition that goes back many thousands of years. Their tradition is too easily effaced, but I invite you to reflect on it. For it is our cultural tradition which gives us our inner strength, our sense of belonging and our understanding of the world.

The great thing about Australia today is that our diversity means there is no longer one dominant and colonial tradition. The founders of this university would have been amazed at the huge diversity of the cultural traditions that come together in Australia today, and are represented by all of you, now sitting in this hall. They would perhaps have been shocked that I – a woman born in China – would be holding a graduation address. I studied first in Beijing, then in Germany and have been an Australian for almost twenty years. So I have passed through and absorbed different cultural and educational traditions, and I think this diversity is typical of what Australia has become: no longer a colony with a monoculture imposed on the original inhabitants, but rather a powerful mix of languages, ethnicities and diverse cultural traditions.

There is, however, one great tradition present in all cultures, the tradition of learning from others. In the sayings of Confucius we read: “When I walk along with two others, from at least one I will be able to learn. I will distinguish their good qualities from their bad qualities and follow their virtue, and avoid their vice.” This is a very ancient tradition, but I think it is relevant to what you have been doing here. From Europe we have the tradition of the Enlightenment, developed in the 17th and 18th centuries. This tradition also has relevance to us today, for it sees education not merely as the rote learning of facts, not merely as the acquisition of skills, but most importantly as the assimilation of values that make a citizen of the world: tolerance for others, understanding of differences, a critical approach to dogmas, having the courage to broaden your own horizons through new knowledge, even if this is at first irritating or even shocking.

This is what universities are about: the formation of an enlightened human being. You may not have noticed much of this when doing your exams. But, in retrospect, you will see that your university years did more than just qualify you in this or that discipline. In all your university time you have been learning through your interactions with others – your teachers, your fellow students – in clubs or societies, or just chatting over coffee. It would be great if we could parcel up this great educational tradition: make you complete Enlightenment I, II and III. But we can’t. It is up to you to absorb the message and take it with you in your future.

Here, today, in these solemn surroundings, we are reminded both of the great British educational tradition and the great cultural diversity of the new Australia. Yet in all this diversity the respect for basic human values remains. In the course of your studies here you have learned critical thinking. It should enable you to decide what aspects of a particular tradition you will take on board and what you will discard. For one great asset of a university education is that it gives you a greater power of choice as far as cultural traditions are concerned. You may have grown up accepting one single cultural tradition, but now, as graduates, you have the power to choose whether you remain in it or embark on a journey of cultural diversity for the future. By learning critical thinking, you have the power to choose among the traditions on offer in Australia. And we are very fortunate to have these choices.

Let me conclude this with my favourite line in German literature, written by the great poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: “Grau, teurer Freund, ist alle Theorie./Und grün des Lebens goldner Baum (Grey, dear friend, is all theory. And green the golden tree of life)”.

I would like to congratulate all of you once again on your achievements and also all your families and friends – who have lent you the essential support.

Today is the day when you may all close your books and just enjoy the moment.

May you all be successful.

Thank you very much, and good luck.

Professor Yixu Lu
Head of School
School of Languages and Cultures
Tuesday 19 May 2015, MacLaurin Hall

The School’s annual prize-giving saw prize recipients, guests, staff and donors come together to celebrate excellence and applaud the winners of the School’s Prizes and Scholarships. The evening was introduced by Head of School Professor Yixu Lu. Certificates were presented by donors and consular representatives, as well as by Chairs of the departments.

Photography by Christian Wilson

Images (clockwise from above): Head of School, Professor Yixu Lu addresses prize recipients, guests, staff, and donors; Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Professor Duncan Ivison speaking; Dr Andrea Bandhauer presenting an award for Germanic Studies; Professor Yingjie Guo congratulating a Chinese Studies award recipient.
Prizes Night continued

Associate Professor Antonia Rubino, Dott. Antonella Beconi, and Giorgia Esposito presenting an Italian Studies award.

Dr Mark Allon and Chantel Gebbie presenting an Indian Sub-continental Studies award.

Professor Martine Antile presenting a French Studies award.

Dr Anthony Dracopoulos presenting a Modern Greek and Byzantine Studies award

Dr Matthew Stavros presenting a Japanese Studies award

Professor Peter Morgan congratulating European Studies award recipients

Dr Novi Djenar (second from right), Dr Vanessa Hearman, and Professor Adrian Vickers with Indonesian Studies award recipients
Images (clockwise from top left): Associate Professor Ian Young (second from right) with Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies award recipients; Professor Suzanne Rutland (sixth from right) with Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies award recipients; Dr Giorgia Ali (fourth from right), Associate Professor Antonia Rubino and Ms Merenda (centre) with the Merenda Scholarship award recipients; Dr Duk-Soo Park (left), Dr Su-Kyoung Hwang, Associate Professor Ki-Sun Kwak (right) with Korean Studies award recipients.
The accelerated mode is an intensive pathway that allows students to complete an internationally recognised Diploma level course in a foreign language in 14 months. It consists of eight standard Units of Study that are offered in an intensive format. It mostly uses a blended learning process with face-to-face (75%) and online (25%) delivery. Two of the units are fully online.

Students can study the language from beginners level and go on an overseas exchange program as part of their language study.

It is designed to give students the opportunity to study a language alongside an undergraduate degree and it also caters to the needs of postgraduate students and professionals who wish to enhance their capability by acquiring communication skills in a new language. The course is also available to students who have already been awarded, or are eligible for the award of an undergraduate degree from a recognised tertiary institution.

It is a very flexible way to learn a language and Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP) are available to get a discount on fees.

The Diploma of Language Studies will enhance students’ academic and professional skills and prepare them for our multilingual global environment. Students will gain an understanding of the society and culture of the countries by acquiring proficiency in the language, learning about cultural differences and recognising the importance of cross-cultural communication.

This diploma will particularly suit students who are interested in working for organisations or businesses that deal with non-English speaking countries, or a government career including foreign aid, or students who want to work in a non-English speaking country when they graduate.

Graduates may find work in international relations, diplomacy, trade, national security and strategy, translation, language teaching, tourism, development and many other fields.

For detailed information consult our website:
sydney.edu.au/courses/Diploma-of-Language-Studies
or contact Dr Michelle Royer michelle.royer@sydney.edu.au
Joint Seminar on Pacifism

And

Kyoto International Postgraduate Students Forum

Yasuko Claremont, Japanese Studies

Following a conference jointly organized with AKS (the Academy of Korean Studies) in Korea in 23-25 April 2014 on our project of Wounds, Scars, and Healing: Civil Society and Postwar Pacific Basin Reconciliation we were again invited to join the Fourth Pacifism Seminar by Professor Akihiko Kimijima, constitutional law and Peace Studies, at Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, 6-7 December 2014.

Taking the opportunity, we were able to organize an international PhD student forum at the same time. We would like to express our thanks to the Oriental Society of Australia as they granted us funding for students to travel to the Forum to be held at Ritsumeikan University.

First on the Pacifism Seminar on 6 December seven researchers presented papers relating to the themes of postwar peace and reconciliation: Michael Lewis on “Textbooks in the Asian History Wars: The Waning Importance of Weapons of Mass Instruction?”; Roman Rosenbaum on “Beheiren Activism: Oda Makoto and Postwar Peace and Reconciliation”; Masahito Takayashiki on “Children’s Literature Writer, Yamanaka Hisashi’s wartime and postwar experiences”; Rio Otomo on Women’s Reconciliation in girasoli [Sunflower]; Fuyuko Nishisato on “The latest International Development of the Comfort Women Issue”; Akihiko Kimijima on “Six Aspects of Japan’s Peace Constitution” and Yasuko Claremont on “Kurihara Sadako’s Poetry”. The day was Saturday and a cold winter day in the outskirts of Kyoto, so we thought there wouldn’t have been much audience. Contrary to our expectation, there were young Ritsumeikan students who came along and took notes. Later I found out that attending the seminar was part of their assignment. (A good idea!)

Second on the Students Forum eight PhD students presented their research papers. Ga Yeon Kim on “Vestiges of the Japanese Colonial View of History
in Japanese History Textbooks”; Wen Zheng on “War Reconciliation and Peace: Rethinking Teresa Teng’s Influence in East Asia”; Alison Starr on “Examining Tragic Events Through Spatial Analysis and Archival Documentation”; Shizu Maekawa on “Dynamics between political and non-political claims within the US–Japanese dialogue”; David Morton on “Carrying a torch of peace and reconciliation into the future. My work as a grandchild of a former English POW”; Kyoko Ito-Morales on “Civil Society and Social Capital in Japan: Do they Contribute to the Tolerance Toward Diversity and Promotion of Postwar Reconciliation?”; Aiko Otsuka on “The war experience of former Japanese soldiers” and Daisuke Nojima on “Social Inequality in East Asian states: The need for teacher education”. We had a lively discussion after each presentation and the Forum ended with a roundtable discussion. This Student Forum turned out to be most rewarding in the exchange of questions and comments. Particularly, Professor Yuki Tanaka (Hiroshima City University) and Professor Aiko Utsumi (Keisen University) came along volunteering to comment on their papers. We were truly grateful of their support and encouragement for those students. All participants knew nothing about the Asia Pacific War at first hand, yet we are engaged with its legacies earnestly as we should rectify our wrong doing in history for better understanding.

Ritsumeikan University has its own peace museum (a whole building dedicated to research of peace studies) on campus. The exhibition there features the history of violence and resistance up to this day, e.g. Iraq war and Syria civil war. The main focus, however, is on Japan’s fifteen-year war (1931-1945), which is comprehensive and unbiased in describing Japan’s position as victims as well as aggressors.

Finally we would like to announce our final conference at our home University, 30 September – 2 October 2015, commemorating the 70th Anniversary after the end of the Asia Pacific War. We will highlight the importance of NGOs and civic activities in comparison with state policies. Also the theme of peace and reconciliation has a great impact when shown in art forms. Our associated cultural events include Allan Marett’s premier Noh performance Oppenheimer at the Conservatorium.

See on sydney.edu.au/arts/conference/postwar_pacific_basin_reconciliation/
A Continuing Spring:

Arab and Australian Views on Social Justice, Equal Economic Development and Cultures of Freedom

by Lucia Sorbera, Department of Arabic Language and Cultures

The Continuing Spring Project is supported by the Commonwealth through the Council for Australian-Arab Relations (CAAR), and coordinated by Dr Lucia Sorbera. It involves an interdisciplinary team of academics across the Faculty: Professor Sahar Amer and Michael Humphrey; Associate Professor Lily Rahim and Bronwyn Winter; Dr Sarah Philips and Omid Tofighian. The aim of the project is to facilitate an informed public debate among Arab and Australian scholars in the fields of the humanities and social sciences.

The Department of Arabic Language and Cultures is developing a number of collaborations across the School, the Faculty, and Arab cultural operators in Sydney, including the Arab Film Festival Australia to develop its interdisciplinary research, teaching, and outreach program.

In the context of the Continuing Spring project, in April 2015 the Department of Arabic Language and Cultures has co-hosted with the Religions, State and Society Network, the Department of Government and International Relations, the School of Social and Political Sciences, and the School of Languages and Cultures, the International Symposium on “Cultures of Freedom and Contending Visions of Justice and Governance: voices from the Arab and Muslim Worlds”. The Symposium was followed by a series of public lectures on current cultural and political issues in the Arab world.

The aim of the Symposium, which was held at the University of Sydney on the 10 - 11 of April, was to share and to discuss research works on the experiences of the Arab revolutions, their historical, intellectual, and socio-economic roots, and the processes contributing to the renewal of authoritarian governance, sectarian violence, national disintegration, gender injustice and revival of jihadi ideologies across the Middle Eastern and North African Region. As noted in the CFP, the current political context in the Region is
critical: many authoritarian regimes that withstood the uprisings have been buttressed up by the international and regional campaign against ISIL and other militant groups. Much like the erstwhile ‘war on terror’, complex cultural, political, socio-economic, historical grievances have been sidelined by the international campaign against jihadists intent on re-establishing a caliphate. In this latest offensive, political and civil society actors committed to democracy, social justice and citizenship rights are back-footed as the international community and regional states appear intent on maintaining the political status quo.

More than 30 scholars coming from Australia, Egypt, Canada, Qatar, and the United States, have responded to the call for papers, and have enthusiastically participated in the conference which featured nine panels on interdiscipliary themes ranging from democratic transitions and electoral processes, to authoritarian resilience, security, state building, religious secularity and Islamist politics, citizenship and gender rights, constitutionalism and Islam, economic governance and sectarian politics, media coverage of the Arab uprisings, cultural productions and civil society in the Arab uprisings.

The Symposium also hosted two plenary sessions: one by Professor Larbi Sadiki (The University of Qatar) on “Nahda’s Democratic Learning Curve: Islamists and Democratization in Tunisia”; and one by Professor Pippa Norris (University of Sydney and Harvard University, on “Flawed and Failed Electoral Contexts”); and two keynote lectures, organized in collaboration with Sydney Ideas: Professor John Esposito from Georgetown University, world leading expert on Islam, politics, and International Relations, spoke about “The Future of Islam, Democracy and Political Islam After the Arab Uprisings”, and Associate Professor May Telmissany from Ottawa University, prominent Egyptian intellectual and novelist, gave a public lecture on “Nomadic Citizenship: Reflections on Exile and Revolution”. The conversation continued after the symposium, with a series of public lectures dedicated to the students and to the general public.

A pod-cast of the two keynote speeches is available on the website of the Religions, State and Society Network, and of the Department of Arabic Language and Cultures.


On April 13, the new Unit of Study “Egypt, Mother of the World” - a name which, as discussed with the students, today sounds more as a nostalgic auspice than a reality- in the new Arabic Language and Cultures Program, and the “Literature and Revolution” Unit of Study in the International & Comparative Literary Studies Program, co-hosted a guest lecture on “Egypt. Perspectives on Writing, Popular Culture, and Resistance”, by May Telmissany and Walid al-Khashab (York University). The two Egyptian-Canadian intellectuals shared their current research and views on recent developments in Egyptian popular arts, discussing a range of artistic expressions, ranging from movies, to graffiti, to memoirs, and how they all relate to both the Egyptian cultural heritage and current politics. Undergraduate and Graduate Students who attended the lecture reacted with enthusiastic comments, asking for further readings on the themes...
under discussion, and demonstrating that direct engagement with prominent intellectuals who directly experienced the field is always fruitful.

On April 13, a Sydney Ideas Panel on Civil Society and Resilience against Authoritarianism in the Middle East and North Africa: experiences from Tunisia, Egypt, and Bahrain, brought together three scholars who have direct experience of the uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt, and Bahrain: Larbi Sadiki (The University of Qatar), Ala’a Shehabi (Bahrain Watch), and Walid al-Khashab (York University), analysed historical roots, recent developments and challenges that civil societies in these countries are currently facing, in the form of the neo-authoritarian militarization of public space, jihadist movements, financial crisis, and economic stagnation. The focus of this public lecture was on civil society in the three countries, and on how it has remained vigilant against violence and authoritarianism. The three speakers have shed light on the fact that four years of mobilization and unrest witnessed in the past four years are the result of a long wave of underground mobilisation, which is rooted in the trade unions and social movements - labor, students, women independent NGOs, and human rights organizations.

While we are writing the last lines of this report, distressing news come from Egypt. The Alexandrian Lawyer, Human Rights activist and 2014 Ludovic Trarieux Prize recipient, Mahienour El-Massry, has been re-arrested during the appeal of the case for which she was sentenced to two years of jail in February. The verdict of the Court of Appeal is due on 31 May. Meanwhile, on 16 May, public outrage is generating in Egypt and abroad. Professor Emad Shahin, a professor of public policy at the American University in Cairo, was condemned to death in absentia by a court that also sentenced to death more than a hundred other defendants. In another case, 16 leading members of the Muslim Brotherhood, including former President Mohammed Morsi, have been sentenced to death. Six capital condemn of political activists--sentrmed in other trials- have been executed today (17 May). Still from the news of these days, we learn that workers and labor's demonstrations have been prohibited, all ultras clubs have been banned and listed as terrorist organizations, and that, after the ban on Bassem's Youssef's popular TV satirical broadcast, al Barnamaj, also the Reem Maged TV program about women's issues has been suspended.

Many Egyptian intellectuals are reacting to this news and, among them, Khaled Fahmi’s post on his Facebook profile shared by scholars around the world: “As a colleague of Professor Emad Shahin, I express my complete solidarity with him. His collegiality, academic rigor and courage are an inspiration to all of us. As a student of modern Egyptian history, I can hardly think of a darker day in Egypt’s recent past. Sadly, with all signs showing the regime determined to stay the course, more ominous days lie ahead” (Khaled Fahmi, 17 May 2015).

These are only the most recent events in a long list of judicial and political actions aimed at silencing the civil society and restricting public freedom. The current crackdown against human rights activists and wide segments of civil society, including academics and journalists, is deeply affecting the work and the everyday life of our colleagues, students and friends in Egypt.

In solidarity with their struggle to fulfill the demands of the 2011 revolutions “freedom, dignity, and social justice”, we can but renew our commitments to bring to the attention of the Australian and the international audience the voices of resilient civil society in the Arab world.

In 2012, the Egyptian visual artist and art historian Bahia Shehab concluded her TED lecture with a powerful message to the world, using a quote from Pablo Neruda: “You can crush the flowers, but you can’t delay spring”.

We can’t find better words to renew our solidarity to our Egyptian colleagues and to the progressive Egyptian civil society, vanguard of a new way to conceive politics.

“You can crush the flowers, but you can’t delay spring”

Pablo Neruda
Asian Studies:

Chinese Studies:
Maras, S M, Nip, J Y M 2015, The Travelling Objectivity Norm, Journalism Studies, 16(3), 326-342
Riegel, J K 2015, Homicide, Same-Sex Rape, and the Pursuit of Justice in Early 19th Century China, Fudan Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences, 8(2), 271-290
Tsung, L T H 2015, Multiple Identities and Second Language Learning in Hong Kong, Language and Identity Across Modes of Communication, Mouton de Gruyter, Berlin/Boston, 1, 107-124
Wang, W 2015, Uncovering How Identities of laobaixing are Constructed in China’s Most Read Magazine, Language and Identity Across Modes of Communication, Mouton de Gruyter, Berlin/Boston, 1, 203-224
Zhao, X 2015, Ghosts and spirits in Chinese zaju and Japanese noh: a comparative study (in press), Journal of Comparative Literature and Aesthetics

French Studies:
Antle, M N, Célestin, R, DalMolin, E 2015, Editors Introduction - Special Issue: J.M.G. Le Clzio or the Challenges of the Intercultural, Contemporary French and Francophone Studies, 19(2)
Grauby, F 2015, Le roman de la création, crier entre mythes et pratiques, Brill/Rodopi, Amsterdam and New York
Lipovsky, C 2015, Constructing professional identity through Curricula Vitae, Language and Identity Across Modes of Communication, Mouton de Gruyter, Berlin/Boston, 1, 263-290
Royer, M 2015, Star Embodiment and the Lived
**PUBLICATIONS**


**Germanic Studies:**


**Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies:**


Rutland, S D 2015, Genocide or Holocaust Education: Exploring Different Australian Approaches for Muslim School Children, *As the Witnesses Fall Silent: 21st Century Holocaust Education in Curriculum, Policy and Practice*, Springer, New York, 1, 225-244

Rutland, S D 2015, ‘Returning to a graveyard’: The Australian debates about March of the Living to Poland, *Aftermath: Genocide, Memory and History*, Monash University Publishing, Clayton, 1, 141-166

**Indian Sub-Continental Studies:**


**Indonesian Studies:**


Djenar, D, Ewing, M 2015, Language varieties and youthful involvement in Indonesian fiction, *Language and Literature*, 24(2), 108-128


Djenar, D, Mahboob, A, Cruickshank, K E 2015, Identity and Mode As a Frame for Understanding Social Meanings, *Language and Identity Across Modes of Communication*, Mouton de Gruyter, Berlin/Boston


Communication, Mouton de Gruyter, Berlin/Boston
Vickers, A H 2015, Book review - Producing Indonesia: The State of the Field of Indonesian Studies, Sojourn, 30(1), 261-265

Italian Studies:
Alu, G M C, Pedri, N 2015, Enlightening Encounters: Photography in Italian Literature, University of Toronto Press, Toronto
Alu, G M C, Pedri, N 2015, Photo-Literary Encounters in Italy, Enlightening Encounters: Photography in Italian Literature, University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1, 3-26
Alu, G M C 2015, Looking through Coloured Shards: Words and Images in Ornella Vorpsis Works, Enlightening Encounters: Photography in Italian Literature, University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1, 254-278
Alu, G M C, Pedri, N 2015, Writing with Light: Concluding Remarks, Enlightening Encounters: Photography in Italian Literature, University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1, 279-285
Piazza, R, Rubino, A 2015, ‘The racial laws have turned our lives positively’: Agentivity and chorality in the identity of a group of Italian Jewish witnesses, Marked Identities, Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke, 1
Rubino, A 2015, Performing Identities in intergenerational conflict talk: A study of a Sicilian-Australian family, Language and Identity Across Modes of Communication, Mouton de Gruyter, Berlin/Boston, 1, 125-152

Japanese Studies:
Yasumoto, S 2015, Cultural harmonization in East Asia: Adaptation of Hana yori dango / Boys Over Flowers, East Asian Journal of Popular Culture, 1(1), 113-131

Spanish and Latin American Studies:
Walsh, A L 2015, Telling Tales: Storytelling in Contemporary Spain, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle Upon Tyne
School News

Events:
30 April, Peter Rose: Editor, Australian Book Review, “Cultural Journalism and Australian Universities”.

Asian Studies

Judging the Past in a Post-Cold War World
Date: September 28-30 2015
Venue: HRC centre ANU Canberra

Concluding an Australian Research Council Discovery Project on this theme, the organisers seek discussion on any and all means of attempts at redress, for example, legal and social, or through the arts, media and literature.

We look forward to receiving panel proposals, as well as individual presentations. The closing date for submission of proposals is **31 May 2015**. An abstract of 250 words from each individual presenter or panel representative should be sent to elizabeth.rechniewski@sydney.edu.au. All abstracts will be refereed by the organizing committee, and the results notified by 30 June 2015.

Keynote speakers:
- Phillip Deery (Professor of History, College of the Arts, Victoria University)
- Tim Harper (Reader in South-East Asian and Imperial History, University of Cambridge)
- Katherine Hite (Professor of Political Science on the Frederick Ferris Thompson Chair, Vassar)

More information: hrc.anu.edu.au/events/judging-past-a-post-cold-war-world

Enquiries: elizabeth.rechniewski@sydney.edu.au

Modern Greek and Byzantine Studies

Professor Vrasidas Karalis: ABC Conversations with Richard Fidler

Image: Professor Vrasidas Karalis
Modern Greek Studies Foundation Ball

The Modern Greek Studies Foundation Fundraising Ball took place on Saturday 2nd May 2015. The Modern Greek Studies Foundation was established, through the generosity of philanthropic donor, with the objective to cultivate, promote and reward the study of Modern Greek at the University of Sydney. The Department of Modern Greek Studies at the University has remained the main hub and treasure chest for innovation and enhancement of Modern Greek Studies since its establishment in 1974. The Department was established after the great benefactor Sir Nicholas Laurantos made a generous donation to the University which created a Professorial Chair and two more permanent members of staff. However, over the years, the capital donation has not been enough to support the existence of the Department and its structures. Consequently, prominent members of the Greek-Australian Community, lawyers, bankers, entrepreneurs, agents, politicians and many others from all walks of life, decided to establish the Foundation as a parallel structure outside the immediate provenance of the University, yet in close collaboration with it. Our main concern is to keep Modern Greek Studies active and visible within the University of Sydney and within the Australian society at large. See the website: moderngreekstudiesfoundation.org.au or Facebook:facebook.com/ModernGreekStudiesFoundation

French Studies

The French department is headed for another exiting academic year with French enrolments on the rise again! Martine Antle and Michelle Royer have started the preliminary discussions with the French Embassy in Canberra to start new links and exchanges with the French Lycée Concordet in Sydney. Several students have already visited the French Lycée to discuss potential careers in bilingual education. Francoise Gaubry’s book Le roman de la création. Ecrire entre mythes et pratiques is in press at French publisher Rodopi, (Collection Faux Titre). This full-length scholarly book focuses on the rites and practices of writers at work and on the social, cultural and symbolic representation of the writer in today’s French literary world. Two literary worlds, one anchored in
tradition and one that is more and more influenced by the more pragmatic (and less sacred) Anglo-Saxon representation of writing, compete in France today.

**Michelle Royer** co-edited a ground-breaking book entitled Stars in World Cinema: Screen Icons and Star Systems Across Cultures. This book brings a significant contribution to film studies and has just been published at London: I.B.Tauris.


**News:**
The Department of French Studies is on Facebook! Visit our page and find: events, departmental information, French & “Francophone” news, links to cultural information, and learning resources from the web: sydney.edu.au/arts/french/downloads/department_of_french_studies_facebook.pdf

**Events:**
15 April, Nathalie Camerlynck, The University of Sydney, “Self-Translation and Life-Writing on Childhood”.

23 April, Théâtre Excentrique presents: Jean Anouilh’s Antigone.

29 April, Clément Extier, The University of Sydney, “Fragmentation et reconquête du moi dans les œuvres de Drieu La Rochelle”.

25 May, Presented by the Embassy of France in Australia and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Network in the Office of the DVC (Indigenous Strategy and Services), Sydney

Ideas, “Competing Voices: The status of Indigenous languages in the French Pacific and Australia”.

25 May, Australian and French Pacific Languages Education, Language Maintenance and Revival Conference/Workshop

**Arabic Languages and Cultures**
**From Professor Sahar Amer, Chair of the Department of Arabic Language and Cultures**
I just returned from a semester at Smith College (Northampton, Mass), an all-woman college in the US, the largest of the Seven Sisters) as the William Allan Neilson Distinguished Visiting Professor. This visiting professorship is offered once a year to a senior scholar from any field upon the recommendations of different academic departments and is ultimately selected by the President of the College. I was very fortunate and humbled to receive this honor, following in the footsteps of giants like Nawal El’ Saadawi, and Nobel Prize recipients!

As the Neilson Professor, I was responsible for three main public lectures and for providing intellectual leadership to the College. Hosted by the Department of French and the Louise and Edmund Khan Liberal Arts Institute, the topic of my residency at Smith was “Gender, Justice, and the Arab World.” My three lectures, each followed by an academic seminar and
news

discussion, were entitled “The Arab Spring and Rainbow Hopes: LGBT Rights in Transitional Societies;” “Muslim Women, Veiling, and Human Rights;” and “Bad Girls and Gender Trouble in the Thirteenth Century Mediterranean.” (smith.edu/deanoffaculty/neilsonlecture2015.html). I also organized an art exhibit on “What Is Veiling?” at the Smith College Art Museum, in order to foster wider and more interdisciplinary discussions of veiling practices in multiple cultures and various religious traditions. The art gallery discussion which I led was a new format for the museum and drew a much larger than anticipated audience of

academics, students, and community members. During my semester in the USA, I also did a multi-city lecture tour in California, discussing my recent book What Is Veiling? (2014). One of the lectures, at Sonoma State University, was preceded by a multi-media dance theater performance (Weaved) designed by Christine Renaudin. I return to Sydney very much invigorated and stimulated by this enriching semester. I also return to an invitation to participate in a panel (“The Cold War on Sex”) at the 2015 Sydney Writers Festival, and a micro-talk on “Arab Queer Cinema” at the Sydney Film Festival.

In-Country Program
For three weeks in February and March, five students from the Department of Arabic Language and Cultures undertook an intensive Arabic program at the University of Qatar in Doha. Of all the countries in the Middle East, Qatar was probably the one our students knew the least about. To them, it was the richest country in the world that had been able to secure the 2022 World Cup with a great amount of wealth and a little added corruption. Initially they thought the country would be greatly westernised and that rich American businessmen somehow dominated the expat population. Arabic culture is mixed in Qatar with a large migrant population. While this has positive and negative implications in terms of finding an immersive cultural experience, there is undoubtedly a diverse array of culture to be found in Doha. The students visited the Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al-Thani Museum which hosts an impressive collection of traditional clothing styles, jewelry and living utensils used...
in the Gulf throughout history. Doha is also home to an array of different Arab cuisines. The students had some great meals at Yemeni and Syrian restaurants. The highlight of their time in Qatar was an overnight trip to the dessert. They drove South of Doha and stayed overnight after driving across the sand dunes. The scenery was beautiful and in the morning they were able to watch the sunrise over the Gulf Sea. What probably surprised the students most about the country was how unmistakably conservative many Qatari’s were. Lying between the most liberal and the most close-minded countries of the region, UAE and Saudi Arabia, it could really have gone either way. Society, however, was gender segregated. The University expected girls to avoid interaction with the boys, the market place sat men separately during concerts, Qatari women all wore black abayas and the men, white thobes. It was a different world. For the students Qatar was nothing like what they had seen in the Middle East before but it was just as interesting. Sharing ideas with local students in the University as well as with foreigners living there was the biggest learning experience imaginable, and while it isn’t the number one tourist destination for a casual holiday, it’s a place in the world with a way of life which could maybe shock and surprise you into craving more.

In their feedback the students commended the Arabic program at Qatar University and praised the teaching methodology used by their instructors. They also confirmed that the experience was quite useful for them and it enhanced, to a great extent, their confidence when speaking Arabic. Upon their arrival at Qatar University, the students sat a placement test and were placed in their appropriate level. They used the same textbook used by the Department of Arabic Language and Cultures (al-Kitaab). However, unlike the teaching philosophy the Department of Arabic Language and Cultures is adopting where both formal Arabic and Colloquial Arabic ‘aammiyya are taught, formal Arabic only was taught at Qatar University. Nonetheless, the students confirmed the fact that the course was a great opportunity to improve their Arabic and prepare for the year ahead.

**New PhD Student: Ahlam Mustafa**

Ahlam Mustafa, who joined the Department of Arabic Language and Cultures in semester 1/2015, is interviewed by Rosemary Hancock, PhD Candidate in the same Department. In Shahbazi joined the International and Comparative Literary Studies program as a PhD Student in semester 1/2015, is interviewed by Paul Esber, PhD Candidate in Arabic Language and Cultures.

**Can you tell me a little about your pre-Sydney University past?**

Ahlam Mustafa, I was born in Gaza, and lived most of my early years in the United Arab Emirates. My experience there gave a great since of what it is like to be in a multicultural, diverse community since the UAE is considered one of the most diverse countries in the Middle East. I think it also had a great influence on my decision to study language and literature because I was familiar with listening to and speaking
I went into Sharjah University with a passion for The Arabic Language and literature; I also received my MA there from the same department, where I also worked as a research assistant.

After doing my MA in literature, I felt like I needed to explore language teaching more, and an academic training. I applied for the Nadmi Auchi Fellowship program at The American University in Cairo, where I received an MA Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language, and worked on project to provide profficinal assistant to the AUC workers and help founding their syndicate.

My experience in Egypt was not just an academic one, there. I learned more about civil engagement and NGO’s and how to make a difference, I was part of a number of initiatives and activities that made me appreciate more and more the role academia can play in improving people’s lives, and this is what gave me the strength and the motivation I needed to pursue my PhD studies.

What are you researching at Sydney Uni, and what drew you to this topic/inspires you about this topic?

My research project now is concerned with literary feminist studies with a focus on historical works. I am specifically interested in an Egyptian contemporary author who recently passed away, Radwa Ashour. She is one of the most prominent Arab female novelists focusing on rewriting historical events in literary forms. In my research I will focus on the way her works reposition women in history, the cultural aspects their presence demonstrate about those historical contexts and how different is Radwa Ashour’s narrative compared to a masculine one. I will also be looking into her language choices, and whether or not being a woman affected her language choices and rhetoric’s, is she repositioning herself in the “writing craft” the way she has done with her female characters in her works?

The nature of Radwa Ashour’s presence as a woman in her community and the way she chose to express that through literature inspired me as a woman and a researcher. Her works show exactly what I came to understand about the importance of literature and the way it can affect people’s lives, not just as entertainment, but also as a way or constructing and reconstructing histories and realities, and making a difference in people’s perceptions and mindsets.

Can you tell me about one or two of the biggest differences between Sydney and your past home city/university?

The thing that truck me the most on my first days in Sydney University is the welcoming spirit and feeling of belonging, I felt in my department by faculty members and staff. It was a nice way to start a completely new chapter in my life. Another difference would be the amount of cultural diversity I found, even though I had a similar experience but this is much more intense and overwhelming in a good way. It gives me the chance to express myself and share my individual experience while also receiving the same from other. I think is highly important in a world where most of our problems come from lack of understanding and appreciating each other’s differences and accepting our multicultural human nature.
Khachab, York University, “Egypt: Perspectives on writing, popular culture and resistance”.
24 May, Professor Sahar Amer, University of Sydney, Sydney Writers’ Festival, “The Cold War on Sex”.

International and Comparative Literary Studies

New PhD Student: Shima Shahbazi

Shima Shahbazi joined the International and Comparative Literary Studies program as a PhD Student in semester 1/2015, is interviewed by Paul Esber, PhD Candidate in Arabic Language and Cultures.

Who are you, what are you studying, where are you from?

My name is Shima Shahbazi, I’m 29 and I come from Iran. I arrived in Sydney almost one month ago to do a PhD in International and Comparative literary studies at the University of Sydney.

How has your transition from Iran to Australia gone? Any advice for other international students?

I had a very smooth journey from Tehran to Sydney, despite the fact that it was my first time in Australia and I was a little worried before setting off. I had some challenges before arriving here: I had applied for on-campus accommodation but there were no vacancies and finding a place off-campus while you are just searching online can be very time consuming and stressful. However, I was finally lucky to find a good flatmate and a cosy place in suburbs. My advice for other international students is to apply for on-campus places as soon as possible because accommodation might be the biggest challenge of a new comer in Sydney, but all the same, they should not panic as there are always some options available.

What has drawn you towards your research topic and why the School of Languages and Cultures at USyd?

My project is going to focus on a comparative historiography of the representation of Iranian and Arab women from the view point of transnational writers. My personal penchant for historiography and women studies stems largely from self-experience. On the one hand, I was concerned with the misrepresentations and the “fragmented”, “fetishized” and sometimes “distorted” images of the Oriental women as too disenfranchised and repressed by their societies; on the other hand, I came from a male-centred patriarchal society where I had experienced inarticulateness and marginality. So I thought maybe it’s time we looked at the margins from another perspective, and that was the view point of the originally-Middle-Eastern transnational writers who have tried to represent hybrid identities and marginality.

The University of Sydney was the only university I applied to in Australia. I was looking for a comparative literature program which would fit the interdisciplinary nature of my research and I could find great versatility and expertise in the school of languages and cultures. That was why I chose USyd.

What do you hope to achieve during your candidacy.....besides a doctorate?

I believe doing a PhD is just the beginning of my job. This time is an opportunity for a maturation of thoughts and a chance to experience new things. I hope for a research/teaching career in academia which can make me able to introduce Persian language and Iranian culture to others from new perspectives. Similarly I hope for cultural communication which could pave the way for more facile future relations and would obliterate (or at least mediate) the demonized representations of the East and the West.

Indonesian Studies

Department News

Dr Novi Djenar’s edited book Language and Identity Across Modes of Communication (co-edited with Assoc. Prof. Ken Cruickshank and Dr Ahmar Mahboob) was published in February this year by De Gruyter Mouton. This book is the result of a two-
year collaborative project led by Assoc. Prof. Antonia Rubino, funded by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Six linguists from the School are among the contributors: Dr Novi Djenar (Indonesian Studies), Dr Nerida Jarkey (Japanese Studies), Dr Caroline Lipovsky (French Studies), Assoc. Prof. Linda Tsung (Chinese Studies), and Dr Wei Wang (Chinese Studies).

Dr Vannessa Hearman wrote articles and opinion pieces for The Diplomat and The Conversation and was interviewed by Channel News Asia related to the executions of Australian convicted drug smugglers Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran in Indonesia.

Professor Michele Ford recently spent a month in Paris and Lyon as the Institute for the Study of Islam and Muslim World Societies Chair at the invitation of l’Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), a division of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. While in France, Michele presented papers on her ARC Future Fellowship and three of her most recent ARC Discovery Projects at Sciences Po, Paris Diderot, l’Institut d’Asie orientale ENS Lyon and EHESS’s Centre Asie du Sud-Est. In Paris, she was interviewed on Jokowi’s presidency and its implications for human rights by Le Monde.

Professor Adrian Vickers was interviewed on Panji stories and Sufism by German national radio Deutschland Radio for a feature series they are doing in conjunction with the Frankfurt Book Fair. The Book Fair is featuring Indonesia this year.

### Department and Related Events
Forty people attended a seminar on 8 May which marked 60 years of the Bandung Asia-Africa conference and examined the legacies of Bandung. Presenters from SLC included Dr Keith Foulcher, Professor Adrian Vickers, Dr Vannessa Hearman and Dr Sean Moores. They were joined by Associate Professor Brian Roberts from Brigham Young University whose visit was supported by the Fulbright program and Associate Professor Katharine McGregor, ARC Future Fellow from the University of Melbourne.

Indonesian Studies is driving a cross-faculty research network, ‘Citizen Engagement and Policy Advocacy in Indonesia’, comprising social scientists in the Faculty with the support from the Faculty Collaborative Research Scheme. The network has monthly meetings to share research on social activism and policy making in Indonesia.

### Postgraduate and visitor news
The department welcomes Mr Wayan Jarrah Sastrawan as a new MA Research student working on a comparative study of traditional histories written by Indonesians and Malaysians before the 20th century. He is supervised by Professor Vickers and Emeritus Professor Peter Worsley.

Ms Elisabeth Kramer submitted her PhD thesis on corruption in Indonesia (supervised by Prof Michele Ford and Associate Professor Simon Butt) and shortly thereafter commenced working as Deputy Director, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre to replace Dr Thushara Dibley who is on maternity leave.

Dr Roby A. Brata is visiting researcher with the Department in May – July 2015. Dr Brata will research anti-corruption reform in Indonesia. He is an awardee of Australia Alumni Grant and head of International Relations Division, Deputy Assistant in Politics and International Relations, the Cabinet Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia.

### Forthcoming events
**Indonesian Students’ Day: 12 June**
High school students of Indonesian language from all over NSW, their parents and teachers will again be welcomed to the University of Sydney for a day of lectures, tours, interactive games and cultural talks. Dr Novi Djenar has been working with the Department of Education, Association of Independent Schools, Catholic Education, and Australia-Indonesia Youth Association (AIYA) in organising the day.

On 10 May, the book detailing the efforts made by the Australian Jewish community to relieve the plight of Soviet Jewry, a campaign that spanned 30 years, was launched in Sydney yesterday. Written by Sam Lipski and Suzanne D. Rutland, the book was launched at the Sydney Jewish Museum (SJM) by Robert Goot, barrister and president of The Executive Council of Australian Jewry. Professor Emeritus Konrad Kwiet, resident historian at the SJM, chaired the event, and introduced the three speakers. Robert Goot provided an overview and insights into the Soviet Jewry campaign in Australia, illustrating his talk with short readings from the book. In thanking Robert Goot, Sam Lipski remarked that Goot “had brilliantly mastered his brief” to introduce the book and was someone who had both “lived and led the campaign”. Suzanne Rutland spoke about the wealth of fascinating material she found in ASIO files as well as in Isi Leibler’s “wonderful collection of documents”. She described a riotous evening in Moscow with Bob Hawke, a key player in the campaign, during Hawke’s visit to Moscow in 1979, when he hoped to work for the Russian Jewish refuseniks – those who were refused permission to leave the Soviet Union and lost their jobs as a result of their applications, subsequently having to work in very menial positions. The book was launched in Melbourne at Beth Weizmann, with Greg Sheridan, foreign editor of The Australian, as the main speaker.

The book has received good coverage in both the general and Jewish press. The Australian published an edited version of the opening chapter on 28 March and Emeritus Professor Ross Fitzgerald, retired professor of history and politics at Griffiths University, reviewed the book on 4 April. He concluded with the words:

Lipski and Rutland’s heartfelt narrative of the Australian contribution to facilitating the aspirations of Soviet Jews to settle in Israel shines light on one of the 20th century’s most powerful examples of a successful struggle for freedom. Thoroughly researched and superbly written, Let My People Go is a revealing and important account of human achievement against the odds.

It was also reviewed in the Australian Spectator Review.

‘Old World: New World: Jews in Transition’, International Conference, University of Cape Town, 14-16 April

Professor Suzanne Rutland, and one of her graduate students, Konrad Bohleke, recently presented at a conference held at the University of Cape Town on the theme ‘Old World, New World’. They presented in the panel discussing ‘Jewish/Non-Jewish Relations’, with Mr Bohleke speaking on and Professor Rutland on ‘Incorporating Old World Prejudices in Post-war Australia’ and Mr Bohleke on ‘Challenging Old World Prejudices in New World Australia’.

The Conference itself is part of a three-way international partnership between the Department of HBJS, at the
University of Sydney, the Kaplan Centre at Cape Town University and the Parks Centre at Southampton. Each of these centres has a strong, international reputation and important books have been published from previous conferences. In 2011, the first conference of this three-way partnership was organised at the University of Sydney, and the department received an International Development Partnership grant, indicating the value that the university attached to this collaboration. The conference itself was not open to the public, since the aim was to bring together a small group of scholars working within the same academic area for an intensive three-day exchange of ideas and concepts. On the Tuesday evening there was a public lecture, with the conference dinner being sponsored by the department.

**Events:**
21 May, Associate Professor Ian Young, The University of Sydney, "The Alan Crown Lecture | Habakkuk in the Dead Sea Scrolls...And Now: How to Read a Prophetic Book".

**HBJS Annual Report 2014**
To read more about research and activities in the Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies, please download our 2014 Annual Report:

**Spanish and Latin American Studies**

**Launch of first book based on doctoral thesis on contemporary relations between Chile and Australia**

*Topic supervised within the Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies*

Chile and Australia are projected as overwhelmingly white and male countries according to Dr Irene Strodthoff, author of the book *Chile and Australia: Contemporary Transpacific Connections from the South*, which is based on the first PhD thesis fully supervised by the Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies. The book was launched on Friday March 27, 2015 before a gathering of the Latin American research community.

The work totals 232 pages and was published by Palgrave Macmillan, New York. In it, Irene Strodthoff examines the asymmetries of power between Australia and Chile at a discursive level and the contemporary ramifications of the formation of the national project in both countries. In the event held at Glebebooks, Dr Strodthoff’s former associate supervisor, Dr Vek Lewis (primary supervisor: Dr Fernanda Peñaloza), Senior Lecturer in the Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies at the University of Sydney, spoke of the original dissertation’s genesis and the contributions that the book would make.

The volume was officially launched by Australian sociologist Raewyn Connell, a world authority on gender issues who developed the concept of

*Image: From left to right: Australian sociologist and Professor Emerita at the University of Sydney, Raewyn Connell; Researcher and Associate Lecturer at the Latin American Studies National Academy of Political and Strategic Studies (ANEPE) of the Ministry of Defense of Chile, Irene Strodthoff, and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Spanish at the University of Sydney, Vek Lewis.*
“hegemonic masculinity”. Professor Connell, author of *Southern Theory: The Global Dynamics of Knowledge in the Social Sciences*, has been a visiting professor at Harvard and the University of California, Santa Cruz, United States.

Connell said the book represents a “pioneering” work and was “carefully researched” in a way that opens up new ways of thinking about society, culture and global models, crisscrossed, as they are, by neoliberal policies and power structures, particularly in the Southern axis in which Australia and Chile are protagonists.

Strodthoff remarked that the processes of colonization and the construction of the nation-state in both contexts have been driven by men. As projections they have produced hegemonic forms of masculinity that shape the forms of mutual imagining between and within Australia and Chile. More broadly, today both nations continue to be dominated by a masculine vision of progress and power.

The publication represents the first academic effort on contemporary relations between Chile and Australia developed in the Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Sydney. Strodthoff belongs to the first generation of scholarship awardees under the prestigious Becas Chile (2009) program.

**Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language:**
*Cervantes Institute/University of Sydney/ Spanish Government Joint Initiative:*

New Course begins in June 2015

In recent years, the importance of foreign language teachers’ qualifications has become more and more apparent; simply being a native speaker of a language is not the same as the ability to teach it. Teachers need to know how a foreign language is both taught and learnt.

This A-Level teacher training course is aimed at people who want to acquire a basic knowledge of the methodology and pedagogy of Spanish as a foreign language, as well as those with experience in education who wish to ground their practically-acquired knowledge in a strong theoretical base. This course will provide you with a basic understanding of the theories of language learning and linguistics; reflection on and analysis of existing teaching materials and resources will help you develop the necessary tools to prepare simple lesson plans and grasp the basics of classroom management. Its main purpose is to provide you with the opportunity to update knowledge on how Spanish is now taught with a course designed in Alcalá de Henares (Spain) and provided through an agreement with the Spanish Government and The University of Sydney. You will be based in the School of Languages & Cultures, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences. Once you successfully complete the course, you will receive a Certificate of Attendance from The University of Sydney, The Cervantes Institute and the Ministry for Education, Culture and Sport, Spain. This is a unique opportunity in Australia.


**Spanish Film Series:**

Presented by SURCLA (sydney.edu.au/arts/spanish_latin_american/surcla/) in conjunction with the Spanish and Latin American Society (facebook.com/usyd.spanish.latin)

1 April, Retorno a Hansala (Chus Gutiérrez, Spain, 2008)
15 April, Biutiful (Alejandro González Iñárritu, Mexico/Spain, 2010)
22 April, Medianeras (Gustavo Taretto, Argentina, 2011)
29 April, Norteado (Rigoberto Perezcano, Mexico, 2010)
6 May, Amador (Fernando León de Aranoa, Spain, 2010)
13 May, Presunto culpable (Roberto Hernández and Geoffrey Smith, Mexico/United States, 2008)
20 May, Alacrán enamorado (Santiago Zannou, Spain, 2013)
27 May, Ocho apellidos vascos (Emilio Martínez-Lázaro, Spain, 2014)
26 May, Dr Marina Gold, Macquarie University, “SURCLA Presents | Growing Food Locally: Urban Agricultural Projects in Cuba and Australia”.

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Italian Studies

Congratulations to the following students of Italian, who have received awards for their achievements in their Italian studies, or scholarships to study in Italy:

Prizes: Andrew Hughes, Alexander Jackman, Danielle Cook, Laurel Hooper, Pia Trickett, Lucia Moon.

Merenda Scholarships: Chloe Andrews, Olivia Fehon, Anita Maratheftis, James Ryan, Hannah Thorp, Pia Trickett.

In the first semester, the Department hosted the following seminars:

• Marco Magnani (Università di Verona) “Grammatical Development in Second Languages and Processability Theory: A comparison between Russian L2 and Italian L2” (joint seminar with the Department of Linguistics; 16 April)

• Associate Professor Nick Carter (Australian Catholic University, Sydney) “Hidden in Open View: Fascist Art in Contemporary Italy” (7 May)

• Dr Malcolm Angelucci (University of Technology, Sydney) “Working Notes on Carmelo Bene’s Archive: Unpublished Sketches for an Opera” (14 May)

• Emeritus Professor Sergio Della Pergola (Harman Institute of Contemporary Judaism) Perceptions and Experiences of Antisemitism among Jews in Italy (joint seminar with the Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies, 21 May)

• Valentina Seffer (PhD candidate, University of Sydney) “Identity on the Threshold. The Myth of Persephone in Italian American Women’s Memoirs” (4 June).

The Department is also involved in the organization of the 8th Biennial ACIS (Australasian Centre for Italian Studies) Conference, to be held at the University of Sydney 1-4 July 2015. The theme of the Conference is “Fertile spaces, dynamic places: Mapping the cultures of Italy”.

For more information, keep an eye on this site: sydney.edu.au/arts/conference/ACIS_2015

Chinese Studies

Events:
20 April, Dr Chiewhui Ho, The University of Sydney, Chinese Departmental Seminar Series 2015, “Religion on the Ground: Lay Buddhism in Medieval China”.

4 May, Professor Geoffrey MacCormack, University of Aberdeen, “Understanding Traditional Chinese Law”.

13 May, Ms Xi Wang, Southwest University, Chongqing, China, “Individuation in Systemic Functional Linguistics: A Case Study of English Translations of Tao Te Ching”.

18 May, Associate Professor Christine Ji, “Corpora and Corpus-Based Translation Studies”.

Presentations by staff members
Dr Giorgia Alù:

• ‘Italians abroad and WWI: Pictures of inclusion and exclusion’. Conference on The First World War. Local, Global and Imperial Perspectives (The University of Newcastle, Australia, 25-27 March 2015).

• ‘Journey to Italy and Neorealism’. Opening talk, film series on Rossellini and De Sica, Italian Cultural Institute, Sydney (23 April 2015).

Dr Francesco Borghesi:


• ‘The Pico Project: a Project in the Digital Humanities’ (with Dino Buzzetti) University of Bologna, (8 April 2015)

• ‘What is Renaissance Philosophy?’ Italian Studies at Oxford, Oxford University (4 May 2015)


Associate Professor Antonia Rubino:

• ‘The benefits of bilingualism’, Invited talk, Italian Bilingual School, Sydney (14 March 2015)
The following departments and programs are located in the School of Languages and Cultures:

- Arabic Languages and Cultures
- 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 7046.

For further information on any of the articles in this issue, please contact us on:

T: +61 2 9351 2869
E: arts.slcadmin@sydney.edu.au